

The Brain Growers' Guide

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The End of the War

Even in the midst of the first uncontrollable outburst of rejoicing thoughts of solemn wonder that it could really be true that the war was won invaded every mind. The events of the closing days had been rushing forward with such dizzying rapidity. The news of history-making developments crowding upon one another was so stunning as to make it impossible to realize their full significance. Nor is it yet possible to realize in anything like full measure what has been achieved by the blood and agonies of the war.

It is a help towards realizing what the winning of the war means to go back in thought to its first days. The thunder of the onrush of the German legions to seize world domination for their masters at Berlin made it almost appear that the whole process of civilization was about to be proved a ghastly mistake. It seemed almost possible that ruthless, devil-worshipping power might make itself master of human destinies. But the defenders of right and justice allowed no such misgivings to weaken their resolution to fight to the end and never submit. The Premier of Great Britain put that resolute determination into words in the House of Commons on August 6, 1914:—

I do not believe that any nation ever entered into a great controversy—and this is one of the greatest history will ever know—with a clearer conscience and stronger conviction that it is fighting, not for aggression, not for the maintenance even of its own selfish interests, but that it is fighting in defence of principles, the maintenance of which is vital to the civilization of the world. With the full conviction, not only of the wisdom and justice, but of the obligations which lie upon us to challenge this great issue, we are entering into the struggle.

And on November 9, 1914, he said:—

We shall never sheath the sword, which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium recovers in full measure all and more than all that she has sacrificed, until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed.

Canada, too, in that time of crisis, that turning-point in the history of the world, chose the path of duty and of sacrifice. And Canadian manhood has done its part in beating the military might of Prussia to the ground and making it beg for mercy. The free peoples have proved that there is a moral order in the world, and that the foundations on which rest human faith and human progress cannot be destroyed. Democracy has overwhelmed in destruction the system of autocratic militarism, terrorism, perfidy and repression, founded by Bismarck, of whom the French statesman, Emile Ollivier, wrote:—

Bismarck, that extraordinary man, the craftiest of foxes, the boldest of lions, who had the art of fascinating and of terrifying, of making of truth itself an instrument of falsehood, to whom gratitude, the forgiveness of injuries and respect for the vanquished were as entirely unknown as all other noble sentiments, who deemed legitimate everything that contributes to success, and who by his contempt for the importunities of morality dazzled the imagination of mankind.

The German people have been dominated by the Prussian spirit ever since Bismarck's time. They have never dared to take the control of their national destinies into their own hands. They have never had as part of their thinking the fundamental principle of political liberty, that the government of a people must be responsible to the elected representatives of that people. Now they have been

taught with crushing force the lesson that they must work out their salvation on lines very different from those laid down by Bismarck. Drilled from their earliest years to bow submissively to the superior wisdom of those in authority, their failure to make themselves a free people and assume the responsibilities of freedom has produced its inevitable result.

If German might had conquered, the Prussian military autocracy, having proved ruthless violence to be the guardian of its destinies, would have gone on extending its terrifying dominance until in some struggle more devastating and terrible than that which has just ended, it was at last overthrown. Statesmanship which ignores justice and the interest and honor of all countries except its own, is bound in the long run to fail.

The military power of Germany has been destroyed. The satanic gospel of Prussianism has been swept from the world. The vision of the democratic peoples will now prevail. Its watchwords are freedom for all nationalities and the sanctity of national obligations as the basis of international law. The goal towards which it will work is the voluntary federation of all nations to ensure lasting peace to mankind.

Reciprocity by Instalments

The customs duty of 20 cents per bushel, plus seven-and-a-half per cent. war tax, on potatoes entering Canada has been abolished by Order-in-Council. The Dominion government has done this in order to take advantage of the reciprocal provision in the United States tariff which declares that on the abolition of the duty on potatoes entering Canada from the United States the duty on potatoes entering the United States from Canada (ten cents per bushel) is automatically done away with.

This is only one of many like provisions in the United States tariff, against the acceptance of which the campaign of solemn, flag-waving humbug about saving the integrity of the Empire was waged successfully in 1911. All those reciprocity provisions still stand in the United States tariff. The item of potatoes is not the first of them which the present Dominion government has decided it to be wise to take advantage of. Last year, an Order-in-Council was passed at Ottawa, doing away with the duty on wheat and flour from the United States and thereby securing free entry into the United States for Canadian wheat and flour.

The free wheat proposal was the one against which the flag-waving was most violent in 1911. Nothing could be more evident than that the members of the present government, who in 1911 waved the flag so furiously against reciprocity, are conscious now that they were then displaying an anxiety for the safety of the empire which (to state the thing in the mildest terms possible) was quite entirely needless.

The removal of the duty on potatoes opens the United States market to Canadian potato-growers, and gives Canadian consumers the benefit of United States competition. The importance of the United States market to the Canadian producers of food will increase with every year. When normal conditions are restored after the war, Europe will draw food supplies from regions which will produce vastly more food than they have produced hitherto, including tracts in Asia reclaimed to cultivation—Mesopotamia for example, to which country the advent of British control has brought progress as well

as justice, is already exporting immense quantities of food.

This country will look more and more to the great and ever growing market for food products in the country to the south. As civilization progresses food taxes will be seen more clearly to be the worst of all taxes. They are no more justifiable between Canada and the United States than forts along the international boundary line would be.

Demobilization Problems

Demobilization and restoration of normal conditions in Canada after the war present formidable problems, involving the gravest danger to the country, if their solution is not rightly worked out in advance. In Great Britain there has been for some time serious study of these problems; some of the results of that study will undoubtedly be made use of in working out the solutions for Canada. One of the best books on this whole subject which has appeared in Great Britain is "Britain After the Peace," by Brougham Villiers, about which J. W. McMillan has an article in this issue of The Guide.

Plainly, Canada owes it to every man in the army, that in the demobilization his individual circumstances shall be considered. Every Canadian in khaki is entitled by the very best right in the world to better treatment than to be cast at random out of the economic security of army pay, to hunt for a job. The demobilization should be adjusted in every respect as closely as possible to the actual power of absorption, month by month, of the demobilized men in the working life of the country. The whole subject is one which demands the immediate attention and the most thoughtful and earnest attention of every thinking Canadian.

Organize for Free Implements

At Ottawa recently the government was waited upon by delegates from the Manufacturers' Association, who urged that action be taken for the extension of Canada's export trade. Later it was announced from Ottawa that a commission has been appointed to go abroad with that purpose in view.

It is, of course, the duty of the government to do everything possible for the increase of Canadian exports, including the exports of the products of agricultural industry, which will of necessity continue to be vastly the most valuable of Canadian exports. It is the duty of the government to search out markets abroad; it is no less the duty of the government to do everything possible to facilitate the production of commodities for export.

The production of manufactured goods for export is facilitated by the refunding to the manufacturers of 99 per cent. of the duty paid by them on everything they have brought into Canada and used in manufacturing goods for export. But the farmers of Canada do not get any refund whatever of the increase in their costs of production of commodities for export, caused by the tariff of which the Canadian manufacturers of the necessities of agricultural industry are the beneficiaries.

The only justifiable basis on which industries can succeed is that they shall assume their right and proper relationship with the country's natural sources of wealth. Production from the fertile lands and the rich feeding grounds of Canada is the natural, necessary and economically right source from which the income of Canada must