

I feel justified in replying favourably to the wishes of His Royal Highness.

The Government's aim is to safeguard the rights of Canadian democracy. Moreover all patriotic Canadians of different political parties declare that they are closely at one with the aims of the Dominion Government. The statesmen who wield the destinies of Canada have reason to fear the turmoil and confusion which a general election might bring about. Order and peace reign in the country. In order that the nation's spirit may be kept sufficiently alert to cope with present events, that discord may disappear and dissensions be forgotten, that all hearts become as a single heart, there is need for the constant and sacred union of all Canada's sons in the one love of the Motherland. On the 4th day of August, 1914, all resolves have been blended into one resolve. In the soul of every true Canadian, there remained nothing of the fierce feuds of former days. Would it be wise by calling a general election to once more stir up those quarrels while there still lasts the terrible struggle which requires so strenuous sacrifices? One result of elections might be to diminish the amount of the war contributions, which have been flowing until now with such a magnificent generosity.

The different patriotic funds raised with the generous help of the Federal Government, the provincial governments, the municipalities and benevolent citizens, might be sorely affected.

For those reasons, and with a view to the unity and greatness of my country, and in order to help our oppressed fellowmen to maintain or regain their freedom and independence, I willingly and heartily give my support to the proposed legislation, the principle of which seems to me to be admitted in the Motherland.

Throughout the world this European war has brought about a financial stringency almost without precedent; but in Canada special circumstances have so far relieved the situation.

Our financial institutions, thanks to a prudent, skilful and enlightened direction, have avoided economic disasters. If it be just to admit the wise management of our captains of industry, so must we grant the Government the legitimate part they may claim to have had in the prudent administration of the country. The Government deserves congratulations for successfully negotiating the war loan of fifty millions (\$50,000,000). The ready response of

the public, who subscribed over a hundred millions, is significant of our prosperity.

This national loan is a remarkable turning point in the economic history of Canada. Our most perspicuous men of finance face the situation with a notable optimism.

The extraordinary expansion of our export trade and the decrease of our foreign purchases have turned in our favour the balance of external commerce, which we heretofore had to liquidate with loans amounting to several millions a year.

War industries are giving Canadian trade an unexpected boom and a greater value to our natural resources.

Commercial victory must crown the victory of our glorious soldiers.

The Dominion Government is concentrating its best efforts on the productive capacity of the soil. A year ago the Department of Agriculture appealed to the citizens of Canada to devote all their energies and efforts to the great cause so as to supply the needs of the war. This same department has organized in the Province of Quebec a campaign of patriotic endeavour and increased production.

The success of this campaign may, in a large measure, be attributed to the enlightened co-operation of the clergymen of our province. Heaven smiled on our efforts and we were blessed with the most abundant crop this country has ever produced.

The Government took an important step when it established, in October, 1915, a commission of enquiry concerning our agricultural resources. While our boys are bringing us honour on the firing line, our duty is to unite in order to develop our natural resources, increase our production, seek new markets for our products, and secure the markets which the enemy have lost, so as to assure the prosperity of Canada.

In concluding, I wish to express the regret we feel at the decease of several of the members of this House. All honour to the members of Parliament who have enlisted for active service.

Our colleagues in the field of hostilities, or in the prisons of Germany, are fighting for our liberties and deserve our admiration.

Let us also pay a tribute to the British sailors, who have borne themselves with bravery, upholding the ancient and noble traditions of England's navy.

In clearing the seas of the enemy they have rendered an immense service to Canada, to the Empire, and to humanity.