

back their country with such restitution as may be possible, once aggression and arrogance are overthrown. But of the host of lives sacrificed, no restitution will be possible, and there will be left to wander in exile, or homeless, and in distress, women and children in numbers many fold. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, across the vast expanses of this country, in the valleys of the Maritime Provinces, in the settled and unsettled portions of Ontario and Quebec, on the prairies of the West and amid the mountains of British Columbia, cannot homes by the thousands be found where these orphaned children and unprotected women may find shelter for the remainder of their lives? Is it fair to England and the families of England, that with her own shores endangered, with the sacrifices she is making by land and sea, this burden of human life should be left to be borne by her alone? Belgian blood may rightly be regarded an asset to the nation that may come to possess it in its veins, and it may well be that should the defence of her liberties ever so demand, Canadian generations yet unborn may find repayment many times in what Canadian statesmen of to-day may have vision and courage enough to undertake. Patriotism, humanity and the love of liberty unite in proclaiming some action by the Canadian Government an immediate and imperative duty. Let men of all parties unite, that so splendid an opportunity may not be lost through the fear of party contention, or the baser fear of party loss.

CONSIDERATION OF TRADE RELATIONS

Yet one other obligation would seem to devolve upon Canadian public men, and might well afford material for consideration by parliament, or a special committee of parliament at its next session, and that is the possibility of immediately effecting closer trade relations between Canada and the Mother Country which changed conditions produced by the war would seem to render possible. Trade between England and Germany, trade between Canada and Germany, has for months past been completely destroyed and will remain so as long as the war lasts. German patents are no longer protected either here or in the United Kingdom. Reconstruction all along the way is possible, and while the war presents opportunities to the Dominion to discover new channels of trade, it might well be made the occasion of deepening for all time the established channels between Canada and the Motherland. This, above all times, would appear to be the moment for a fresh consideration of the British Preference and all that such a consideration might mean to British industry, in an hour of trial, to producers and consumers in Canada, and to the permanency of British connection. That no Canadian interest might suffer, and that no political party might seek to reap a party advantage through the adoption of an exclusive policy in this regard, men of both parties might unite in an earnest consideration of this opportunity, and see if the art of statesmanship is not equal to discovering in the elimination of the competition

of rival nations, in the free use of previously protected patents and in an aroused patriotic fervour, the key to a readjustment that without injury to any interest may bring new advantages to Canadian producers, much needed relief to Canadian consumers, and a lasting benefit to relations between this country and the Motherland. The opportunity is now at hand; it only requires that the parliament of Canada rise to the occasion.

THE POSITION OF THE PARTY IN PROVINCIAL POLITICS

In provincial politics the year has been a significant one. To the principles advocated under Mr Rowell's leadership and to his personality as a leader, the political contest of June last was a tribute in itself, as were also the circumstances which occasioned it, and its results. The election was precipitated a year and a half before the required time, and after the government had enjoyed its new tenure of office for a period of only two and a half years. The premature appeal was not because of constitutional necessity or reasons of public policy, but solely because it was recognized the administration was rapidly disintegrating, and that one more session of the Legislature would so establish Mr. Rowell's ascendancy, that its fate on a subsequent appeal would be sealed. Throughout the contest it was Mr. Rowell and his policies, not the policies of the Conservative party that were the theme of public discussion. The results, though a victory for the Conservative party, were more significant in what they revealed of an aroused interest in public issues, of the reviving strength of Liberalism, and of growing confidence in the leadership of Mr. Rowell. The total vote polled was approximately 462,450 as compared with 355,738 in the provincial general election of 1911, and 480,572 in the federal general elections three months earlier in that year. Instead of eighteen acclamations as in 1911, there were only four, and these were divided between the parties. The number of acclamations doubtless affected the vote of 1911, but recalling that there was but one acclamation in the province in the federal elections, it was by far the largest vote ever polled in any provincial election. Of the total votes polled, the Government candidates received 248,166 or less than 54 per cent. of the total. If the representation in the House were to-day divided between the parties in proportion to the votes cast, the Government would have 59 members instead of 84; the Liberals (including Temperance) would have 48 instead of 25 and Independents 4 instead of 2. The present representation of 25 is an increase of 6 over the Liberal representation at the time of dissolution, and an increase of 7 over the representation in the Legislature at the time Mr. Rowell assumed the leadership. Thus, Liberalism in Ontario is gradually but surely regaining its former place in the confidence of the people. There is scarcely a political prophet of either party who would not hazard the forecast that there will be no haste in bringing on the next provincial campaign, and that when it is over Mr. Rowell will succeed to the premiership of the Province.