

## CANADA'S FIRST AND GREATEST DUTY.

(Saturday, Nov. 4.)

To every true Canadian there must come the most poignant feeling of regret that our country is not as united as it should be in the prosecution of Canada's share in the war. At a luncheon given by the Association of Chambers of Commerce to the Duke of Devonshire, our new Governor-General, at London, the other day, Sir Thomas White, Canadian Minister of Finance, said the first duty of the Empire was "to win the war." It is a phrase which falls naturally from the lips of every statesman and public speaker. No doubt it is spoken also with sincerity. But are the actions of our statesmen and leaders in both political parties in Canada in keeping with a sincere determination to first win the war? Does it not look as if there were too many politicians in both parties whose first thought is winning the next general election? And this continual eye upon the polling booths is paralyzing in its effect upon the highest National and Imperial interests involved in the most vigorous prosecution of the war.

Today and for months past recruiting has not filled the gaps where our own brave boys have fallen in the great offensive since they reached the firing line on the Somme front. The appeals for recruits, from the lips of the most eloquent orators, are not responded to with any degree of avidity. Even the appeal of our First Minister, Sir Robert Borden, has fallen to a large extent upon deaf or unwilling ears. Why should this be the case? Is it not that the canker of political ambition and selfishness and patronage has been eating at the roots of our national unity?

The example of sacrifice should be set at Ottawa. Not alone by the leaders of the party in power or the party in opposition, but by whoever holds or seeks the seat of political power. The statesmen at the capital who believe that the first duty of Canada, as well as of Britain, or the other overseas dominions or our Allies, is to "win the war," should manifest their sincerity by their works. They should "get together." Where? In the Cabinet? Yes. Why not? That's the place where unity should exist. Not alone among the ministers of one party, but of both. Our soldiers of both parties, of all races and religions, are fighting side by side on the firing line. They are dying side by side for their country—for their Empire—for the glorious cause of Freedom and Righteousness. Should these principles be dearer to our sons and brothers and fathers than to the leaders of political parties at Ottawa? To have unity at Ottawa is to have more than a truce. There must be coalition—union. Yes, some members of the Conservative Government should make way for Liberals. And why not? Charity, it is said, begins at home. So does sacrifice. It may be said that some politicians in each party are non persona grata to the other. But these is a time to forget these animosities. They are not worthy to be considered at such a time as this. To secure victory—to secure that our thousands of brave Canadian boys have not fallen in vain—to secure the perpetuation of the liberties and heritage for which our fathers were not unwilling to give their lives, our armies must be kept well reinforced. Our Premier—the first Canadian of our land—speaking for Canada, has said, and we have all agreed with him, that 500,000 men from Canada shall be fought. Are we going to implement his promises—the obligations which

47669

PROPERTY  
OF  
LAKEHEAD  
UNIVERSITY