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The White Shoe Store
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Speech Delivered in London

By Rt. Hon. Lewis Harcourt, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It is to me a special privilege to be permitted to take the chair on this occasion, for it gives me an opportunity of paying my tribute of esteem and admiration to the splendid, assiduous, and unending work of the Victoria League. Peace has her victories no less renowned than those of war, and these have been the peaceful victories of the Victoria League. You have sown the seed, and we are reaping the harvest. The kingdom of the Empire, based on tradition, on descent, strengthened by confidence, by freedom, and by understanding, is to-day welded into an impregnable whole by blood and iron, by an Imperial peril, by the sacrifice of the lives we love, and by the danger to that which we love even more, the freedom of our race and the honour of our name. We are met to-day to acknowledge with deep gratitude the debt we owe to every corner—even the remotest—of that Empire for the unexampled response to the needs of the Motherland. There is no sacrifice of men, of money, of material which has seemed too great for those of our blood who are wide-flung throughout the world. Ah! and not of our blood or colour only. There were ill-informed, blind, misguided fools who thought that when England was at war India would be in mutiny. They were wrong! But they might have been right if we had mistrusted our Indian fellow-subjects, for I am told there would have been a mutiny if we had not permitted our Indian troops to fight with us in the trenches.

MAKING FOR THEMSELVES IMPERISHABLE RECORD
Nobody surely can have read without emotion that noble and touching despatch from the Viceroys, in which he described how the Rajahs and rulers of the native States placed at our disposal their treasure and their trust. Men, horses, guns, motors, ambulances—all the paraphernalia of modern war have for months crossed the Indian Ocean in a steady stream, without mishap and in perfect security under the convoy of our Navy, and to-day our Indian troops are making for themselves an imperishable record on the battlefields of France and Flanders. Then look at the great efforts of our self-governing Dominions. Two days before war was declared Canada offered an expeditionary force, and two days after the declaration of war I accepted it on behalf of the Government and the nation. It is with us to-day, manned, equipped, paid by the Dominion itself, and with reinforcements ready to follow as and when they are required. It is an open secret that some of the Canadian troops are already at the front; it is no secret that the rest of them are straining at the leash to get there, and if I may venture a prophecy, their period of probation will not be much further prolonged. They have not had a comfortable time, the transition has not been pleasant from our Lady of the Snows to our Mother of the Mud, but coming events cast their shadows before. Not even an English winter—almost the wettest on record—has broken their spirit, and no one who knows them can doubt that they will do credit to the name and the fame of the Maple Leaf.

INSISTED ON SHARING WHITE MAN'S BURDEN
They were accompanied by a military contingent from Newfoundland, which has supplied also a large number of naval reservists and volunteers drawn from their intrepid and enduring fishermen. From the Antipodes have come to our aid equally great forces. The day before the war I received a telegram putting the Australian Navy at our disposal and under our orders, and at the same time offering a contingent of 20,000 men for European service, with equipment and constant reinforcements, which I accepted three days later. The "New Zealand" battleship was already with our fleet, and the rest of their fleet was under our control before war was declared. A New Zealand military force was at once offered, accepted, and mobilized—and even the Maoris insisted on sharing the White Man's burden. The passage of the Australian and New Zealand contingents was

marked and distinguished by the destruction of that gallant and troublesome marauder the "Emden," which fell to the prowess and the gunnery of the "Sydney," **READY AT THE WORD OF COMMAND**
During the transport of the Australasian troops, Turkey, as the final consummation of generations of folly, embroiled herself—or was embroiled by others—in this almost world-wide war. It therefore seemed desirable to intercept the Australians and New Zealanders—ever ready for service where most required—in Egypt. There they are now available for the defence, if necessary, of our latest Protectorate, able in the meantime to complete their training in the best of climates, under the shadow of the Pyramids and the smile of the Sphinx, and ready at the word of command to take their place, by the most direct route, at the European front in the vital theatre of the war. A Ceylon contingent is also in Egypt and a Fiji force is now on its way home. But besides these generous contingents, other Imperial services have been rendered by Australian and New Zealand forces. New Zealand has occupied the former German island of Samoa, and Australian troops are now in possession of German New Guinea, New Ireland, New Britain, Bougainville, and other islands, on all of which the Union Jack flies to-day.

BOTHA'S WORD WAS BOTHA'S BOND
There remains one other Dominion—South Africa. I have seen some ill-conditioned and ignorant comments on the fact that South Africa has sent no troops to Europe. These things are the carapings of fools who have not read and are not fit to write history. I shall never make comparisons of the value of Dominion services put this I will say, that none has been or could be greater than that rendered by the Union of South Africa. Some hours before the war was declared General Botha and General Smuts invited me to remove for our own use in Europe, all British troops in South Africa, and undertook for themselves and their people to defend the Union with their own forces. We accepted that offer with a certain knowledge that Botha's word was Botha's bond. And so, indeed, it has proved. He had undertaken, for reasons of Imperial importance, and because the Union had been invaded, to attack, to capture, and to occupy German South-West Africa. We knew, and we know, that he can do so, but we know also that it is no light task. But internal trouble intervened. I will not minimise—neither will I exaggerate—that trouble. I would not honour it with the title of rebellion; it was troublesome, perhaps at times even dangerous, but it was based more on personal jealousy than on racial animosity.

FOR THE HONOUR OF THE DUTCH
It is the common experience of mankind that those who have failed to attain the recognition which they regard as their due are inclined to look askance to public confidence. Such I believe to be the inner history and the secret springs of recent South African unrest. But it is over now. There has been no racialism in the victory. General Botha was fighting within the Union not for the advantage of the British, but for the honour of the Dutch. The Afrikaner is proud of the unstinted trust which has been reposed in him by the British people since their war; they know what freedom and self-government mean, and from whom it has sprung. The minority of rebels were shaming their fellows and defaming their honour. They were dealt with by their own leader and by men of their own race, and the sordid chapter of sorry treachery closes, I hope, with the capture or surrender of its deluded dupes. The British people will trust the Government of the Union of South Africa to exercise in their own discretion such punishment or clemency as seems fit to them, with their knowledge of the local situation, and we and they turn now with hope and confidence to the larger undertakings of the reconstruction of the neighbouring German colony.

SPLENDID IN SPIRIT AND INTENTION
But I need hardly remind you that India and the self-governing Dominions are only a part of the British Empire. There remain the whole of the Colonies and Protectorates, in which I take a special interest, for they are more individually under the personal control of the Colonial Secretary. But I beg you to believe that, so far as participation in this war is concerned, I have not exercised any control. I have been snowed under by day and by night ever since the 4th August, with contributions almost embarrassing in their variety and amount, but always splendid in their spirit and intention. From the remotest islands of the Caribees or the Pacific my none too frequent rest has been broken with telegrams proffering—pressing on me—men, money, goods, produce, volunteers—even aeroplanes. The catalogue is so extensive that it is impossible to recapitulate, but some of its details are too touching to be omitted. We can never forget the million sacks of flour from Canada, which materially helped to steady food prices in the initial stages of the war, the contribution of hospitals also from Canada for both the Army and Navy here and for the French in Paris; from Ontario farmers gifts of oats, potatoes, apples, peas, and beans, and 250,000 bags of flour; from Nova Scotia 100,000 tons of coal or its equivalent; from Alberta and Prince Edward Island 600,000 bushels of oats; from Quebec 4,000,000 lbs. of cheese; from Prince Edward Island, again, cheese and hay; from Saskatchewan 1,500 horses of a value of \$250,000; 100,000 bushels of potatoes from New Brunswick; more flour from Manitoba; 25,000 cases of salmon from British Columbia, for the relief of British distress.

SPLENDID CONTRIBUTIONS
From Australia 1,000 gallons of port for wounded soldiers; a Parliamentary grant of £100,000 in aid of Belgium, and contributions to an even greater amount from private sources; tons of butter and sheep for our troops; thousands of carcasses of frozen mutton from New South Wales, and over £20,000 worth of frozen meat and other commodities from Queensland; great quantities of food-stuffs and goods collected by the Imperial Importation, and because the Union had been invaded, to attack, to capture, and to occupy German South-West Africa. We knew, and we know, that he can do so, but we know also that it is no light task. But internal trouble intervened. I will not minimise—neither will I exaggerate—that trouble. I would not honour it with the title of rebellion; it was troublesome, perhaps at times even dangerous, but it was based more on personal jealousy than on racial animosity.

SPLENDID CONTRIBUTIONS
From South Africa, wine for our soldiers; field ambulances and a Red Cross unit for the French; fruit and eggs for our hospitals; tobacco, maize, and money contributions—as well as volunteers—from Rhodesia. Contributions also from Basutos, Bechuanas, Barotse, and the British in Bechuanaland, Bloemfontein, and the Rand. From Ceylon, besides the contingent I have mentioned, £25,000 to the Prince of Wales' Fund and two motor ambulances; and £2,000 from the Sultan of the Maldives Islands.

SPONTANEOUS GENEROSITY FROM POOR ISLANDS
From Mauritius 2,000,000 lbs. of sugar for the Army and Navy, and 150,000 rupees towards military expenditure. From Hong Kong \$235,000 and \$6,000 a month to the Prince of Wales' Fund. The Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements has voted £10,000, and contributions of more than \$100,000 have been made by private persons, while £10,000 has been sent to the National Relief Fund from residents in the Federated Malay States. The Government (Continued on page 3)

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