

Are the suggestions therein contained wise and desirable? Is the legislation proposed such as to meet the issues with which Canada is confronted today? Has the public treasury been entrusted to faithful trustees? Has Canada done its duty in the frightful war in which it has to participate? Has sufficient attention been given to the aftermath of the struggle, so that the country's onward march may not be checked? Is Canada prosperous? Is the Government striving to improve existing conditions? Are means being taken to alleviate the burdens which the nation has to bear in the present extraordinary circumstances? To all those questions I answer unhesitatingly in the affirmative. When, Mr. Speaker, were there to be found in this country a Prime Minister and a government which had to face the tremendous difficulties which the present Government has to solve? For two years past Europe has been devastated by the most terrible war which is recorded in history. An emperor, reigning over a domineering people, has risen in his pride, dragging after him other potentates. Without reason, through sheer spirit of conquest, moved by an unbridled ambition, he threw his horses against Belgium and France, hoping to make an easy prey of those two countries. God was watching over the Franks. From all sides the nations of the Old World rushed on to the battlefield. Russia, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Montenegro, Serbia, Rumania took up arms and went to meet the invaders.

Well, Mr. Speaker, could the great Empire of which we are part and parcel, could the British Empire whose glorious flag has been unfurled on every sea and every continent, remain neutral in the struggle for the freedom of the world? Casting aside forever old rivalries centuries old which had prevented her from extending to France the hand of friendship, Great Britain took sides with her southern neighbours. Her soldiers went over to France, and shed their blood alongside the French soldiers and from their united sacrifice has sprung victories which have startled the world and repelled the invader.

England's navy has patrolled the seas, cleared of German ships the highways of trade and bottled the Hun vessels in the Kiel canal. At an enormous cost, England has put under arms an army of 5,000,000 men. To her dominions beyond the seas she appealed for assistance. Canada has nobly answered the call. Our country has equipped nearly four hundred thousand men, three hundred thousand of whom are

[Mr. Descarries.]

already overseas or on the battlefields of Europe. The Old World stands amazed at the valiance of our troops. The echoes of Ypres, Saint-Julien, Festubert, Langemark, Saint-Eloi, la Somme, Courcelette, Salonica, the Dardanelles are resounding with their glorious deeds. Our boys, our sons, our brothers, some of our colleagues, have proven to the world that on the shores of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, on our western prairies and in the country of Evangeline, on the borders of the southern republic and amidst the Arctic fies, there lives a young people who remembers the valorous exploits of Wolfe and Montcalm, who has treasured the ideals of its forebears, whose soul has been moulded after that of the great nations from which it sprung, and who makes it its duty to do its share in the frightful war which, for the safety of the world and the preservation of the freedom of nations, must have no other issue but victory accomplished by our motherlands, France and England, with the help of their powerful Allies.

The Government which had to face such tremendous issues and responsibilities, has done its duty nobly and firmly; such has been its grasp of the situation, that political parties disappeared and Parliament, without a dissentient voice, voted with enthusiasm and loyalty to the Empire the necessary moneys to send our volunteers to the front, and the hundred millions of dollars necessary for their maintenance and equipment.

I therefore wonder, Mr. Speaker, at the discordant echoes which are to be heard to-day in Dorchester, from Liberal quarters, on the eve of the election which is made necessary on account of the death of the late lamented Postmaster General. Doubtless we shall hear from the right hon. leader of the Opposition and his party that they disavow the conspiracy of the young politician whose conduct on this occasion is prejudicial to Canada's determination to put forth every possible effort to win the war, when victory requires the whole energy of the country.

Mr. Speaker, the imperious needs of the struggle have suggested to certain individuals and to certain newspapers the possibility of the Government establishing obligatory military service. Should I say that the right hon. Prime Minister and many of his colleagues have refused to consider the suggestion and have stated that the Government had given the subject no thought. I believe, in any case, Mr. Speaker, and I think I am voicing the opinion of the