

It had also kept the seas absolutely free for the transportation of troops to every important theatre of war.

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE BRITISH OVERSEAS DOMINIONS IN THE WAR, 1918.

The mobilization of the forces of the United States for active employment in the war was conducted with great energy and ability. Between the date of the declaration of war on April 7, 1917, and the conclusion of the armistice on November 11, 1918, the army of the United States was expanded from 190,000 to 3,665,000 men, of whom 1,993,000 had been actually embarked for the theatre of war.

Shortly before the re-organization of the Government of Canada on the basis of a union of political parties, Major General S. C. Mewburn became Minister of Militia in Canada in succession to Sir A. E. Kemp, who had been appointed Overseas Minister for the same Department. At a secret session of both Houses of Parliament held on April 17, the Prime Minister gave an explanation of the extreme gravity of the military situation in consequence of the marked success of the great German offensives on the western front and emphasized the necessity that every possible effort should be made to maintain the troops in the field at full strength, and increase the production of food as well as that of munitions of war. An Order in Council was passed taking the widest powers in dealing with all cases of exemption, and on April 20 all men between the ages of twenty and twenty-three were called to the colours. By the operation of the Military Service Act, large reinforcements were sent at once to the reserve battalions in England, enabling them to maintain the Canadian Corps at full strength and to augment all infantry battalions by one hundred men and add several pioneer battalions, field companies, forestry companies and other units, thereby increasing the strength of the troops in the field by nearly 19,000 of all ranks. Notwithstanding the severe losses sustained in subsequent operations, the forces engaged were constantly kept up to strength, or nearly so. Before the conclusion of the armistice, the number of troops sent overseas reached 418,052 of all ranks. The total casualties reported up to December 31, 1918, numbered 9,989 officers and 204,397 other ranks, besides 3,575 prisoners of war. The total number of deaths in service in Canada during the same period numbered 2,221 of all ranks. The total number of enlistments up to November 15, 1918, were officially reported to number 595,441. More than 350,000 men, women and children were employed in munition factories in Canada, and the value of contributions for war purposes and to patriotic funds was estimated to exceed \$90,000,000, or more than eleven dollars per head for the total population. Opposition to the Military Service Act in the city of Quebec culminated in disturbances in which a few lives were lost. These were promptly suppressed and the premier of the province and the leader of the opposition in the Federal Parliament strongly discountenanced all unconstitutional opposition to this measure. These wise counsels soon had the desired effect.