

# Editorial

## THE MONTREAL AQUEDUCT REPORT.

"The present project should never have been started, and we are firmly of the opinion that all thought of completing it, along the present lines, should be abandoned." This sentence from the ratepaying engineers' report upon the Montreal aqueduct should sound the death-knell of the scheme in its present form. It is the well-considered opinion of thirty of Canada's leading engineers. They claim that by abandoning or greatly modifying the project, a capital expenditure of about five million dollars could be saved. Does the Board of Control of Montreal intend to go ahead with the present plans in view of this expert report? If so, some public-spirited taxpayer should secure an injunction to prevent the controllers from wasting the city's money.

## GET READY FOR PEACE!

In an address delivered a couple weeks ago before the Empire Club at Toronto, Sir George Foster pointed out that the moment the war ends, the wheels of munition industries would cease to turn. Then the manufacturer would have to hustle for the customers who had not known him very well for two or three years past.

"Is it best to wait until that time comes," asked the Minister of Trade and Commerce, "and in the maze of dislocated activities try and work out what we should do for the future? Or shall we prepare for it as best we can?"

"Let me say in all kindness, but with all truth," continued Sir George, "there is not a great country that I know of which is so sound asleep in that regard as Canada."

The Minister's warning could be taken to heart with advantage by most Canadian manufacturers. The first and most profitable step in renewing acquaintances with the trade in your "regular lines" is to restore your advertising appropriations to normal in the trade and technical papers which reach the buyers of your material. The public memory is short. Why be among the unknown when the war is over, while some more persistent and progressive advertiser walks away with your share of the trade?

## THE BLACKLIST.

At the Paris economic conference, where Canada was represented by its trade minister, Sir George Foster, one of the unanimous decisions reached was that for the period of the war at least, citizens of the allied countries should not trade with the enemy. That point was emphasized by Sir George Foster in speaking of the Conference to the Toronto Canadian Club not long ago.

The countries allied with Canada in the present war and in the decisions of the Paris conference must surely be astonished at the way in which this Dominion has forgotten its subscription to the promise not to trade with the enemy during the war at least. On July 18th, 1916, the British government established what is known as a blacklist of firms in the United States with which citizens of the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade. A similar

blacklist was established by Australia shortly afterwards. The Canadian government, after four months for consideration, has not yet seen fit to follow the example of the Imperial and Australian governments. The blacklist of United States firms does not yet apply in Canada.

In other words, while it is illegal for citizens of the United Kingdom and of Australia to trade with these enemy firms, classed as such by the British government after careful investigation, it is legal for Canadians to trade with such enemy firms. Business has been done by Canadians with some of these firms.

What weighty considerations are preventing the authorities at Ottawa from taking the proper action?

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

### Occupation for Wounded Soldiers.

Sir,—The soldier owes much to electricity. Success in battle is largely due to knowledge of the enemy's position and movements, often gained by wireless signalling from aeroplanes, and to the rapid transmission of that knowledge, and the consequent orders, by telephone and telegraph.

Our command of the sea is perfected and maintained largely by wireless electric communications between our ships and between ship and shore.

Mr. George Iles, a Canadian writer, who has devoted much attention to this subject, writes to the Military Hospitals Commission, suggesting that electricity may also furnish a congenial and profitable occupation for many of these soldiers when they leave hospital.

Electric smoothing irons, toasters, heaters, lamps, motors, sweepers and tools are very popular where they have been introduced. Their popularity is bound to go on increasing as they become better known, and a large increase of output will bring about a decrease in price when normal times return. The price of electric current has been reduced already, thanks to the partial development of our magnificent water-powers.

A blind officer, Lieut. Edwin Baker, one of the few Canadian soldiers who has lost the sight of both eyes, has just been appointed to a position on the engineering staff of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Mr. Iles suggests that many other Canadian veterans, unfitted for hard, muscular work, might well be employed as canvassers and demonstrators in popularizing electrical appliances throughout the country.

The battle of the Somme, where Canadians have played so conspicuous and heroic a part, is sending home hundreds of men unable to rejoin the fighting ranks, and thousands of our disabled men had returned even before that great battle had begun.

Every suggestion of useful and profitable employment for injured soldiers, therefore, is to be warmly welcomed. The brains as well as the sympathies of the nation must be actively engaged in promoting the success of this national enterprise.

H. A. KENNEDY,  
Military Hospitals Commission.

22 Vittoria St., Ottawa, Nov. 14, 1916.