

where I am no longer a young man; most of us in the House are moving up to the meridian of life. We never before had the experience of having our country at war. This is the first time during my life-time when we have had serious difficulties of this kind. And, approaching the question as at present in this House, I think that before I say anything else, it is only fair that I should express my own opinion and the opinions of those of the people I have the honour to represent here, that there is nothing too dear, nothing too big, nothing too difficult for us as a Canadian people to do in support of ourselves and the Empire to which we belong. I wish to put our position as a Canadian people before this House and before the country by quoting a few of the early steps taken by Canada and the British Government at the time the war broke out. These stages are well known to hon. members of the House and to people who are in touch with the literature that comes to us from the Government day by day. But the ordinary man in the country, possibly, has not a clear conception of what was done at that time. I would just like to read a few of these cablegrams to show that the Governor General and the King were perfectly justified in the opinion they had of the Canadian people; and I believe that our conduct throughout will corroborate the view held, and that they have made no mistake in their conception of the temper of the Canadian people in this war. The first is a cablegram from His Excellency the Governor General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

In view of the impending danger of war involving the Empire my advisers are anxiously considering the most effective means of rendering every possible aid and they will welcome any suggestions and advice which imperial, naval and military authorities may deem it expedient to offer. They are confident that a considerable force would be available for service abroad. A question has been mooted respecting the status of any Canadian force serving abroad, as under section sixty-nine of Canadian Militia Act the active militia can only be placed on service beyond Canada for the defence thereof. It has been suggested that regiments might enlist as imperial troops for stated period, Canadian Government undertaking to make all necessary financial provision for their equipment, pay and maintenance. This proposal has not yet been maturely considered here and my advisers would be glad to have views of Imperial Government thereon.

Arthur.

This is signed by His Royal Highness the Governor General of Canada. On August 1, 1914, the Governor General cabled to the

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Secretary of State for the Colonies, as follows:

My advisers, while expressing their most earnest hope that a peaceful solution of existing international difficulties may be achieved and their strong desire to co-operate in every possible way for that purpose, wish me to convey to His Majesty's Government the firm assurance that if unhappily, war should ensue, the Canadian people will be united in a common resolve to put forth every effort and to make every sacrifice necessary to ensure the integrity and to maintain the honour of the Empire.

On August 2, 1914, the Secretary of State for the Colonies cabled to the Governor General of Canada as follows:

With reference to your telegram of the 1st August, His Majesty's Government gratefully welcome the assurance of your government that in the present crisis they may rely on the whole-hearted co-operation of the people of Canada.

On August 4, 1914, His Majesty the King, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, cabled as follows to the Governor General of Canada:

Please communicate to your ministers the following message and publish: I desire to express to my people of the overseas dominions with what appreciation and pride I have received the messages from their respective governments during the last few days. These spontaneous assurances of their fullest support recall to me the generous self-sacrificing help given by them in the past to the Mother Country. I shall be strengthened in the discharge of the great responsibilities which rest upon me by the confident belief that in this time of trial my empire will stand united, calm, resolute, trusting in God.

This is signed by His Majesty the King. On August 4, 1914, His Royal Highness the Governor General of Canada cabled to the Secretary of State as follows:

In the name of the Dominion of Canada I humbly thank Your Majesty for your gracious message of approval. Canada stands united from the Pacific to the Atlantic in her determination to uphold the honour and traditions of the Empire.

Thus it is shown clearly and conclusively that His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Governor General of Canada were not mistaken in their conception of the attitude of the Canadian people.

I wish to avoid making reference to the taunts of disloyalty that have been thrown across the floor of this House. They are unworthy of this Parliament; they are unworthy of the Canadian people. If hon. gentlemen opposite are as strong as they profess to be, and have that confidence in their record which they profess to have, surely, in looking for an excuse to appeal to the people, they can adopt a method more manly and more likely to appeal to the higher motives of the people than that of