

notice of that Bill is already on the Order Paper, and we intend to proceed with it as soon as possible.

With respect to our part in this war, I again repeat that the Canadian Force in the battle line to-day is numerically as strong as ever it has been. The military authorities inform me that I ought not to disclose even to this House the actual number of men who are to-day fighting in the Canadian ranks. We have not only the fighting unit at the front which, since the close of the last session, has notably distinguished itself at Passchendaele, where it accomplished precisely what it undertook, and where, in the face of enormous difficulties which required the most thorough preparation and organization to overcome them, it exhibited the greatest resourcefulness and heroism—we have not only that fighting unit at the front which has brought honour and renown to this country from first to last; but we have other almost equally important corps, the railway construction corps, the forestry corps, and the men in the flying service. We have paid a great price for what has been accomplished, and it is with a very sorrowful pride, I confess, that one can reflect upon what the Canadians have achieved in this war and upon the price which they have paid. The casualties are as follows:

Killed..	25,744
Died of wounds..	8,612
Died of disease..	1,901
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Total..	36,257
Wounded..	105,250
Prisoners of war..	2,757
Presumed dead..	3,845
Missing..	937
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Total casualties..	149,046

Sir SAM HUGHES: If that statement goes out without giving the number of returned men people will get the idea that we have lost that number, whereas a great many of these men have returned to duty, I believe.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My hon. friend is quite right. A great many of those who were wounded have returned to the front. I was not speaking in the sense, which, as he fears, might be attributed to the figures, but I was giving an enumeration of the total number of wounded, and I am grateful to my hon. friend for his suggestion.

I have spoken of the force at the front as being numerically not less strong than ever it was before. I know that it is quite as efficient, as determined and as confident as ever it was, and that is saying a good deal. The temporary breakdown in the eastern

[Sir Robert Borden.]

theatre of war has not discouraged our men one whit. We had great expectations as to what might have been accomplished in the eastern theatre during the past year. Those expectations have been disappointed, but, on the other hand, we have had thrown into the scale the enormous power and resources and the wonderful spirit and invincible determination of the United States of America, our nearest neighbour and Ally. That, I am confident, will much more than compensate. Besides that, let no one absolutely despair of what Russia may do in the future.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: One might liken Russia to a giant, manacled for a long time, whose manacles have been suddenly stricken off; he has not yet gained control of his limbs, and endeavours to struggle to his feet. He bruises himself, and, perhaps, overturns those who would like to help him, but eventually he does gain his feet. I am confident that Russia will eventually gain her feet and again take her part as a great nation in the affairs of the world. Let us remember that these people have been denied liberty for centuries, and so they may be pardoned for not knowing, in the first instance, what they should do with their new found freedom. During the past three or four years I have met on various occasions a very intelligent young man from Russia. He came before he knew how to speak English to the United States of America, where he is now employed. I have talked to him of Russia from time to time. He is, perhaps, from thirty to thirty-five years of age. He told me that his father and mother were serfs in their youth, that his father had had his clothing stripped from his back, and the knout applied until the blood ran, for some trivial offence. There was no remedy or redress in the law for that man because he was a serf, and in very truth a slave. When new-found liberty comes to such a people, can you be surprised if for the moment they do not know what to do with it? I venture to believe and earnestly to hope that Russia will find herself in the early future, and will never become permanently subject to the economic or other domination of Germany or of the Central Powers.

Now I have nearly done, and I must apologize to hon. gentlemen for trespassing so long on their patience. Our own course in this war is entirely clear. Germany's war aims have been absolutely unmasked, since the successes which have come to her in the Eastern theatre of war. When