

# THE CANADIAN WAR

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## DEDICATED

To the women who, having magnified love and duty, that their country's honour may be exalted, await the dread issue with sublime courage; and, by their sacrifice for the Empire, inspire their representatives in the field, and set an example to all who are not privileged to bear arms.

## IS A REACTION POSSIBLE?

By J. F. BENT

**T**HE following, from an experienced observer of the currents of public thought, is printed because it strikes a note which is worthy of deep consideration:

May I ask you to be bold enough to urge your readers to consider an aspect of Canada's war situation which seems to be of cardinal importance, and which may develop a dangerous tendency in the body politic if it be not dealt with speedily? Has it not occurred to you that the war may precipitate the breaking away of Canada from the Motherland? May we not be taking too much for granted when we assume that Canada is heart and soul for participating in the war to the last man and the last dollar, and that nothing can change the disposition with which we went into Armageddon?

It is becoming more common to hear good Canadians say, "Oh let the bronchos do the fighting." High imperialist papers like the Daily News of Toronto declare that appeals to the native-born to enlist are superfluous, so long as the old countryman—the

broncho—is willing to answer the Government's call for men to go to the front. The tone of hyper-fighting journals like the Toronto Telegram is similar. In the Telegram's declarations for Dreadnought gifts to Britain there is nothing about the essential need for putting Canadian men into Canadian defence—there is a quiet assumption that so long as the men are forthcoming it does not matter to how large an extent our native boys stay out of the actual conflict. The fact that when war came His Majesty's Canadian ship Niobe was lying in dock with only nine officers and thirty-four men aboard her has nothing salutary in it for the Telegram.

It is noticeable that the women of Canada are more keenly interested than the men in the war. You have published several letters which show this. I was particularly struck with one in which an account was given of what a small community has done for the war, and which noted that out of fifteen enlisted men from that locality only one was Canadian-born. Some time ago I read an appeal by Colonel