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And so we left him to do some thinking.

In the quiet shelter of S. Ninian's there was a restful calm. The organ sounded softly, the subdued light was comforting. But there was an ominous shake in the Dean's voice as he prayed with soul-touching earnestness:—

"Give peace in our time, O Lord!"

And there seemed a deeper sense of meaning than ever before in the response the congregation took up:—

"Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only Thou, O God!"

Tom and I walked home in the twilight, strangely silent.

* * * * *

Monday and Tuesday were queer, restless days. Nothing definite had been settled, but the sense of parting was in the atmosphere. Very early on Wednesday morning the official news came. The Proclamation we had been looking for was now out, and all Reserves were called up.

Tom and I looked at each other, knowing what this meant. And then Tom went to Jack's room.

It seemed only a few minutes till Jack was downstairs, dressed in his navy blue suit, looking smart and fit and every inch a soldier. And we all smiled through breakfast, and talked cheerily, to still the ache at our hearts. There was never any question, of course, about Jack going—even though we had had the option, which we hadn't. The Call must be answered, and at once. Only the need and the ties at home were so strong. But King and country must come first, and so we gave willingly and proudly, for the sake of our native land and other lands, and no less for the sake of our dearly-loved King and Queen.

"I'm going to the Barracks with Jack," said Tom.

"Of course," I answered. "I wish I could go, too, but I've got those special articles to write. However, you'll see him safely in, and perhaps get some news as to where he's being sent."

* * * * *

Well, old man—good-bye for a bit.

We three stood at the foot of the stairway, Jack all "ready for the road." Somehow the hall seemed to become suffocatingly small, the walls pressing in on us, and the sound of bugles was in our ears.

"We'll not say good-bye, Jack," I said, as we gripped hands. "We'll only say 'Good morning!' You'll soon be back again."

"Yes—yes—of course," he answered, while his lips smiled and his eyes glittered strangely. "Don't worry—I'll be all right—and you and Tom will buck up and hold the fort."

We clasped hands once more in a grip that was actual physical pain, and then the door was thrown open. Tom led the way, his lips pressed tight. Jack hurried after—down the white pebble walk by the lawn and the chestnuts, down to the gate with its tall stately sentinel poplar, out on to the pavement and away—with never a backward look.

Yes, I understood. To go like that was hard; to look back would

have been harder. I watched them both out of sight, and then turned to my desk with unseeing eyes.

Three hours afterwards Tom walked in.

"Any news?" I asked.

"Not a scrap. I never got inside Barracks. We'll have to wait for news till Jack can write us. He'll know some of his future movements to-day." Tom's face was working with pain.

"It cost something . . . to see Jack walking away from me on the other side of that closed gate," he said.

CANADA AND CHILDREN'S TOYS

It is a curious fact that the nation whose soldiers used little Belgian children as shields to protect them against the fire of British and French guns, the nation which rejoices when bombs dropped from Zeppelins kill innocent English children, the nation that exulted when the bodies of murdered children from the "Lusitania" floated on the ocean, is the one which before the outbreak of the war made toys for children all over the world. There was no sentiment in it. The Germans knew that every child throughout the world delighted to play with toys and every little girl desired a doll. It was a matter of business to supply the universal demand.

In almost every Canadian household children played with German dolls and toys. Once a year the great Canadian department stores and the wholesale houses that supplied small retail stores with toys sent their buyers to Germany to purchase toys. Since the outbreak of the war German goods of all kinds being excluded from Canada, the large department stores and the wholesale houses have found it exceedingly difficult to get toys to supply the Canadian demand, and similar conditions prevail in every country of the British Empire.

The Department of Trade and Commerce has recently received several enquiries from England as to whether Canadians can supply toys to take the place of the German toys now excluded from the United Kingdom.

With a view to encouraging the manufacture of toys in Canada, both for the home market and for export, Sir George Foster has arranged for a Toy Conference, which will take place in Toronto on the 28th of March, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning. A large number of samples of German toys such as were formerly imported into Canada will be on exhibition to show Canadian manufacturers what the Germans supplied, and there will be a collection of American toys to show what our neighbours in the United States have been doing to replace German toys. It is hoped that all Canadian manufacturers of toys will send exhibits so that the exhibition will be thoroughly representative. There has been a surprising development of toy manufacturing in Canada since the outbreak of the war, and there are known to be not less than twenty-four toy manufacturers in Canada at the present time. Most of those now

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manufacturing toys in Canada are making them as a side line, using waste materials, but there are a few concerns that are devoting their entire attention to the manufacture of toys. It is proposed to keep the toys on exhibition for about a week after the day of the Conference.

All Canadian toy manufacturers, all department stores, wholesale houses and retail merchants who handle toys are invited to send representatives to this Conference, and any others who may be interested in making or selling toys will be welcomed.

As one of the objects of the Conference is to interest capital in the development of toy industries already established, it is hoped that capitalists willing to investigate the possibilities of the industry will be present at the Conference.

Sir George Foster will take the chair and deliver the opening address.