

SHALL WE COUNT IN THE PEACE?

Canada, Being a Belligerent, Must Broaden Out, and Consider Whether She Shall Have An Envoy When the Peace is Arranged.

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Substance of an address on "Canada and the Allies" to the Canadian Club of North Bay.

TO look ahead into the future, to make plans for the time to come, does not reduce the efficiency of to-day's work, but rather leads to greater intelligence in the prosecution of the most pressing duties. It is for this reason that even now, when we are in the midst of a serious crisis; and when we must decide what is best to be done every single day; and when, beyond everything, Germany must be beaten, it is nevertheless worth while to consider some of the questions which inevitably will arise in the future.

Many people are wondering what the world will be like when at last the war is over, and are imagining ideal reconstructions of governments and territorial boundaries. The very impulse of this idealism may help to bring to pass some of the good things which now seem but as dreams.

In the same way, it is quite legitimate to ask such a question as this, "Should Canada be represented at the Peace Settlement at the end of the war?" The discussion of such a point should help us realize the fundamental basis of Canada's relations with the rest of the world, and also the real significance of Canada's participation in the world-wide struggle.

Without glorifying war for its own sake, or trying to minimize the awfulness of one of the most terrible things this world knows, there is neither necessity nor reason for utter pessimism. There are at least some good by-products of the war.

For one thing, our people are firm in the belief that Canada is fighting on the side of Right, for the sacredness of the pledged word, for the defence of the weak, and for the perpetuation of the loftiest political and moral ideals of which this world knows. Participa-

tion in such an enterprise, which might almost be called a Holy Crusade, cannot help but have an inspiring and tonic effect on the whole moral fabric of the country.

In the second place, this war means emphatically Canada's broadening out, her definite entrance on the stage of world affairs. In this conflict Canada is associated not only with her colleagues in the British Empire, but with the other allies as well, with France for instance, and with Belgium and Russia. Canada, in fact, is one of the Allies herself. This viewpoint increases our interest in the struggle, deepens our sense of responsibility, and broadens our national horizon.

We are linked up not only with such comparatively old friends as France and Belgium, but we suddenly find ourselves co-operating in the same stupendous enterprise with Russia, one of Canada's next-door-neighbors—by—the—sea, but one in whom our interest hitherto has been slight. Already we are hastening to hear authorities on Russia, such as Professor Mavor, Professor Snow, Mr. Armstrong and Prof. Harper of Chicago University.

We are taking an interest in the simple, Christian-spirited, common people of Russia and in its vivacious middle classes, and at the same time are enlarging our knowledge of Russian art and Russian politics.

Those who favor Canada's recognition in the final Peace Conferences, not merely through the representatives of Great Britain, but by her own individual spokesman, sitting, naturally enough, with similar representatives from the other nations of the British Empire, give as one of their arguments that since Canada really is one of the Allies this participation would officially seal her first-hand interest in the

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