

What indeed could you have done to aid our gallant Allies on the Continent of Europe? Not only on the surface of the ocean, but beneath it as well the Navy has done its part, and done it wonderfully and splendidly. I have often thought, in that sunlit Continent across the ocean, of the perils and the darkness, the storms and the tempests of the North Sea, and of the wonderful vigil that the men of the Navy were keeping there and throughout the oceans in order that this Empire might be held together and might play its part in this war.

I am glad that I have come back here again, because in coming I have realized that the spirit of your people, in common with the spirit of all the peoples of the Empire, is as unflinching and indomitable as it was in 1915, when I saw you, and as it was a year ago. And so it will be to the end. We realize the sacrifices that you have endured, the burdens that you have laid upon yourselves, the mighty power that you have exercised. We appreciate the spirit in which you have overcome all the traditions of the past in order that the energy and power of this nation might be systematized and co-ordinated, so that it could be thrown with all its strength into the struggle. We admire you for it, we admire the leadership that has been given, and we hope that we of the nations beyond the seas have not been wholly backward in doing our part. Perhaps it might not be amiss for me tonight, in speaking of my own country, my own Dominion, with the affairs of which I am naturally best acquainted, to give you an idea of what our effort has been, and to assure you that the spirit of our people justifies me in telling you tonight that that effort will indeed be continued until the issue is decided, and decided for the right.

When I was here a year ago we had enlisted in Canada for this war something more than 400,000 men. Today we have enlisted considerably more than 500,000 men. During the past twelve or fourteen months more than 100,000 men have joined the colours in Canada. Our forces in France—I may not tell you the number, but I may at least tell you this—that we have 35,000 more men in France than we had when I left these shores last year. Today more than 385,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force have crossed the ocean, and they are still coming. In addition to that we have sent into the Air Services, during the past three and a half years of war, 14,000 men; and to the Naval Service and to the reserves of various nations we have contributed from the manhood of Canada at least 45,000 men. So that I am able to assure you that the man-power of Canada has furnished to the military