

stating the fact that a new precedent has been established, and that precedent must either be declared, to be for war-time purposes, and one which will not be of avail in the future, or the Act upon which the independence of Parliament is based must be repealed.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Honourable gentlemen, I take very great pleasure in congratulating my honourable friend from Simcoe (Hon. Mr. Bennett) and my honourable friend from Selkirk (Hon. Mr. Bradbury) on the instructive and interesting speeches which they delivered upon the Address. The experience and knowledge which those gentlemen have brought into this Chamber with them from the House of Commons led us to suppose that they would handle the subject with great acceptability to this House. In that respect we were not at all disappointed, and I express the hope that my honourable friends will not hesitate to contribute to the deliberations of this Chamber that knowledge and experience which were so happily brought to bear in the discussion of this question yesterday.

When we met last session we were engaged in a war unparalleled in history. It was therefore with a great sense of relief that we in Canada learned of the armistice arrived at in November last, resulting not only in the defeat but the almost unconditional surrender of the enemy. It is therefore not unreasonable that in this, the first session after the termination of the war, honourable gentlemen, speaking upon the Address should indulge in a retrospective view of what Canada has accomplished during the period when we were engaged in that war.

When Great Britain declared war in August, 1914, there was a response throughout the whole of Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the international boundary line to the Arctic circle, as enthusiastic and loyal and patriotic as any response that took place in the heart of the Empire itself. We look back with pleasure to-day upon the fact that, upon the receipt of a cable announcing that Great Britain had made a declaration of war, Canada hesitated not a moment, but at once sent back the response to the call of duty. Canada recognized at once that this was her war as much as the war of Great Britain—that it was a war of the Empire; and the united sentiment of this country was to pour out men and treasure, no matter what the consequences might be. From the time of entering the war until the armistice was signed in November last, Canada hesitated not for an instant in sending men or in

sending money. I say we Canadians may look back with pleasure upon the attitude taken by our native country upon that critical occasion; it reflected in the very highest degree the deep sensibilities which Canada had as to the grave and serious question involved. Canada recognized that the principles of liberty and democracy were at stake, and she hesitated not to put forth every effort to maintain those great principles.

We all recall the great enthusiasm of the occasion upon which the first contingent left the shores of Canada. At that time we regarded that contingent numbering some thirty odd thousand of Canadian forces, as the limit of Canada's contribution to the war. It was not that the sentiment of Canada was in favour of restricting her contributions by numbers or by the expenditure of dollars; but at that time our conception of the struggle was such that we thought Canada would not be called upon to contribute more than was represented by that contingent. As the magnitude of the war increased Canada recognized that that contingent was only a tithe of what should be sent, and from that time to the termination of the war Canada did not hesitate in sending forces, sending supplies, and contributing treasure until a successful issue was reached. It was therefore with a great sense of relief that we learned of the armistice, and looked back with satisfaction upon the all-important fact that this country had contributed not less than half a million men to the forces of the Empire.

I need not at this point say anything of the gallantry, the heroism, and the prowess of the forces which left Canada's shores to engage in that world struggle which took place upon the battlefields of France and Flanders. Our men stood shoulder to shoulder with the finest troops in Europe, and their heroism and prowess were unsurpassed by, and on many occasions excelled, that of the finest troops of the best armies in the world.

Before the war Canada was regarded as a country of limitations. We looked upon our military prowess as limited. We were aware of the stuff of which our men were made, but in regard to a contribution of troops, that which we first sent exceeded even our imagination. When it was suggested that a contingent of 25,000 men be sent, we looked upon that number as beyond the ability of Canada to contribute; but our resourcefulness was appealed to and we ultimately found ourselves contributing, as I have said, not less than half