

along your subscription for yourself and friends; and if you are a manufacturer of goods, or a partner in any business which covers a wide range, to join the advertisers who appreciate a circulation among people who, like yourself, read *The Canadian War*.

THE LATEST COMMISSION.

A chance to make a record for action in time of war has come to the Ontario Commission on Unemployment, whose appointment was the first act of the reconstructed Cabinet. If the Commission cannot force speedy and widespread action it will miss the first justification of its existence. For the days are cold and short, and there is hunger in many a home, and starving men will not see much salvation in the customary methods of the customary commission.

You cannot help wondering what was the basis of the appointment of a commission of ten to meet a dire emergency—if action is to be dominant over investigation. Large investigating bodies move slowly. If the Ontario Industrial Association that was organized last September has produced such a collection of material as gives clear indications of what must be done, action may follow with unprecedented celerity. But if action is assured, what was the need for a Commission? A Government has always as much power to act as it has the courage to take—especially in war time.

Cause is Very Simple.

The fact probably is that the Government has not mastered the painfully simple causes of the present distress, not only among the artisan and unskilled sections of the community, but among those to whom manual labor has become more, rather than less, a derogation. It is nearly always true that the simplest things in Government are the most difficult to grasp. Unemployment—such unemployment as now afflicts

Canada—is as simple in its cause as the falling of the rain.

Its war aspect is chiefly notable for the deception that may easily overlie the whole situation. If we tell ourselves that the war is the cause of our major economic afflictions, we say the thing that is not so. We are not patriotic if we give the least countenance to that temptation to unseeing folk to ask why we went into the war.

Must Not Fear Facts.

We cannot be equal to the demands of a prolonged war, which is going to strain our fortitude and test our statesmanship to the limit of their endurance, if we fear to face the facts we had made for ourselves in the preceding peace. If facing those facts means that persons in authority will be found to have turned blind eyes to them when they were besought to prove them and provide against them, it may be so much the worse for such persons, who do not happen to be the whole nation.

There is too much of the irresponsible Irishman's attitude towards affairs of which unemployment is only one phase—the Irishman, on trial for a trivial offence, who, when the judge, answered his ingenious defence with the remark, "But the facts are against you," gaily said, "Then, so much the worse for the facts."

Make no mistake about it, the war is going to make demand on our economics such as no statesman has yet dared to estimate in the public hearing. We have been told again and again that Canada has wonderfully weathered the financial gales of the past two or three years, and that there is the surest ground for optimism for the immediate future. This is said because financial institutions have helped one another to turn awkward corners.

Where We Can't Come Back.

Financial institutions are barometers,