

over their own people. They are now seeking to preserve their position in their own country and carry out the ideals for which they stand by endeavoring to impose their will and their ideals upon others by the might of the sword. Back of this world conflict lies the issue for which our fathers fought and for the triumph of which they gave their lives. Our fathers would not accept the tyranny of their own Kings. Shall we, their sons, submit to the greater tyranny of alien kings?

The Imperial Conference

"The very life and future of our empire is now at stake, and all its resources in men and means must be mobilized to achieve victory. The Governments of Russia, France and Great Britain have held united conferences to discuss how the allies can best mobilize both their finances and military resources, the parliaments of Great Britain and all the self-governing dominions have held their war sessions; but so far, the supreme Council of the Empire—the Imperial Conference, representing all the free nations of the empire—has not been called together in a war session to consider how we can most effectively mobilize the resources of the whole empire for this life and death struggle in which we are engaged.

The Imperial Conference was called into being for the express purpose of discussing and considering questions of common interest between "His Majesty's Government and his governments of the self-governing dominions beyond the seas." When in the history of our empire has a question arisen of such common and vital interest and of such commanding importance as the one we are now facing? If there ever was a time in our history when such consideration appears both desirable and necessary, it is now. Australia has asked for it. It is said the Imperial Government and Canada do not desire a session of the conference this year. If the Imperial Government thought there was any danger of there being thrust into the discussion at such a conference the question of the reorganization of the empire, one need not wonder that they would hesitate about summoning such a conference. We must save the empire before we reorganize it. One cannot think that the Imperial Government would not welcome a war session of this conference at which the sole topic for consideration would be how the resources of the empire can be most effectively utilized to achieve victory in this struggle. Speaking only for myself, I venture to hope that one of the early acts of the new National Administration will be to invite the Premiers or other representatives of the Governments of all the Dominions to meet in London for a conference on this vital issue. I am sure every portion of the empire would cheerfully and gladly respond to the united appeal of the free nations of the empire. And what a splendid illustration and demonstration it would be at this hour of the solidarity as well as of the flexibility of our free institutions, and the loyalty which springs from liberty. What a demonstration it would be of the determination of the free democracies of the empire to combine in the performance of the Empire's task and to maintain for democracy and free government their right to a place in the earth!"

A Suggestion for Ontario.

Mr. Rowell referred to the Ontario Provincial War Tax. He was sure the people of the Province would like the Government to ascertain through the proper channels how they could most effectively and advantageously spend this money and then to spend it. He repeated, for the consideration of the Government, one of the suggestions he had already made in the House that Ontario might raise and equip a Brigade of 5000 men to be offered to the Imperial Government in addition to the forces the Canadian Government was now raising. "Ontario," he said, "would thus, in a striking and effective manner, show her appreciation of the sacrifice Ontario's sons have already made and Ontario's determination to make her contribution in the fulfillment of the task for which they have laid down their lives."

In conclusion, Mr. Rowell declared "Just as our brave men have mingled their blood on the soil of Belgium that we may maintain our freedom, so men of all classes and races and creeds in this country will unite in one holy and common resolve and say 'To the last man and to the last dollar Canada is in this fight to see it through.' We must prove ourselves worthy of the men who have died for us in this the supreme hour in our national history."

SALISBURY PLAIN CANTEENS.

IN view of repeated statements that the Canadian authorities were not consulted and had nothing to do with the institution of the "wet" canteen for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces at Salisbury Plain last winter, the official statement on this point in the British House of Commons should be of special interest to Canadians who wish to know the exact truth. The following is an exact copy from the Hansard of the British House of Commons, February 8th, 1915, page 250:

Canadian Contingent (Salisbury Plain)

Mr. DUNCAN MILLAR asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he had received any representations on the subject of the abolition of the wet canteen at Salisbury Plain, where the Canadian contingent has been training, on the ground that it is not in the interests of the men to afford them such facilities for drinking while training in camp in the United Kingdom; whether any wet canteens are permitted in Canada; and whether he proposes to take any steps in the matter?

Mr. BAKER: The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. I am informed that wet canteens are permitted in Canada. The sale of beer in the canteens of the contingent on Salisbury Plains was sanctioned at the urgent request of the responsible military authorities, who considered it necessary for disciplinary reasons. **It was concurred in by the Canadian military authorities,** and in the circumstances it is not proposed to take any further steps in the matter.