

of her friend, France. What a disappointment for the conceited monarch, on seeing all his schemes falling through.

Germany was first awakened by the attitude of Belgium. This small nation of brave men did not hesitate, for a single moment, to oppose the proud Teuton, in order to preserve its neutrality and to abide by its treaty agreements.

Notwithstanding the fallacious promises of Germany, this small nation of heroes has pluckily defended its territory in a manner which calls forth the admiration of the whole world, even of its enemies. A handful of valiant Belgians succeeded in checking the advance of the German giant and enabling the Triple Entente to make preparations for repulsing the common enemy. Never before, in history, has a nation proved itself more heroic than these proud Belgians. To the German general, demanding the surrender of Liège, the Belgian commandant proudly replied: 'Belgians may die, but will never surrender.' What a beautiful page to add to the history of this valiant nation. Before the standard of Belgium, all true friends of liberty should salute, in recognition of brave men resolved to maintain the faith of treaties.

Germany's second disappointment was the refusal of Italy to side with the oppressor. The honesty of the Government, upheld by the unanimity of the Italian people, prompted the answer which is well known to all of us: 'Italy agreed by the treaty of the Triple Alliance to support Germany in case of invasion of her territory, but not to assist her in the invasion of other countries.' We can easily imagine the rage of the haughty potentate when he received this proud answer. William had thought that passing through Belgium to invade France would be a simple walk over, and that Italy would join him in carrying out his scheme to become dictator of the whole of Europe.

What do we see to-day? It is Belgium which checks the tide of German invasion, and which for several days past, has been inflicting bloody losses on the German hordes, to such an extent that French territory is not yet invaded. Meanwhile, the Russian colossus is advancing slowly but surely on Prussia, and, in a short time, will have reached the gates of Berlin. It will not then be France struggling under the Prussian heel, but Germany itself squirming under the Muscovite pressure, and rendered powerless by the victorious Cossack, that is in the best interests of humanity and civilization.

Germany had also relied on serious divisions in Ireland, but we are pleased to notice that war had hardly been declared when all parties united for the defence of the Empire. Redmond, the great Irish patriot, had no hesitation in recently declaiming in the House of Commons: 'You may withdraw your battalions from Ireland, and the Protestant Irishmen of the North and the Catholic Irishmen of the South will march, hand in hand, against the common enemy, in the defence of Ireland.'

Honourable gentlemen, I do not intend to claim your attention much longer, but I may be permitted to say a word of the financial situation of the country in this almost general critical period. The situation, far from being desperate, is not even alarming. The Government has already adopted wise measures, and appears to be decided to adopt additional precautions to prevent a panic during this war.

Unfortunately, times like the present give rise to attempts at trusts and speculation. But our Government is watchful, and will, I am sure, be able to face the situation and protect the people from such extortion, and ensure to our commerce and our industries the necessary prosperity, to enable them to assist the countries devastated by war.

However, before concluding, I may ask what should be the attitude of Canada under the circumstances, and especially of its French-Canadian citizens?

Our beautiful country is England's most important colony, and is treated with the utmost generosity.

Under England's protection Canada has enjoyed free commerce, over all the seas of the world, assisted by the most powerful fleet that has ever existed, and by English diplomacy, which has always endeavoured to assure the peace of the world, and unite under the broad folds of the flag of Albion, those who might assist her in the hour of need. Our status of British subjects is a guarantee that we may go straight ahead, without fear of foreign oppression. On the other hand, we cannot forget that we are descendants of the French of Old France, and when we behold the English standard flying next to the French colours, there is an irresistible feeling which stirs the hearts of those who are the children of France as well as those of England.

We cannot imagine the defeat of the Triple Entente without feeling deeply anxious as to what would be our future should Germany be victorious. But I feel sure that