

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

QUERIES

Having done your duty to your country by buying Victory Bonds, have you done your duty to your family by placing sufficient insurance on your life?

Are you going to be a saver or a wastrel, a producer or a slacker, during the next two years?

What did you do last month to make living worth while?

Is there not danger of ill-feeling arising from these useless discussions as to which element in British national life was the most loyal, or which did or did not all it should? Why not ask each one his own self if his conscience tells him he did all he could, and forget the other fellow?

When will our newspapers cease calling a milliard or a thousand million a billion?

Are you doing the duty that lies nearest you so that the next may be the clearer?

Have you hitched your wagon to a star?

Unhasting, unrelenting, are you keeping the even tenor of your way?

Have you learned to spell out "God" in the life around you?

Have you learned that evil ensures its own defeat?

Is "honest labour" getting to be a name only?

Does winter or spring form the background of your vision of autumn?

Had the capture of Mons by the Canadians as the last flames of war died out no deep meaning for you? Why not?

Reconstruction and Proportional Representation

BY GARFIELD A. KING.

THE word "camouflage" has apparently had its day, and its successor is "reconstruction." The world, we are told a million times, is "facing the problems of reconstruction." We have our "Reconstruction League," and "Reconstruction Committees" in every sort of public and semi-public body. The relations between Capital and Labour are to be "reconstructed" in many ways by proposals for "co-operation," etc., although we do not recognize any serious effort to deal with this problem in Canada in the way that the "Whitley Committee" has done in England. But of that, more anon. We note, however, a great deal of confusion in connection with the word "reconstruction," as if elaborate schemes of "constructing" harbour improvements, "constructing" houses and railways and ships had any vital relation to the social and political and economic reconstruction which is always implied when referring to the great work of making

democracy safe for the world, now that the world has been made safe for democracy.

Huge spending schemes may allay our dissatisfaction with the present social and political structure, but they can only postpone the day when the old machinery must be replaced. In England they propose to escape revolution by adequate reform.

In British Columbia—and indeed throughout Canada—the political situation was never more obscure, and never more ominous. There is every prospect of the country being divided, not into two great parties as in the past, but into three, four or five groups—Liberal, Conservative, Returned-Soldier, Labour, Soldier-Labour, United Farmers and Women. Just at present the returned soldiers seem to be, politically, "top-hole," as witness Private Giolma's victory over Government and Opposition candidates in the contest for the late Premier Brewster's seat in Victoria! There is no