

# WE Don't WANT to FIGHT

*But by Jingo! if we do, we've got the ships, we've got the men,  
we've got the money too*

SOME Americans go back to 1776 to get an inspiration for 1917. They make George III. a parallel to the Kaiser. This is hard on George III., who was never anything worse than a stupid old tyrant. The U. E. Loyalists who migrated to Canada as a protest against secession were not upholding George, but England—which was, and is, bigger than any king of England.

Some weeks ago J. Hampton Moore, Congressman from Pennsylvania, roused Congress on the old Liberty Hall cry. He twisted a lion's tail which was 140 years old and couldn't be expected to make much of a roar in response. Englishmen and Canadians forget 1776, except as a matter of history. Americans remember it. Immigrants from the four corners of the world are united to join in the grand hulabaloo against George III. and on behalf of George Washington. They don't know who either of these Georges were, except that George Washington was the Father of his country. They don't want to know.

There is something and somebody else they know much better. It is symbolized in the spike helmet and the jack-boot. They came to America to escape all such as that. But the spike helmet followed them. While patriotic Americans celebrated the ancient rebellion against George III., the tyrant of Europe was getting in his handiwork at the Capitol and all over the nation. The resurrected rebellion against old George was nothing but a fine old familiar bogey. The spirit of 1776 still lives. It lives in America, in Canada, in England. It was Lord Chatham, the great tribune of the people (the elder Pitt) who, in a fine frenzy of eloquence, said to Parliament, on behalf of a free America:

"If I were an American as I am an Englishman, I would never lay down my arms—never! Never! NEVER!" That was the spirit of 1776 as they had it in England. The spirit of 1776 survived in the U. E. L. migration to Canada. The Loyalists were just as free-acting to sacrifice homes and plunge into a northern wilderness as the rebels were to fight Gen. Braddock. Canadians of French Canada did the same thing. The spirit of 1776 was the spirit of free America, of free Canada, of free and democratic England.

So raking up the ashes of 1776 in a war of the United States against Germany brings no resentment to Canada; none to England; none to the best sentiment of the United States. The presence of Rt. Hon. Arthur Balfour in Washington is a strange comment at the spirit of 1776. It is the spirit of 1917 which unites all free peoples against slave peoples. When Canada went to war in 1914 it was the same spirit of freedom that made Americans rebel in 1776, that brought the Loyalists to this country, that made commoners like Pitt and Bright and Gladstone see in a democratic England more hope than in a tyrannical monarchy.

Twisting the lion's tail at this date will get the same kind of roar that you get from a stuffed lion. The lion has changed with the times. It's the spirit of free, democratic England that has changed him.

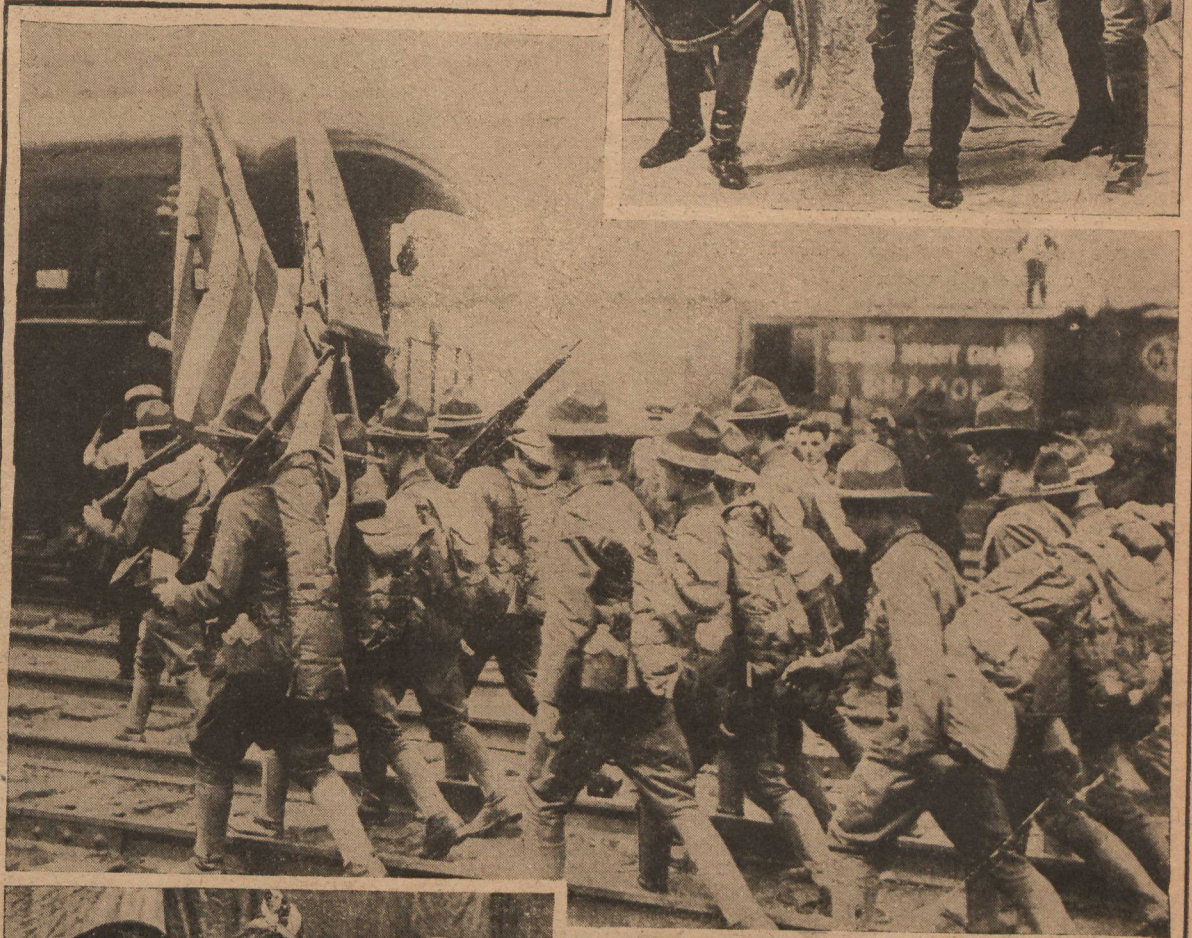
## THE SPIRIT OF 1917.

Columbia calls them out against the Kaiser.

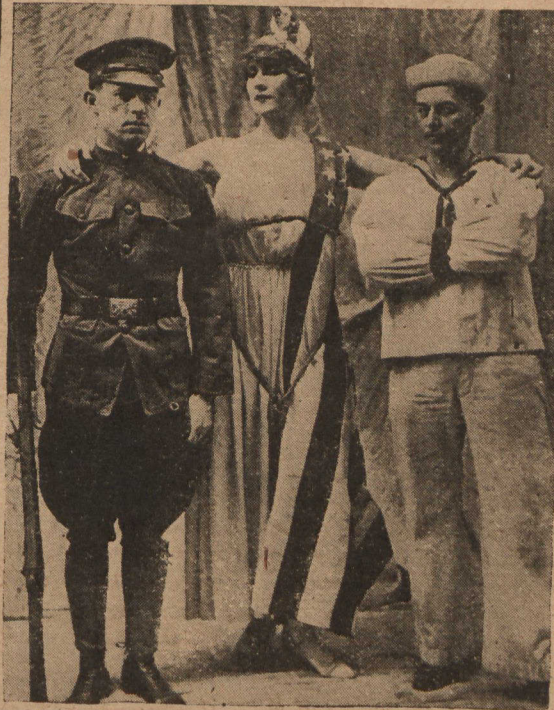
In this revolution from a tyrant state to a democracy the development of self-government in such overseas dominions as Canada—notably Canada—has been one of the big forces. When Americans re-invoke the spirit of 1776 they are invoking the aid of Canada in the spirit of 1917, along a track where by the light of war we blazed the trail. What makes America free now is what has kept Canada free

## THE SPIRIT OF 1776.

When the U. S. rebelled against George 3rd.



A. U. S. National Guard regiment entraining for camp. Will they ever get to the trenches?



ever since she became a Confederation. And we have as much resentment in this country against the tyranny of 1776 as they have in Washington. If we hadn't, would Canada have gone to war in 1914? Having got thus far in the war, it is not the flames of 1776 and the Stars and Stripes over the trenches that we want, but the economic help of the country that has benefited most by the war to get world-suicide out of the world. Resurrecting the bogey of 1776 will do the United States no good. If they will go back as far as August, 1914, when Belgium was outraged and the United States said nothing against it—that will be far enough.

Wall Street civilians parade with wooden guns. They want real rifles for all Americans and universal compulsory service.

