

THE DAY OF WRATH

ONE question at least is settled: When England is at war, Canada is at war. If the slightest doubt still lurks in any mind, one look around will dispel it. Writers and talkers have worried themselves over this problem, and wearied their readers and their hearers with their writing and their talking. For one whole session Parliament discussed the difference between "shall" and "may," and left the question in its original obscurity. The session which opened on August 18th, required only four days to vote a war credit of fifty million dollars, because the baffling question had solved itself on the instant by the hard touchstone of reality.

Just because Canada is at war when England is at war, thirty thousand Canadians are under arms at Quebec voluntarily to go over-seas and do whatever British soldiers may be asked to do. They are eager to proceed to the field of action; and thirty thousand more are clamouring to take their places so soon as these move forward. This is the equivalent of an enlistment of half a million men for the two British Islands, one per cent. of the population, precisely the ratio which Lord Kitchener set.

The master key to this fundamental problem having been found, all subsidiary problems will solve themselves without argument and without talk. We will fall into our political place automatically, and having fulfilled our duty we shall be adopted into the number and made partakers of all the privileges of Empire even as we are sharers in its obligations. It is a little early to divide the skin before the beast is killed; but when this ravening beast of Europe is skinned this will be our share of the spoil, if we do our part.

It is too early also for one who puts on the harness to boast himself as he who puts it off. As soldiers these volunteers may not be more efficient than the circumstances