

HOW TO WIN THE WAR

By THE MONOCLE MAN

WE might as well settle down to a long war. The combination of new armies and new Allies, "spring drives," and Austrian collapses, which was to give us the victory this summer, seems largely to have failed to connect. Italy did come in. She came in with rare courage and a fine chivalry when the Germans were winning in Galicia. But she came in alone. As I write, Roumania has not yet decided—Bulgaria is still the unturned "key" to the Balkans—Greece, though her people voted pluckily and strongly for war, is still under the government which replaced that of Venizelos. And it is idle to deny that the presence of a great Austro-German army on the borders of Roumania and the new Albanian complications have created a less favourable situation for the Allies in the Near East.

THIS all looks as if we should get no "snap verdict" this summer. All the nations are preparing for another winter campaign, in spite of the general belief amongst those of us who stayed at home that the sufferings of last winter in the trenches would forbid a repetition. The blood of the belligerents is up; and they will not hesitate before the horrors of a second or even a third winter in the water-soaked trenches. Nothing will now stop the war except the decisive defeat of one of the opposing groups. And that does not look to be very near. As for the Allies, they can never accept defeat, no matter how many temporary reverses their forces may meet in the field. As for the enemy, they cannot be permitted to secure a truce while we still are without visible and undeniable proof of our military superiority over them. For such a truce would never blossom into real peace, but would cover a breathless race by all parties in fresh preparations to renew the conflict.

SO we must settle down to win the war. It is quite true that in the language of the old music hall ditty, "we have the men, we have the ships, and we have the money, too." But we might as well

realize first as last that this potential superiority in men and money will not be "taken as read." We must produce the men and money, convert the first into soldiers and the second into munitions, and set them up over against the enemy's trenches where the Germans cannot fail to be aware of them. The statisticians have won many wars; but they will not win this one. We must produce the goods. And, if this is true, we ought to "get busy" in genuine commercial style to produce the most "goods" in the shortest possible time.

OUR country's growth is being stunted while this destructive war rages. We are losing money, losing settlers, losing some of the best immigrants we have secured in the past, losing many of our own most promising sons, losing precious years of what we were wont to call "Canada's Century." And we shall not get on the rails again and begin to move forward until we have finished with this obstructive war. This is the job that lies right in front of us. Our national train has been held up by a formidable land-slide squarely across the tracks. And it is pitiable trifling to sit back in the parlour car, conning over the "business as usual" plans which we will put into operation as soon as the train moves on once more and we reach our destinations. It may not move on for years if we sit still. It may never move on again on our rails, if enough of us sit still. We must all pile out and organize ourselves into an emergency brigade of track-clearers, and "make the dirt fly." The sooner we finish the war, the sooner will we have real and remunerative "business as usual." The longer we let the war drag on, the more complete will be the collapse of our "business as usual."

ORGANIZE! That is the word. We are now treating this war as if it were a holiday performance which some of us would like to see, and which the rest of us are willing that they should. We are saying to our fellow-Canadians—"Going to

the game this war?" And those of us who are not going, proceed with our ordinary occupations and amusements as much as usual as we can manage. We think that we are "doing our bit" when we buy cheaper golf balls or decide to wear last summer's suit. This will never do—unless we are prepared to have utter and entire ruin descend upon our "fools' paradise" some day, as ruin rushed down on Louvain. We must organize this entire country to bring about a swift, sure and final finish to the war.

AN earnest-faced young officer sat in my office the other day and made some suggestions which might help recruiting. They were practical suggestions growing out of the difficulties which he had to meet personally as a recruiting officer. One of the things he said struck me particularly. "Why shouldn't the men in an office or a factory," he asked, "agree to divide between them the work of such men amongst them as are willing and able to go to the front? Suppose they did have to come back nights to do this extra work. What is that to sleeping in the trenches and risking death or mutilation or imprisonment? They will go home after their work is done to warm houses, and comfortable beds and good meals, while their chums will seek shelter in ruined sheds, sleep on wet straw, and eat when their rations can reach them."

WELL, why not? That would keep the volunteer's job for him in the surest possible way, and it would enable his employer to let him go without misgiving. Why should one man at a desk be asked to give up everything, while his desk-mate gives up nothing? It is as much the war of the stay-at-homes as the war of the men who go. We are all in it because we do not think that we would quite like Canada after the Germans had landed and done a little "frightfulness," to teach us to be tame, and established the spiked helmet as the ruling force in what is now a free country. Against such a fate, we would all fight—if we could effectively. And we can. Some of us have the youth and health to fight in the trenches. But, if we are to win this war, the rest of us must be willing to be organized by the Government to fight industrially—to fight commercially—to fight in any corner we can fill—to fight for our own freedom and the future of this Canada and all the world that loves liberty.

THE MONOCLE MAN.

IS THE OTTAWA OPPOSITION ALIVE?

By JOHN A. COOPER

A FORTNIGHT ago, an article entitled "Is the Ottawa Government Alive?" appeared in this news journal. There was no intention at the time of writing a companion article under the title "Is the Ottawa Opposition Alive?" But circumstances alter cases and also the intentions of writers on public affairs.

Two reasons have arisen to compel this article. The Ottawa "Free Press," one of the first four Liberal papers in Canada, devoted a column of its editorial space to comment on that article. The editor quoted from it with warm approval, yet in a non-partisan spirit.

But the editor of the "Free Press" omitted to reprint one phrase which ran thus:

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his lieutenants are apparently lolling in their arm-chairs and allowing national affairs to drift."

The editor of the "Free Press" might reasonably have quoted that phrase and driven home the lesson which it contained. As a leading Liberal writer he is entitled to give advice to his party. Indeed, it is his duty to help keep his party leaders to their work. Here was a golden opportunity which he missed.

The second reason is the receipt of a letter from a prominent Liberal, a member of the House of Commons, asking what the Liberal leaders could do, except through a coalition cabinet. He considers that a coalition is unlikely, and that Sir Robert Borden will not ask the Liberals to join any official committees, therefore he is sincerely anxious to know what the Liberal leaders could do. Is it not likely, he suggests, that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues tried to do anything, their motives would be misjudged?

Under these circumstances it seems necessary to point out that Canada is looking to the Opposition as well as to the Government to bring the Ship of State safely through the troubled waters. Further, if the Opposition has more fear of a snub from Sir Robert Borden or Hon. Mr. White or Hon. Robert Rogers than it has a desire to assist the nation in this struggle, then the Opposition is unworthy of its calling. This is no time to study a book on etiquette. This is not the hour when men are to stand on their dignity. The first duty of every citizen, whether his name be Laurier, Graham, Pugsley, Smith or Brown, whether he be member of Parliament or a mechanic, is "to do his bit," to do it willingly, freely and courageously.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been silent. Have he and his colleagues been intimidated by the Cabinet Ministers who rule or misrule in the seats of the mighty? Are the Liberal leaders afraid of a scornful sniff from some politician, temporarily in charge of a Cabinet portfolio? Some of them were Cabinet Ministers once and know how little to be feared is a Cabinet Minister's scorn. If the silence is not due to this fear, then to what is it due?

Did Lord Derby wait until Mr. Asquith asked him to organize the dockers at Liverpool? Not likely. Lord Derby knew those dockers and had watched them all his days. That was his bit and he saw it himself.

Did John Redmond ask Mr. Asquith's permission to make recruiting speeches in Ireland? Not likely. Mr. Redmond knew Asquith was busy, and that every patriotic citizen had a piece of work to do. He saw his bit and he went out to do it.

Did Ben Tillett go over to France to see conditions at the front first hand because Mr. Asquith told him to do so? Not likely. Ben realized that as a

labour leader he must know the truth and bear the message to his fellow-men. He saw his duty and he went and did it.

Did Mr. Rowell, leader of the Ontario Opposition, wait until Sir Robert Borden or Premier Hearst asked him to go out and tell the public in a score of speeches why Canadians should fight against German autocracy and German frightfulness? Not a bit of it. He saw his duty, and he has been out doing it in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and his expenses are not being paid by any Government or any party.

Did Mr. Gault and Sir Clifford Sifton and Sir Donald Mann and Sir John Eaton and Mr. Huntley Drummond and Sir Adam Beck wait until somebody asked them before they contributed of their wealth to assist Canada in this great struggle? No. They are volunteers in the work, and all the more glory to them because of that fact.

Why should not Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Pugsley and Mr. Graham and Mr. Maclean and Mr. Macdonald, Dr. Clark and all the other Liberal leaders be as active in making recruiting speeches as Hon. Arthur Meighen? Why should they not be discussing means to relieve the unemployment problem which Canada will again face in October? Why should they not help to organize bands of young men to go West and help garner the greatest wheat harvest the Prairie Provinces ever saw? Why should they not help to solve the problem of getting 800 grain vessels to take our surplus crop across the Atlantic in the autumn? Why should they not help to organize the manufacturers and the mechanics who might make munitions of war, but who are not yet doing so? Why should they not be active leaders in collecting patriotic funds, Red Cross supplies, motor ambulances, and all the other requisites which the people are willing to supply? Why should they not help in the work of caring for wounded and convalescent soldiers returning from the front? They have not been wholly inactive, but the general impression is that they are "lying low" and perfecting their political organization for emergencies.

This is a national crisis, and upon every citizen there is a duty laid. Upon every member of Parliament there is a heavier duty than upon the private citizen. It matters not whether that member be Liberal or Conservative or Independent, he is expected to help lead the nation in this, the most strenuous, period of its history. When the struggle is over and the battle won, the glory will be apportioned according to the effort and the sacrifice.

To the Liberal members of Parliament who may think that they are not called upon to do more than keep silence, let me commend the well known sentiment which appears every day in the editorial page of the Toronto "Globe": "Your King and Country need you." The "Globe" did not wait for Sir Robert Borden to ask it to use that phrase daily.

All conventionalities, all precedents, and all social or political usages have been swept aside or should be. No man should stand upon the order of his going, but should go at once to do his duty as he sees it. If he has a voice to raise let him raise it. If he has a suggestion to offer let him make it. If he has a bit to do, let him do it. The bugle has called the Liberals as well as the Conservatives. It will avail the Liberal members of Parliament nothing in the day of reckoning to say "We were not asked." That is a childish excuse, and the people will treat it as it deserves.

So long as the leaders of the Opposition at Ottawa neglect to take up these duties so will it be possible to say "Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his lieutenants are apparently lolling in their arm-chairs and allowing national affairs to drift."