

motive, but because it affects us individually and collectively, and because it means so much to the welfare of the land we love. Whatever action is taken by the Federal Government, the effect on the future life of the Dominion will be of vital importance. In a nutshell, the situation is this: Will Canada, by wisely making grants of land to those who have seen *active service*, build up its future prosperity on the sure foundations of patriotism and self-sacrifice? Or will she, by *continuing to give away to alien races—and possibly potential enemies—the best and richest of her homestead lands*, permit the entry of an insidious poison which, slowly polluting the arteries of our political, social, and economic systems, will one day be strong enough to destroy the entire fabric of our national life?

This is a vital problem of the near future, and for the present we do no more than visualise for our readers its tremendous possibilities for good or evil. Meantime, however, it would appear to us that the first step is the drastic revision of the present Immigration Laws, and, later, of the Home-steading Regulations. Such a revision should aim to make it possible for only Britishers, Americans, and members of the Allied nations to settle in our midst and enjoy that freedom which is our birthright and for which so many of our own countrymen have already laid down their lives.

[Oversea cables show that the Commonwealth of Australia has already decided on the organisation of a comprehensive scheme on the lines indicated.]

### The Cigarette Scandal.

THE British—and Imperial—"Tommy" has come to look upon his weekly issue of cigarettes and tobacco as of equal importance to his daily ration of food. Keep a soldier from his pipe or his cigarette and he becomes as "grouchy" as a caged bear tormented by trippers with umbrellas and walking sticks. The truth of this simile was forced upon us when the First Contingent, crossing from Canada, found a tobacco and cigarette famine on several of the transports. Thus when Tommy is confronted with "Soldiers' Specials" and pestered by refugees to buy them, he is apt to momentarily forget himself, and must be excused if he sends the cigs. and the sellers to that place where ice won't keep! "Soldiers' Specials" are a Government issue. How, then, do consignments of these cigarettes get

into the possession of itinerant retailers?

There is a serious leakage somewhere, and it looks to us as if Tommy is being made to pay through the nose for what he has a right to expect as an ordinary issue. The soldiers have it largely in their own hands to stop the evil. This can be done by the co-operation of N.C.O.'s and men. Let everyone refuse to buy "Soldiers' Specials" and the boycott will have the effect of killing the illicit traffic in them. It will also have the effect of tying the hands of the regimental Shylocks who instigate the traffic for their own gain.

### Honour Where it is Due.

NO one with a sense of justice will cavil if, on the conclusion of the campaign, the survivors of Canada's First Overseas Contingent put their heads together and formulate a demand that they be accorded the honour due to them. By this, it must not be understood that they can, or will, claim any material reward. Rewards, monetary or in kind, will be a secondary consideration. Probably each and every survivor will be only too pleased to be able to return to Canada with a whole skin! But, pursuing our train of thought, the men who constituted the First Contingent will be well within their rights if they ask that they shall now and for all time be officially designated the "First Canadian Contingent."

That will only be claiming honour where it is due. We do not desire to preach a "Separationist" creed, or wish to see internal bickerings. There were probably hundreds of men in the Second and Third Contingents who from various causes could not get away with the First Contingent in September, 1914. Business demands and the handicap of distance were two of these causes. Hundreds of men in unsettled portions of the great North-West were without the means of learning, for some considerable time, that the Mother Country had become involved in war. No section of the community responded to the call of the blood more readily than did these men on the frontier-posts of the Dominion, and it would be rank injustice to all parties if our suggestion were construed into belittling the patriotism and sacrifices of these men.

Our idea is that, when circumstances permit, the surviving members of the First Contingent should band themselves into an Association, with branches in all the great centres of the Dominion, for the purpose of consolidating the friendships formed and to keep alive, by suitable anniversary gatherings, the

memories of the comrades who fell in action in France and Flanders. More than that, such an Association would serve to keep track of the maimed veterans who might be too proud to ask assistance of strangers.

If properly organised and conducted, such an Association would be a benevolent and fraternal society in the best sense of the term. A system of registration would help to safeguard the members and the funds, and although such an Association would be unconnected with the Department of Militia, we feel sure that every means would be placed at the disposal of the Association by that body to check the *bona-fides* of the members.

### War and National Honour.

DRYDEN, we believe, was the poet who asked for and gave, in one and the same breath, the definition of War:—

What is War but toil and trouble?  
Honour, but an empty bubble!

And even General Sherman's famous definition of War, as being "Hell," has been improved upon by those high-brow (but nevertheless fairly truthful) critics who also declare it to be Hell—but "with the lid off!" Thus we have the poet's and the soldier's view-point, both given expression to in an era now past. But what of the present, when war has taken on forms of savagery which our language is powerless to adequately describe or condemn? What of our own ideas—the view-point of the rank-and-file?

We have to admit that war in itself is reprehensible, and a thing to be avoided if that can be done with honour. On the other hand, it is significant that the world has not yet found a satisfactory tribunal for settlement of international strife. We are forced to agree that the prehistoric manner of settling differences is still the only available solution. And as surely as we make this admission, so surely must we admit that our vaunted civilisation is but a veneer which, once torn away, reveals us as of much the same mould and fibre as our progenitors of a thousand years ago. Stripped of the ornament of Sham, we show the same primal passions, *but we still guard with jealous care the priceless legacy of Honour handed down to members of the Anglo-Saxon race.*

When Germany tore up the Treaty in which, with Britain, she had pledged herself to hold inviolate the neutrality of Belgium, that "scrap of paper" became symbolic of our national honour. That is why we Canadians are in