

her last dollar, not for the Empire's sake alone, but for her own sake and the sake of her national ideals. And when once Canada has clearly conceived it as her obligation to throw her entire national life and resources into this conflict, the problem then becomes a very simple one, namely, one of administration.

If it is clearly understood that every fit Canadian man is pledged to this war, then first let the Government take immediate steps for the enrolment, not of 20,000, but of 100,000 or 200,000 Canadians available for active service. Then from these enrolled men let contingents be selected for immediate training and sent on to the front as soon as they can be equipped and fitted and as they may be needed.

I am no pessimist, but I confess that that long, swaying line of men, locked in deadly embrace on the French frontier, is ominous of possible disaster; these daring raids of German submarines are suggestive of dangers in a direction where we thought we were invincible. So far the war has gone well, but after all what signifies the loss of a few hundred thousand men to Germany out of her eight million soldiers, not to speak of the uncalled multitudes available out of her sixty-five millions of people? And we have yet to hear from Turkey—The possibilities of Islam as an anti-British force are faint it is true, but they are as yet unexplored. Then there is Italy. A sudden great disaster on the line of battle, which is by no means outside the fortune of war, a chance and fatal raid upon our fleet, an unforeseen combination of crushing calamities, all of which lie within the possibilities in war, might change in one week the hue of our horizon. What then? It is the commonplace of war that battles are lost before they are fought. Let Canada wake before it is too late. Regrets are cheap and, however bitter, are unavailing. Let Canada prepare, eagerly, swiftly, surely prepare today, that in the last deadly crisis of the desperate fight she may be able to throw the weight of her young might upon the wavering line of battle and help to hurl the enemy backward in defeat. The final touch may be Canada's. There is no place for hysteria, but there is place for haste. Not a contingent but the whole nation will fulfil Canada's obligation; and not when the cry comes for help but now should the preparation be made.

With a clear conscience and a steadfast heart we can invoke the God, not of battles, but the God of Righteousness and Truth to our aid, but only after we have made our full preparation; and if by God's good hand our men should not be needed the loss is small, but if the day should come when there was desperate need for our men and we were found unready, not even God could help us then. The which may God forbid.

CHARLES W. GORDON.

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