

DUTY OF CANADA

There is desperate danger that Great Britain will be involved in the war which has begun between Austria and Serbia. The world is nearer Armageddon than it has been for a century. If Great Britain must stand with her allies, the very life of the Empire will be at stake. Upon the one hand will be Austria and Germany and Italy, and upon the other Serbia and Russia and France and Great Britain. Who can say what may come out of such a contest?

We, in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand, and in South Africa, are as deeply interested as are the people of the Mother Islands. The Empire and British institutions the world over will call for defence by the whole British people. If fortune should go against us, the map of the world would be remade. An autocratic political system would be substituted for the freedom which is the very essence of the British Empire, and for a time many of the ideals that we most cherish would die or struggle feebly for life in strange and uncongenial ground.

Perhaps it is not much that Canada can do to assist the Mother Country, if honor and duty require her to join with her allies. What we can do we must do, whatever that may involve in men or money. We are upon the edge of an emergency from which we cannot escape, and we must so bear ourselves as to retain our own self-respect and stand worthily with the British people throughout the King's dominions.