

ed not as you would have had it answered, but as those Canadians who have already died or are about to die here in this gallant motherland of France have answered it.

It may have been difficult for you at first to have realized the full significance of the situation. You were steeped in your belief that Canada owed no debt to England, was merely a vassal state and entitled to protection without payment. You were deeply imbued with the principle that we should not partake in a war in the declaration of which we had had no say. You believed very sincerely that Canadian soldiers should not be called upon to fight beyond the frontier of Canada itself, and your vision was further obscured by your indignation at the apparent injustice to a French minority in Ontario.

It is conceivable that at first on account of this long held attitude of mind and because it seemed that Canadian aid was hardly necessary, for even we feared that the war would be over before the first Canadian regiment should land in France, you should have failed to adapt your mind to the new situation and should for a while have continued in your former views—but now—now that Canada has pledged herself body and soul to the successful prosecution of this war—now that we know that only by the exercise of our full and united strength can we achieve a speedy and lasting victory—now that thousands of your fellow citizens have died, and alas many more must yet be killed—how in the name of all that you may hold most sacred can you still maintain your opposition? How can you refrain from using all your influences and your personal magnetism and eloquence to swell the great army of Canada and make it as representative of all classes of our citizens as possible?

Could you have been here yourself to witness in its horrible detail the cruelty of war, to have seen your comrades suddenly struck down in death and lie mangled at your side, even you could not have failed to wish to visit punishment upon those responsible. You, too, would now wish to see every ounce of our united strength instantly and relentlessly directed to an end. Afterwards when that end has been accomplished, then and then only can there be profit or honor in the discussion of our domestic or imperial disputes.

And so my first reason for your support would be that you should assist in the defence of Canadian territory and Canadian liberties.

And my second would be this:—

Whatever criticisms may to-day be properly directed against the constitutional structure of the British Empire, we are compelled to admit that the spiritual union of the self-governing portions of the Empire is a most necessary and desirable thing. Surely you will concede that the degree of civilization which they represent and the standards of individual and national liberty for which they stand are the highest and noblest to which the human race has yet attained and zealously to be protected against destruction by less developed powers. All may not be perfection—grave and serious faults no doubt exist—vast progress must still be made—nevertheless that which has been achieved is good and must not be allowed to disappear. The bonds which unite us for certain great purposes and which have proved so powerful in this common struggle must not be loosened. They may indeed be readjusted, but the great communities which the British Empire has joined together must not be broken asunder. If I thought that the development of a national spirit in Canada meant antagonism to the spirit which unites the Empire to-day I would utterly repudiate the idea of a Canadian nation and would gladly accept the most exacting of Imperial organic unions.

Hitherto I have welcomed your nationalism because I thought it would only mean that you wished Canada to assume national responsibilities as well as to enjoy its privileges. But your attitude in the present crisis will alienate and antagonize the support which you might otherwise have received. Can you not realize that if any worthy nationality is possible for Canada it must be sympathetic to and must co-operate with the fine spirit of Imperial unity? That spirit was endangered by the outbreak of European war. It would only be preserved by loyal assistance from all those in whom the spirit dwelt.

And so I would also have you support Canadian participation in the war, not in order to maintain a certain political organism of Empire, but to preserve and perpetuate that invaluable spirit which alone makes our union possible.

The third reason is this: You and I are so-called French-Canadians. We belong to a race that began the conquest of this country long before the days of Wolfe. That race was in its turn conquered, but

their personal liberties were not restricted. They were in fact increased. Ultimately as a minority in a great English-speaking community we have preserved our racial identity, and we have had freedom to speak or to worship as we wished, I may not be, like yourself, "un pur sang," for I am by birth even more English than French; but I am proud of my French ancestors, I love the French language, and I am as determined as you are that we shall have full liberty to remain French as long as we like. But if we are to preserve this liberty we must recognize that we do not belong entirely to ourselves but to a mixed population, we must rather seek to find points of contact and of common interest than points of friction and separation. We must make concessions and certain sacrifices of our distinct individuality if we mean to live on amicable terms with our fellow citizens or if we are to expect them to make similar concessions to us. There in this moment of crisis was the greatest opportunity which could ever have presented itself for us to show unity of purpose and to prove to our English fellow citizens that whatever our respective histories may have been, we were actuated by a common love for our country and a mutual wish that in the future we should unite our distinctive talents and energies to create a proud and happy nation.

That was an opportunity which you, my cousin, have failed to grasp, and unfortunately despite the heroic and able manner in which French-Canadian battalions have distinguished themselves here, and despite the whole-hearted support which so many leaders of French-Canadian thought have given to the cause, the fact remains that the French in Canada have not responded in the same proportion as have other Canadian citizens, and the unhappy impression has been created that French-Canadians are not bearing their full share in this great Canadian enterprise. For this fact and this impression you will be held largely responsible. Do you fully realize what such a responsibility will mean not so much to you personally—for that I believe, you would care very little—but to the principles which you have advocated, and for many of which I have but the deepest regard. You will have brought them into a disrepute from which they may never recover. Already you have made the fine term of Nationalists to stink in the nostrils of our English fellow-citizens. Have you caused them to respect your national views? Have you won their admiration or led them to consider with esteem and toleration your ambitions for the French language? Have you shown yourself worthy of concession or consideration? After this war what influence will you enjoy? What good to your country will you be able to accomplish? Wherever you go you will stir up strife and enmity; you will bring disfavor and dishonor upon our race, so that whoever bears a French name in Canada will be an object of suspicion and possibly of hatred.

And so in the third place, for the honor of French Canada and for the unity of our country, I would have had you favorable to our cause.

I have only two more reasons, and they but need to be mentioned, I think, to be appreciated.

Here in this little French town I hear all about me the language I love so well, and which recalls so vividly my happy childhood days in Montebello. I see types and faces that are like old friends. I see farm houses like those at home. I notice that our French-Canadian soldiers have easy friendships wherever they go.

Can you make me believe that there must not always be a bond of blood relationship between the Old France and the New?

And France—more glorious than in all her history—is now in agony, straining fearlessly and proudly in a struggle for life or death.

For Old France and French civilization, I would have had your support.

And in the last place, all other considerations aside, and even supposing Canada had been a neutral country, I would have had you decide that she should enter the struggle for no other reason than that it is a fight for freedom of the world—a fight in the result of which, like every other country, she is herself vitally interested. I will not further speak of the causes of this war, but I should like to think that even if Canada had not been an independent and neutral nation, she of her own accord would have chosen to follow the same path of glory that she is following to-day.

Perhaps, my cousin, I have been overlong and tedious with my reasons, but I shall be shorter with my warning, and in closing I wish to say this to you:

Those of us in this great army who may be so fortunate as to return to our Canada will have faced the grimmest and sincerest issues of life and death

—we will have experienced the unhappy strength of brute force—we will have seen our loved comrades die in blood and suffering. Beware lest we return with revengeful feelings, for I say to you that for those who, while we fought and suffered here, remained in safety and comfort in Canada and failed to give us encouragement and support, as well as for those who grew fat with the wealth dishonestly gained by political graft and by dishonest business methods at our expense, we shall demand a heavy day of reckoning. We shall inflict upon them the punishment they deserve, not by physical violence, for we shall have had enough of that, nor by unconstitutional or illegal means, for we are fighting to protect, not to destroy justice and freedom—but by the invincible power of our moral influence.

Can you ask us then for sympathy or concession? Will any listen when you speak of pride and patriotism? I think not.

Remember, too, that if Canada has become a nation respected and self-respecting, she owes it to her citizens who have fought and died in this distant land and not to those self-styled Nationalists who have remained at home.

Can I hope that anything I have said here may influence you to consider the situation in a different light and that it is not yet too late for me to be made proud of our relationship?

At this moment, as I write, French and English Canadians are fighting and dying side by side. Is this sacrifice to go for nothing, or will it not cement a foundation for a true Canadian nation, a Canadian nation independent in thought, independent in action, independent even in its political organization—but in spirit united for high international and humane purposes to the two Motherlands of England and France?

I think that is an ideal in which we shall all equally share. Can we not all play an equal part in its realization?

I am, as long as may be possible,

Your affectionate friend,

TALBOT M. PAPINEAU.

WESTERN CANADA LOANS.

There are indications of an early shifting of Western Canadian loans from London to this market, says the New York "Journal of Commerce," though hardly on the broad scale suggested in recent dispatches from Winnipeg. It is known that prominent bankers are willing to make a loan of \$3,000,000 to Manitoba and \$2,000,000 to Saskatchewan, with probably \$2,000,000 to Winnipeg, the proceeds of which, to such extent as may be necessary, will be used to take up the issues of the two provinces and the city of Winnipeg, now handled in London.

If these offerings go well, the New York bankers would probably increase the amounts stated, but it is an open question as to how much of the outstanding debt now held abroad can be secured. A part of the obligations of Manitoba could not be handled here, partly for legal reasons and in other instances because they are short maturities. At best, bankers intimate that \$15,000,000 would represent the maximum of their loans to the two provinces and Winnipeg.

Negotiations with Canadian provinces other than those named may run considerably further, however, as New York bankers have been in communication recently looking to similar operations for the Province of Ontario and the cities of Ottawa and Toronto.

REGULATIONS AFFECTING TRAVELERS' SAMPLES.

The attention of firms sending salesmen to Cuba is invited to the fact that in order to obtain upon re-exportation the refund of 75 per cent of the duties imposed on samples entering Cuba, they must be imported by traveling salesmen as part of their personal equipment, and not as freight, express or mail shipments. Several cases have recently been brought to the attention of the United States consulate in which travelers' samples have been imported by freight, express and mail, and no refund of any portion of the duties collected has been allowed by the customs authorities of Cuba upon the re-exportation of such samples.

PERSONAL.

Mr. E. R. Wood, of Toronto, has been elected president of the Buffalo, Lockport and Rochester Railroad Company.

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