

curious thing had been discovered by one of our men in Flanders. He found a little instrument, a combination of telephone and telegraph, that had been used by the Germans. Collections of such things are of value not only from a historical point of view, or from the standpoint of the interest which we and our children naturally feel in the great event, but also from the scientific point of view. For instance, if such a thing as a combined telephone and telegraph has been used by the Germans, we ought to know that; I am sure our scientists would be very much pleased to learn the experiences of Germany in that regard, and they might possibly carry the invention one step or several steps further. I would think that the Government would be well advised in appointing men whose special duty it would be to go to Europe and to the various battlefields in Africa, Asia and Europe, to collect anything of interest.

Hon. Mr. BOYER: We have one, Lord Beaverbrook.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: I am sure that not only guns, aeroplanes, and other war weapons, but historical documents, posters, bluebooks, and all sorts of information could be collected which would be not only inestimable, but absolutely necessary to anyone who will undertake to write a full and correct history of this war.

In addition, I would suggest that some perpetual memorial should be erected, where would be stored the guns, weapons and flags taken from the enemy and all the war trophies and curiosities, and all the documentary evidence or information concerning the war. This would be a fountain at which anyone might satisfy not only his curiosity but his desire for knowledge and a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to patriotism and national sacrifice and service. There is an additional reason why Canada should do that, and do it in a handsome way. I take it that there is going to be no immediate material benefit or gain to Canada from this war. It is quite evident to me, as it must be to everyone, that Canada is not going to get out of the war anything in proportion to what we have put into it. If we cannot obtain material gain, let us endeavor to get as much spiritual gain as possible out of it. In that way we would not only satisfy the very natural curiosity of our people, but perpetuate in a worthy and fitting manner the sacrifices and services which Canada has rendered.

I am aware that some exhibits that have been gathered together have been sent to the United States, and that an exhibition has been held at Baltimore by Dr. Doughty, who had already rendered great service to the country. That exhibition has had a wonderful success, having been visited already by immense numbers; and I am told that before it concludes it will have been seen by 25,000,000 people. That exhibition consists of material gathered entirely by Canadians, and it is the work of the Canadian Government, but so far the Canadians have not seen it. I quite realize that it is serving a good purpose in the United States in assisting their propaganda and recruiting; but our people want to see some of that collection, and I think the Government ought to take an early opportunity of having some of it brought to Canada for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: We had it in Montreal.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Oh, no, we have not had the Baltimore exhibition; we have had only parts of it. That exhibition is much larger than anything that has been shown in Canada. It has attracted wonderful attention and has created great enthusiasm in the United States, and if it does that in another country, how much more would it not do in Canada?

I invite my honourable friend's sympathetic attention to this matter for I know he must be sympathetic with it. He has taken a very great interest in the hospital branch of our service and in everything that concerns the returned soldier, and I am sure that this is a subject which will appeal to him, and that with his imagination and sympathy he will find something to recommend to his colleagues which will be worthy of Canada.

Hon. Mr. WEBSTER: I rise to add my word of approval to the suggestion of the honourable member from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt). I believe that when the history of this great war is written, the brightest pages within the covers of that book will be those which will record the achievements of our boys who wear the maple leaf and are proud to call Canada their home. It is a well-known fact that since the outbreak of this great war Canada has made a record that will never be surpassed by that of any other nation in the world with the same population. Those men who have gone from Canada and who are to-day fighting in France, went voluntarily, what for? To