

turned their prows to the shelter of their mine-fields.

But a more extraordinary development of the spirit of terrorism has recently startled the world. Apparently by the latest pronouncement of the German Government, we must understand that merchant ships are to be sunk by submarines without an opportunity for the crew to escape. It has been announced that Germany's proposals extend to all waters surrounding the British Islands, and that merchant ships with non-combatants on board may be sunk by submarines in direct violation of all recognized usages in warfare and of every instinct and dictate of humanity. It has been a rule of war upon the sea that a captured merchant ship should be taken into port and condemned by due process of law. The practice of the nations has not been uniform as to exceptions to that rule. Some have established an exception by reason of convenience, and others by reason only of necessity. No criticism has been made of the action of German ships in the Atlantic or in the Pacific which have sunk British merchant ships, because as Germany has no nearby port, there was no opportunity to take those ships into port to have them condemned by forms of law. But I am not aware that any civilized nation has ever before established or adopted the principle that a merchant ship with noncombatants on board might be sunk without giving them an opportunity to escape. That proposal strikes the world in a startling way. And not less startling is an incident which came to our attention through the press not long ago, that in the British channel a torpedo was fired at a hospital ship, so marked and designated that there could be no failure to know that it was a ship used solely for hospital purposes. I venture to think that the Government of Germany, in adopting measures of this character, is in fact, as has been very well said by one of the great journals of the United States, waging war not against Great Britain, but against the world, and the world I hope will know how to deal with a policy and with measures of that character.

My right hon. friend has said, and said truly, that this war is a conflict of ideals. On the one hand there is the ideal of liberty and justice, the ideal of respect for the sacred obligation of treaties, the ideal of regard for the rights of the smaller nations,

[Sir Robert Borden.]

the ideal of modern democracy; and on the other hand, there is the doctrine that force is above all right, and indeed constitutes the highest right; that the power of the nation must be expressed and asserted in militarism and used for further extension of territory, wealth, and influence; the conception that the Prussian militarism, and the German culture which it dominates, shall also dominate the world. There cannot be any doubt as to the issue of such a conflict.

In August last we decided that Canada should take her proper part in this war. Thirty-one thousand men are to-day in the British Isles or in France; one thousand are at Bermuda; and nearly ten thousand are doing garrison duty in Canada. Nearly fifty thousand men have been enlisted in order that they may in the first place stand as an armed force for the protection of this country and of our people, and secondly, that they may go forward from time to time, as there shall be need, to the end that this war shall be brought to an honourable and triumphant issue. Our proposal, which has been disclosed to the country since the last session of Parliament, was this; that in addition to the men who had gone forward from Valcartier to Salisbury Plain, 30,000 men should be enlisted and put in training, and that from that force there should go forward from time to time as the British authorities might be prepared to receive them, further expeditionary forces; and that upon the despatch of any such further expeditionary force men should be enlisted here in Canada to take their place. The number was subsequently increased to fifty thousand, and I am glad to inform the House that the response to the demand for men to perform this noble and patriotic duty has been all that any of us could have desired or hoped. Our achievement in that regard is only to be limited by the need, and we feel assured—we have good cause to be assured by what has already taken place in France—that these men when they go to the front will do their duty, will stand with the other troops of the Empire and with our Allies in a determined and patriotic endeavour to bring the struggle to a victorious issue.

The unity of purpose which has inspired, not only this Dominion, but the whole Empire, speaks for itself. I had the opportunity some few weeks ago of reading a