

Canada, an Anglo-French nation, connected with France and England by a thousand ethnical, social, intellectual, economic ties, has a vital interest in the integrity of France and England, their prestige, their right and their world action.

It is, therefore, Canada's national duty to contribute, according to her resources and by the proper means of action, to the triumph and especially to the endurance of the combined efforts of France and England.

Again, on September 15 of the same year, the same writer repeated what he had said about the national duty. He said he gave his definition of national duty after mature deliberation, and added:

At the risk of being accused of weakness and inconsistency by those who only look at the intrinsic situation of Canada and only the ulterior and real dangers of her immixture in the wars of the Empire, I have not written and I will not write one line, one word, to condemn the sending of Canadian troops to Europe.

There are circumstances, and this appears to be one, where logic and even the most legitimate fears must give way before the exigencies of the moment.

The Ministry and Parliament having taken the whole responsibility of their action, one must look at, for the moment, only the immediate objective of that intervention—the free and voluntary aid granted by Canada to England, France and Belgium. Even if one believes that this aid, independently from the motives of a political nature which we cannot admit, is not the most efficient which could be taken to attain the object in view, the time has not come to pass judgment. But what is legitimate and even rigorously obligatory, is to suggest and promote all measures which are proper to render as efficient as possible Canada's action, and especially to put Canada in a position to sustain and prolong her effort.

Hon. gentlemen who have read *Le Devoir* of later date must ask themselves what has taken place since the month of September, 1914, to change the views of its editor. Is it because we have not been successful in chasing the Germans out of France, that we are now to desist? Because we have lost ground in the Balkan States, should we refrain from continuing the efforts which we have begun? It seems to me, Sir, that everything that has occurred impels us to continue and to increase our struggle to secure success, triumph and victory.

The province of Quebec understands what her duty is; she understands that it is in her interest to participate in this war. A great deal has been said in this House, and out of it, as to the nature of the conflict. One has only to turn back the pages of history in order to see what is the origin, the object, and the motive of the present conflict between Germany and Austria on the one side, and France, Great Britain, Russia and Italy on the other. Ever since 1840, and

[Mr. Casgrain.]

before that, German writers have been telling the people of Germany that the only aim of the German Empire is that she shall be the dominant power in the world; that the commercial centre of the world shall be no longer Paris, or London, but Berlin. Let me repeat a quotation which is taken from one of the writings of the author of *Der Wacht am Rhine*, and was probably written in 1840 or 1845:

German Switzerland, Alsace, German Belgium, Holland, Denmark, the Baltic Provinces which speak German, will all be reincorporated in the Fatherland. Prussia will assume the direction of this new Germany. As for the old house of Hapsburg, it will no longer play any part, and Austria, whose frontiers will stretch to the mouth of the Danube, will be a slav empire, extending from Pesh to the Black Sea and from Prussia to Greece.

In 1840, Henrich Heine, who was not an enemy of France, wrote that he loved the German Fatherland, that he would never deliver the Rhine to the French, that the day would come when Germany would roll her thunder with a roll such as history had never heard before, that she would retake Alsace and Lorraine, that she would precede the French by thought as she had preceded them in action and that she would surely impose her authority on the whole world. "Often have I thought," he continues, "of this mission, of this universal domination by Germany, when I was promenading alone with my dreams under the eternally green fir-trees of my country."

Sir, these thoughts were carried out in the war which Germany waged against Denmark for the conquest of Schleswig-Holstein; they were carried out in the war waged by Germany against Austria; they were held in view in the terrible war which was waged in 1870 by Germany against France. To-day the same aim is always held in view—the domination of the world by the German Empire and the substitution of German dominion and German power for the power of Great Britain on sea and on land.

The war which is now being waged is, therefore, for Canada a war of self-defence. It has been rightly said that the first line of defence of Canada is in the line of the trenches in Flanders. Let us consider for a moment what is the condition of Germany. We all know that her population has increased tremendously. It has been said with truth that England has colonies and colonists; that France has colonies but no colonists, and that Germany has colonists but no colonies; and one of the principal aims of Germany in waging the present war is to acquire colonies for her excess