

Canada's Inspiring Example described by Col. Roosevelt.

(From an article entitled "The Lesson Canada Teaches Us," by Theodore Roosevelt, in the March Metropolitan Magazine).

Let our people profit by Canada's example and by the teachings of our own patriots. We are proud of the great past of our land. We cannot afford to have this country, which ought to be, and can be, made the hope and the example for the free peoples of the world, turned into the greatest of the yellow nations.

No nation ever yet achieved greatness through ease and absence of effort; and although material prosperity is an absolutely essential foundation, the lack of which renders hopeless any attempt to raise a worthy superstructure, yet by itself, and to the exclusion of all else, material prosperity, no matter how abounding, means at the very utmost a kind of bastard greatness, more contemptible than any other kind. The flag that commands the respect of other nations and inspires among its own followers the high passion of loyalty must float over a land where there is well-distributed material well-being, but, what is even more important, where there have also been developed the stern and lofty virtues of resolute and adventurous valor, of trained prowess, or readiness for self-sacrifice, of power to render service, and of determined and unshakable patriotism. These are the virtues which during the last two years and a half Canada has pre-eminently shown. She has passed through one of those times which try men's souls, and which sift out the strong and the worthy from the weak and the unworthy. She has stood the test. She has proved her possession of those qualities that mark the people of masterful ability, able to shape their own destinies and to hold their own in the rough world of actual life.

Canada has sent to the front about 250,000 men. She has 150,000 more in training. This means that she has enlisted, all told, about 400,000 men. The casualties up to date are well over 50,000. Meanwhile Canada has faced undauntedly the necessary taxation, and has voluntarily contributed \$40,000,000 to relief funds. Let our people understand what these figures mean by remembering that Canada has only about one-thirteenth of our population and one-thirtieth of our wealth. Her shores were not immediately menaced; the counsels of cold and timid selfishness, had they prevailed, would have bid her take a merely perfunctory part in the war, and rest in safety behind Britain's control of the ocean. But Canada was too proud not to fight. She scorned

the ignoble role of shirking duty and letting others protect her. Her effort in men is relatively as great as if we had raised an army of over five million soldiers—and her troops are as splendid fighting men as their Australasian and South African brothers or as any others among the war-hardened veterans who have fought on both sides of this terrible world war. Her money effort in the single item given above is equivalent to what this nation would have done if it had voluntarily contributed over a billion dollars in relief funds. Unfortunately the Canadians, like ourselves, have not yet overcome the foolish dread of universal obligatory military training in times of peace and universal service in time of war. Hence they have not shown the extraordinary efficiency of Germany and France. But there never has been finer work done under the old volunteer system than by Canada; and the way in which Canada and her sister overseas commonwealths have sprung to the defence of the Empire is something absolutely new in history, and sets a mark in farsighted patriotism and in high-minded ability to sacrifice present ease and safety for a vast and permanent future good which will not soon be passed by any nation. The people who have stayed at home have devoted themselves to the welfare of the men who have gone and of their families. Not only the Governmental bodies, but various patriotic organisations, have taken up the work with equal zeal and knowledge.

Canada can now speak for such a world peace and be entitled to a respectful hearing; because her deeds have made good her words. We ourselves after the Spanish war were able for a decade to take a real and leading part in movements for international peace, and we widened the area in which orderly liberty and the peace of justice obtained. We were able so to act because we were at the time strong in material strength and, above all, in tempered strength of soul and in clearness of vision; and because we were scrupulously careful to keep our promises, to correlate our deeds without words; and because we refused to embark on the sea of making utterly impossible and unworthy promises which could not possibly be kept, and which in the event of crisis it would be damaging and dishonourable to keep and yet only less damaging and dishonourable to break.