

country to see that the sword was not sheathed until peace, with honour and glory, was proclaimed throughout the world. The meeting at Regina was only the image of what had taken place throughout the whole dominions of His Majesty King George. I was pleased to be at the meeting and to contribute my mite to the proceedings, pleased as a Minister of the Crown and as a public man from the Province of Quebec. Looking back at what the Government has done, and when I speak of the Government, I am not speaking of it as a body made up of politicians, but simply as a body representing the people of Canada, I was proud to scan the record and to proclaim publicly that Canada, as a component part of the Empire, had done its duty. When war was declared we were found in a state of unpreparedness. Our Army was a militia force only established for the purposes of defence. We had lived in peace over 100 years, and very few, if any, had ever dreamt that Canada would be involved in such a terrific struggle as the one which is progressing at the present time. Still, within six weeks after the declaration of war, by reason of the splendid patriotism of the people of Canada, and I must say especially of the Western Provinces, we were able to enlist, to organize and fully equip, 33,000 men; when in the latter part of September, twenty-five transports carried this army