

Canada there has been no marked want or destitution. Today there is plenty of work for men all over Canada, while trade conditions could scarcely be more hopeful. The pinch is over and now all we have to do is to be in readiness for the good things of the future."

This quotation will show that the working classes and labourers in general find plenty of work and enjoy the prosperity resulting therefrom. I have carefully followed the labour gazettes for the last few months, and have found nothing contrary to Mr. Fern's opinion, not only so far as the city of Montreal is concerned, but as regards all other parts of the country.

I think I have shown, at least in a certain measure, that the generous participation of our country in aiding the sacred cause of the allies, has improved our economic condition outside as well as at home. True our debt has considerably increased, but it is equally true that the resources of the country have grown in wonderful proportions.

To mention the Western provinces alone, as shown by the figures just given, the harvest of 1915 yielded us \$300,000,000 more than that for 1914. I therefore submit, honourable gentlemen, that in spite of its wonderful effort, our nation is still in a position to face and should undergo new sacrifices until the time when the blessed hour of victory shall ring. We are bound to make these sacrifices, in the first place because the flag is in danger and has been insulted by the enemy's bullets, and because the blood of our fellow-countrymen has been shed.

This double appeal, to defend the flag and avenge our dead, needs no comment with the immense majority of this country. It is a call which a noble heart heeds and does not allow the mind to dispute. Even our material interests require these sacrifices.

Some dare to assert that this is not our war. You remember what happened in the first days of August, 1914? You recall the panic, the complete paralysis of business and the slump in all our stocks? You recollect people rushing to the banks in order to withdraw the few gold pieces on which alone they relied to carry them through days that seemed so dark that they hardly showed a ray of hope?

Confidence had vanished, causing such depression in all investments that they could no longer be depended upon. I ask you: what restored confidence and with it the value of these investments? The admirable power and prowess of the British fleet. And I feel I am truly voicing now the deep grati-

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN.

tude of my fellow-countrymen for the priceless service the fleet has rendered us.

There is still another reason why the French-Canadians of this country should do their duty, and I will say, more than their duty. They are the sons of the men who, in 1870, when France was in agony, in their grief, sadly closed their shutters, to endure in the silence of despair, the anguish of defeat.

These men, thank God, have not degenerated. They remember the days of anxiety through which they lived sixteen months ago while waiting for the response of Great Britain to the supreme appeal of France. They still hear those noble words of Sir Edward Grey, addressing the English Commons and saying: I declare that you have no obligation whatever to defend France, but on this question I ask every one of you to search well in his heart before giving his answer.

And this response, honourable gentlemen, given in a formidable manner, first by the navy and then by the army of Great Britain, has meant the salvation of France.

Bornier said of France:

Terre du dévouement, de l'honneur, de la foi,
Terre du dévouement, de l'honneur et de la foi,
Il ne faut donc jamais désespérer de toi,
Puisque malgré tes jours de deuil et de mi-
[sère,
Tu trouves un héros dès qu'il est nécessaire.

This hero, honourable gentlemen, was Great Britain.

Could we of the province of Quebec, while our two mother countries, one supporting the other and defending justice and right against the barbarians, shedding their blood together to save the life of the smaller nations and the liberty of the world, could we I say, of the province of Quebec, remain unmoved by this spectacle?

No, never!

I wish you could have witnessed, as I did, the patriotic meetings held in all parts of my province by Hon. Mr. Casgrain and the other Quebec ministers. You would have read in the attitude of the crowds and heard in their warm response to the appeal of these ministers, as well as of the liberal leaders who generously took part in these popular demonstrations, the unequivocal answer of the population of my province.

And if you wish to go above the multitude and seek the testimony of those whose mission it is and who have the authority to guide the people, listen to this admirable lesson of patriotism, quite recently voiced by the Catholic Archbishop of the