

notice was taken of my recommendation, or at least nothing was done about it. I again urge that at the earliest possible moment a number of highly competent persons be assigned to establish a bureau for the purpose of "selling" the idea of military service to our young men. I predict that in a week or so the number of recruits is going to drop. It is dropping already. I have reports showing that recruiting is poor in various parts of the country, and I suggest the reason is that we are not following methods which proved so successful before. I repeat that if you want to continue the voluntary service system you will have to spend a lot of money on advertising. Otherwise you will not build up an expeditionary force of any worth-while strength without applying conscription.

I want to draw the attention of the House to another difference between the existing situation and that of 1914. Then Canadians were mentally quite unprepared for war. They knew nothing about the subject and had no opinions upon it. In the meantime they have lived through the Great War. Women who were twenty a quarter of a century ago are forty-five to-day, and many of them are mothers of sons. Everybody has moved on. We all have now a knowledge of war and war incidence, and that will powerfully affect the way our people regard this struggle. Someone has remarked that there seems to be an absence of enthusiasm, and others have pointed to a grim determination. Well, I think there is a grim determination—and it may well be grim—to see the thing through.

Because of the fuller information we have now as compared with 1914, we shall make sounder and, I believe, more rapid decisions. But chiefly the difference in the outlook of our people is due to the fact that there are in our civil population to-day between 400,000 and 500,000 ex-service men, with their wives and children. These men are graduates of a great university, many of them having taken the full four-year course. They differ in race, in religion and in politics, but there are some things upon which they all agree. They feel a very personal loyalty to the Sovereign. They accept unreservedly the conception of a united commonwealth, and to them the honour, dignity and prestige of Canada are as dear as life itself. The ideals which animate them arise from their training and experiences during the war, and their subsequent associations in ex-service groups, such as are scattered all over the country. By a process of elimination and selection they are the cream of the population. They bear upon their bodies the visible marks of their sacrifice and service. They have a right to be heard and they will

be heard, and they will demand that Canada's contribution to this struggle shall be generous, chivalrous and without reservations. They know you cannot wage war upon a limited liability basis. They will demand that this country support Britain to the last man and the last dollar, to the end that Canada may save her soul, that our great Commonwealth may stand firm in power and righteousness, and that liberty, justice and common decency may not utterly perish from the earth.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) gained wide experience during the last war, in which he played a very gallant part. Unfortunately my presence was required outside the Chamber for part of the time he was speaking, but I heard him make some constructive suggestions. Other proposals he made may run counter to the policy of the Government, but in any event I shall see to it that his remarks are drawn to the attention of the Minister of Defence.

Hon. GUSTAVE LACASSE: Honourable senators, I should like to say a few words on the general issue now confronting Parliament and reply to some of the remarks made by my honourable friend from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach). I will endeavour to disappoint my honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), who is afraid I may be too vehement in my observations. Circumstances are too tragic and the feelings of all concerned too sincere to warrant any violent explosion, particularly in this House. I will be very cautious and as self-possessed as I can. But, after all, there is a public opinion which also has its exigencies, a public opinion to which attention must be paid in this Chamber, regardless of the fact that we are not elected directly by the people. In spite of the existence of a state of war in this country, I believe, as all other honourable members do, that we are still living under democratic institutions, for the salvation of which we have decided to do our bit to help those European countries which are known as the great democracies of modern times.

In the remarks just made by my honourable friend from Edmonton, when he stressed with much vigour the necessity of preserving the identity of any Canadian forces sent abroad, I find a most eloquent and effective argument in favour of the adoption of a distinctive flag for Canada. I admire his honesty of purpose and patriotic sincerity, and I hope no one will question henceforth the loyalty of those who wonder at the absence of a true Canadian standard when our boys are called