

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE

Address on the Issue of the day, by

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UNIONIST CANDIDATE FOR VANCOUVER

My policy is very simple. So long as the rights and privileges of small and defenceless nations, of democracy and civilization are threatened by an arrogant, brutal and autocratic power, I conceive it to be Canada's paramount and exclusive duty to set aside all party strife, questions of tariff, or of internal economy and to combat such a menace with all the vigor of her consecrated energy, until the impending evil has been definitely and finally overcome and subdued.

To deviate from this clear path of duty, to alarm or mislead public opinion by false accusations against our political or military leaders would be, in my mind, an act of treason, not only against the state whose protection we enjoy, but against humanity and civilization. (Applause).

Sailors and Soldiers Protect.

The fact that I can address you at all and that you can assemble in this theatre to hear me is due to two things: The British Navy and the British and Canadian soldiers on the western front. The bases of all arguments in favor of the Union Government come back to the maintenance of the Canadian Army Corps on the western front and the support of the British navy. (Applause).

'Tis Liberty that crowns Britannia's Isle,
And makes her barren rocks and
her bleak mountains smile;
'Tis Britain's care to watch o'er
Europe's fate,
And hold in balance each con-
tending state;
To threaten bold, presumptuous
kings with war,
And answer her afflicted neigh-
bor's prayer.

Britain has answered Belgium's call, she answered it three years ago. Has Belgium's need grown less or has it multiplied many, many times in the last thirty-six months? Only one year ago began the crowning act of Hun's brutality, slavery in its lowest, basest and vilest form for the Belgians. That is going on today, slaves are being made of Belgians today, yet there are those who tell us, "Stay your hands off Belgium, a good all-round year's duty, especially about the means of fulfilling Canada's paramount duty!" Fellow-countrymen, the battle-fields of Flanders shall not be burlesqued. (Applause).

Girls Made Slaves.

Picture Vancouver as Brussels is today. The mechanic finds conditions hard, but he has employment even under the hard rule of the Germans. One day night he comes home and finds the daughters gone, his girls of sixteen and eighteen, finds his boys gone and nobody can tell him where. They are gone by the hundreds of thousands. Families are ruthlessly broken up. Have we fulfilled our pledged word to Belgium? The treaties of hundreds of years, the treaty of Ghent, the traditions of the Empire, the call of humanity demand that we do.

France has been bled white. One in every ten of the population of glorious France has fallen. Where Canada mourns in thousands of homes France mourns in millions. She has been tortured, trodden under foot, but she is fighting bravely as before. Have we healed the wounds of France? Are we not bound by ties of blood and Christian charity to stretch forth our hands to help her? Is it not to do the righteous thing that thirty thousand of our brave boys are buried under the mountains of France?