

the Allies and democratic ideals. It was apparent in many ways that every man felt that he individually was playing an important part in the great and tragic drama, the scene of which is laid for 400 miles across beautiful France.

And it is to my mind that very sense of individual duty, individual responsibility and individual resolve which surely gives to the democratic armies of the Allies that superiority over the artificial efficiency, the purely mechanical organization of the German hosts.

Whilst the army is the principal bond of the German peoples, the tie which so closely unites and binds the Allies is the bond of a common sentiment, of common ideals of right and justice. The conflict between these two ideals may yet be long, and I am afraid it is going to be, and the price will be frightfully heavy, it is already so, but in the end the cause which rests on the conscience of man is bound to prevail over the one which depends on mere brutal strength. The mighty and bloody struggle, which is to-day shaking the world, is the struggle of might against right; it is the fate of democracy which is being decided on the battlefields of Europe. And to me it is quite inconceivable that it can be God's will to allow democracy to perish, because the very faith which is common to all the Allies and democracy itself, rests upon common ideals of equal liberty, of common brotherhood. Love is the law of God and love must be the law of God's creation. Brutal force and hate may devastate and blood-soak the world, but they cannot rule it.

The day after the visit to Ypres salient, I had the great pleasure and the patriotic occasion to address the men of the 22nd battalion, which, as you know, is composed entirely of French-Canadians and which at the time had seen its rank almost completely depleted and refilled for the sixth time. I addressed them on parade, they having returned that very day from the first line of trenches, where they had spent 16 consecutive days. The rule, as you may know, is that the troops spend 8 days in the trenches, when they are relieved for another 8 days; but at their special request the 22nd had been allowed to put in an extra 8 days. The reason of the request, I was later on informed by one of the Canadian Generals, was that the battalion had made extensive preparations for outdoor sports and concerts to take place on their next coming out of the trenches; but when the time arrived for this the weather was so bad and was apparently going to be such for many days, these dare-devil French-Canadians preferred to take the chances of another week in the trenches rather than be deprived of the sport and fun elaborately prepared for themselves and their comrades in arms. This was, of course, before the Big Push was begun on the British front some time in July.

May I say here that never was I more proud of my French blood and that my compatriots were represented in the battle line, as they are in many other places, by such brave fellows; that they were taking their full share of the sacrifices and would in good time be entitled to their share in the ultimate triumph. This is the battalion which covered itself with glory at Courcette quite recently. Out of 20 officers who led their men in taking that village from the Germans, six died on the battlefield and eleven were seriously wounded.

CANADIAN HOSPITALS.

It was also my duty, my sad duty, to visit in detail all the Canadian hospitals at Boulogne, Etaples, Tréport, Cliveden and other places; I con-