

"Our Duty Not To Send Men or Food, But Both Men and Food"

Hon. N. W. Rowell's Great Speech on The New Military Service Measure; "The German Must be Defeated;" What Great Britain and Other Overseas States Have Done in Providing Man Power

(Toronto Star Report.)
 Hon. Newton Rowell, in what was admitted to be one of the most masterly speeches of his political career, told of the conditions under which the troops in France are fighting and read an order of the day sent to the troops by Gen. Currie, who is in command of the Canadian corps. He declared that responsibility rested upon the government of Canada to see that these gallant troops were properly reinforced.

"This government is pledged," he continued, "to the House and the country to maintain our divisions at the front with adequate reinforcements. We cannot consider the issue before the House and the country today in the light of the situation that existed a year ago. We cannot consider it in the light of conditions that existed even when the parlia-

ment opened one month ago. The whole world situation has changed within the last thirty days. This is the all-sufficient reason for the resolution now before the House. We must consider it in the light of the present war situation."

Mr. Rowell went on to point out that every man in Canada was born under a law which gave the state the right to call him out for military service at any time. As regards bringing the matter before Parliament in the form of a bill, rather than as an order-in-council, he reminded the members that under the Militia Act there was really no need to introduce the matter at all and that in the present emergency the government was adopting a wise and thoroughly constitutional course.

"I wish to emphasize for the moment another matter which we must keep in

mind because one sometimes hears contrary views expressed. It is sometimes said that Canada has done enough or that Canada should not send forth help, or that we should let the United States help us. My view is that this is Canada's war just as much as it is Britain's war or the war of France and Belgium. There is no duty, no responsibility resting on Britain, France and Belgium, that does not equally rest upon the Canadian people in this great war conflict."

"It is true that we went into the war because we are part of the British Empire, but I venture to say that if we had been an independent people we would have been compelled to enter the struggle to defend our own liberties and to protect our citizens. We would have been forced into this war just as the United States has been forced into it."

"Our duty is not to send food or men, our duty is to send food and men. We do not wish to take men from the farms. We did not decide on the form of this order-in-council without considering the food situation in all its aspects. In view of the paramount necessity for more men, everything else must yield individual preference and everything else to provide the necessary men. Our real war effort is measured by the men we send overseas, plus the number we have available who may be sent overseas. Our war effort measured by the men permanently withdrawn from civilian life and sent overseas or still here and who may be trained to send overseas, represents less than 400,000 men, or approximately about 5 per cent of our population, if you take our population at nearly eight millions. Compare with Canada's 5 per cent of her population Great Britain's effort of 12 per cent of her population, and still calling for 500,000 more men."

"No one is proposing to draw upon the people of Canada to the extent that the people of Great Britain have been drawn upon. No one is proposing to increase our forces by 500,000 men. What I submit to the House and the country is that we can send the additional men necessary to reinforce our men at the front and by utilizing our forces at home

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the man-power and the woman-power, we can maintain production and all other essential industries."

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"I venture to say to this House that if we sent across the seas 100,000 more men our contribution in men would not then exceed Australia's contribution up to the present time."

"New Zealand has maintained one division at the front, with a population of about 1,000,000 or 1,300,000, since the outbreak of the war. On the basis of population, that would make at least seven for us. We would have to send overseas between two and three hundred thousand more men to make our contribution in proportion to our population equal to the contribution of New Zealand."

"If we take into consideration the men that South Africa put into the war in German South-West Africa and German South-East Africa, as well as the men

she has sent over the seas, we would have to make a still larger contribution in order to equal that of South Africa."

"What I want to say is this: If the Motherland, Great Britain, Ireland, Scotland; if Australia, the great Commonwealth in the East; if New Zealand, and if South Africa, one of the latest members of our Empire, composed of diverse races which until recent years were warring against each other, could get together and send into the fighting line, for the defence of the flag of liberty, these great numbers of men, should the largest, oldest and wealthiest of all the dominions of the Empire hesitate in this hour of the Empire's crisis?"

Woman's Opportunity.

"They have 2,352,200 women in war service in Great Britain. They have in banking and finance, 980,700 women; in the civil service, 168,000; in commerce 820,000; in munitions, 700,000; in national factories in the metal and chemical trades, 918,000; in shipbuilding, in July, 1917, 16,500; in agriculture, 270,000."

"The women of Canada want only the same opportunity. The hearts of many mothers in Canada lie buried with their boys in graves in France and Flanders. We only have to speak a word and the mothers and sisters of our soldiers will undertake any work that this nation calls them to undertake, in order that the boys may be reinforced and victory achieved."

"What I said of Great Britain is equally, if not more, true of France. The women of Europe do more on the soil than do the women of Canada or the United States. I submit that without detriment to any vital interests we could close up many of the non-essential industries of Canada and relieve the men therein engaged for war work. Canada has not yet got down to this war as the nations of Europe have, and the time has come when we must realize the urgency of the situation and be prepared to deal with it as occasion requires."

"We have heard this afternoon of unity of Canada. I believe Canadian unity is possible. I ask: How can we achieve Canadian unity? We can achieve it just as our English and French-Canadians achieve it at the front by marching together to a great objective, seeking to serve and sacrifice together, and if, under this resolution, the sons of Ontario and Quebec go forth to fight for the homes and liberties of Canada, and if they fight and die together on the fields of France and Flanders and mingle their blood in a common grave, the men who return to Canada will put an end to racial strife in this country; they will stand together for a united Canada. I believe, with the cheerful acceptance of this proposal, with the going forth of men of Ontario and Quebec, you have started the unity; our future, our liberties, the cause of you have started the men together in a course which will result in binding to-

gether the different interests, the different races and the different creeds which inhabit this country. Canada stands at the parting of the ways."

After a tribute to the heroism of the men gone from Canada, Mr. Rowell ended with:

"Canada must and will stand by those men to the limit of Canada's resources and ability. The issue may determine humanity and civilization each one of us has the great privilege in this critical hour of human history to make a contribution to the future welfare, not only of Canada, but of our race. Are we going to do it, do it as men do it, as our fathers did a century ago? The German must be defeated."

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