

meanest of mankind; feeding our souls on the husks that the swine did eat.

We should be a mockery to those before whom we had boasted that we were British to the core—to those whose union with us we had left to the unscrupulous purchaser of votes. We should want to seek for hiding places in the valleys, and for solitude among the hills. The contempt of our fellows when we walked abroad would be as nothing to the contempt for ourselves that would drive slumber from the haunted watches. There would be no availing penance for our penitence.

One Simple, Sure Defence.

Against perils like these what is our sure defence? It is national unity in national work for the war. It is the liberation of ourselves from the political apathies which so grievously beset us.

One simple thing, and one only is required to accomplish this. Obtain it; and all the rest will follow as surely as day follows night.

Let the Prime Minister call all men and women to make visible and vocal their union in a crusade for the war; and for the hundred thousand; two hundred thousand men who must battle for us in it. Let that be done, and you shall some day find this page in the history of Canada, as it will be read in the schools, and by hearths that know nothing of mailed fists, and have no dread of such unspeakable crimes as were committed against Belgium:

A PAGE THAT MAY BE.

The war came upon Canada at the end of her first great period of expansion. The pouring of capital into the country had deceived the people into supposing that prosperity could come by other means than by the cultivation of their abundant soil. The disastrous gap between agricultural production and capital obligation was beginning to be realized in shrinking revenues and unemployment, when the storm burst which threatened to wreck Britannic civilization.

This era of economic irresponsibility, which had continued for more than a dozen years, had produced an indiffer-

ence to underlying political essentials; which sapped the virtue of party government and in turn spread distrust of parliamentary institutions among a large and instructed section of the community which scorned to concern itself with elections and public administration. The strain which the war put upon the political reserves of the Dominion at first caused grave disquietude to patriots who had looked anxiously for signs of a recreation of public spirit, similar in quality to what had given to the United States the first of her modern presidents in Woodrow Wilson.

Though there was ungrudging support of the government's proposals for meeting the crisis during the short session of Parliament, the government refrained from openly courting the active co-operation of its customary foes; and of independent men everywhere, in bringing home to the varied peoples within the Dominion the magnitude of the task to which Parliament had committed them.

When Casualty Lists Come.

As was to be expected, a war in which the battlefields were thousands of miles away, at first seemed to appeal to the general body of the people rather as a daily newspaper sensation than as an affair of life and death for their young nation. But with the approach of casualty lists of their own men, the public disposition changed. There was widespread aspiration for a more vigorous devotion of men and money to the cause of liberty. When the Prime Minister, who had been absorbed in administrative duties, sensed the developing attitude of the people, early in 1915, he began a movement for unification, by calling for the aid of all patriotic persons in campaigns, the example for which had been set in Britain, where men of all parties buried their former differences on the same platforms, and strove without ceasing to preserve the Empire.

An amazing change was instantly wrought in the national temper. The first effect was upon the Government itself. It had dreaded; and, in a mea-