

your gaze the magnificent spectacle of an eposée hitherto unheard of.

What could I say, here, worthy of you, soldiers of Canada, who were at Ypres, at Festubert, at Givenchy, at St. Julien, at Courcellette, at Vimy, at Passchendaele and a hundred other spots? You have shown to the world without distinction of race or creed, what valour, courage and heroism can do. Your achievements are inscribed on the most glorious pages of the history of all time, and your sacrifices will never be forgotten. Let those who come back from this awful fray be welcomed as the saviours of tottering civilization. As to those who have fallen, let us salute them, as so many martyrs who did not hesitate to defend their country and to die for her.

But, as you know, if the readiness of Canada to hurry to the aid of the Empire in danger has compelled the admiration of Europe; if the valour of our legions has been for all of us a constant source of most legitimate pride, our national spirit has manifested itself in other ways. With most admirable unity, our population has given itself to war-work, and those whom the great voice of the people have placed in control of the Ship of State have striven to promulgate laws which will promote and guide within the bounds of safety the economic and commercial development of the country.

We have, first of all, Mr. Speaker, the noble initiative of the Canadian people in forming committees to care for the families of our soldiers. That is the origin of the Patriotic Fund, to which so many millions has been subscribed to help those who are suffering through the war. And then, who has not admired the sublime mission of the Red Cross in alleviating the bitterness of unspeakable pain. These are but a few isolated examples of the devotedness of all, and they give scant justice to the extent of what has been accomplished. We should have to cite long rows of figures, if we wished to enter into the details of other works of the kind performed by other associations and patriotic leagues. The Daughters of the Empire, the Comité de Secours National of France, the Belgian Relief Commission, the Women's Club, with their numerous branches and chapters, are all enrolled in this huge army of benefactors.

Let us bow as well to the abnegation of all those valiant women who on the fields of carnage or at their own hearth, have given the most noble examples of strength of soul and who have never weakened. Were I permitted to mention names and to recite

to you the roll of honour of the miracles of kindness, I should be compelled to read a list which is seemingly without end. But the praises of the present day, no matter how sincere, are merely fast-withering blooms beside the crowns with which posterity will adorn the brow of all these men and women who have given themselves to these works of kindness and mercy.

Let us remember, also, the astounding rapidity with which our war loans were subscribed. More than ten times the amounts required were garnered within a few days. The Governments themselves, provincial legislatures as well as Federal authorities, gave freely to maintain all these laudable enterprises and to feed the hungry mouths of Europe. What can we add to this enumeration except to record that so many wonderful efforts crowned with success were gloriously completed by the sending over-seas of those valorous contingents, the choicest of troops, who are still fighting against the hordes of Attila. After the offering of gold and of energy, we have seen the offering of blood. This blood of our bravest will wash away hate and rancour; this blood will cement the two great nationalities destined to live in common in this Canadian land of our forefathers; this blood will be the seed of "sound ideas and noble actions." There you have what we wished to say of all this warwork. Even in the brief synopsis which I have just given, each of you can see that the Canadian nation has risen to the test of the tragic circumstances which have encompassed her.

As regards the economic, industrial and financial well-being of Canada, I do not feel called upon to treat of it after the categorical affirmations in this regard that we have had in the speech from the Throne. I intend, however, to congratulate the Government upon the wisdom of their decision in the matter of Civil Service reform, whereby all appointments to the Outside Service are to be made on the basis of the merit system. If there be in this House a member who has more cause than the one now speaking to appreciate the wisdom of such a law, let him take the floor. To the member for Ottawa, the end of patronage dickerings is like the calm after the storm.

As regards the problems of the post-bellum period, and with respect to demobilization, we must hope that the far-seeing legislation which the Government has in view will receive the support of all those who have at heart the proper care of our intrepid soldiers and the assistance due them in the