

When the Blood Boils

"Keep Cool!"—

Distrust every rumor and repel every suspicion—It is better to be fooled a little than to bring on a national disaster.

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

One sees, on movie billboards, nowadays, this legend: "You can't put up a good fight until your blood boils. This film will make it boil."

I suppose that is an unusually successful advertising headline. For one thing, people like to have their blood heated to boiling point. For another, fighting pitch in most cases coincides with the boiling point of blood.

One of Bernard Shaw's "Maxims for Revolutionists" is this: "If you strike a child, take care that you strike it in anger, even at the risk of maiming it for life. A blow in cold blood neither can nor should be forgiven." Most parents will feel the deep truth of this maxim, and the accusation against themselves which it suggests. Very few children are punished in cold blood, with a sincere and deliberate intention of correcting the child's behavior. Most parents act in the spirit of the quick-tempered mother, who hisses between her teeth as she slaps her child, "I'll teach you to disobey your mother." And she does.

The new German philosophy, which helped to launch the war, and insistently justifies it, encourages what it calls the furor Teutonicus. This is the ancient Berserker rage revived. Sergeants instructing recruits in bayonet fighting aim at the arousal of the same mood. Many religions, and some forms of the Christian religion, follow a similar plan. The feelings are stimulated methodically and purposely. It is believed that this excited condition has superior value, either for attack in war, or for worship.

Now, when the blood boils, doubt disappears. Especially among the northern peoples, who are deliberative by racial training, freedom of action is constantly hindered by all sorts of mental inhibitions. An Italian or a Spaniard will act on impulse violently and recklessly when a Finlander or a Scotchman would sit down to think it over. And, often, the thinking it over gives time for the provocation to be forgotten. On other occasions the thinking it over sets fire to the blood. If a man wants to always act violently he should cultivate the furor Teutonicus.

But, why does doubt disappear? Why should the warming of the blood make a man convinced and certain? Because doubt is an intellectual product, a rational phenomenon, and the stimulation of the feelings very speedily chokes off the processes of reasoning. The first characteristic of the mob mind is that reasoning is inhibited. The beginning of all mob violence, panics, atrocities, and follies lies here, that calm and wise judgment is prevented.

That is the special danger of setting our blood to boil. It stops us from thinking. It makes thinking appear a pusillanimous occupation. The person whose blood is bubbling and hissing within him has a tremendous feeling that he is right and that any one who disagrees with him is a scoundrel and traitor. The common language of a man in a passion of wrath is, "Don't talk to me. Don't tell me." Any attempt at a calm and complete survey of the problem in hand insults him.

All the nations engaged in war, and Canada among them, are in peculiar peril nowadays from this fever of boiling blood. The fear that is abroad in the earth, and the necessary ignorance as to what is going to happen next, tends to throw us off our balance. It tends to undo the work of ages in introducing a rational element into human living. It tends to throw us back upon primitive custom, and primitive passion. The peculiar asset and weapon of man, which raises him above the brutes, and in turn raises the nobler races above the savages, is flung from our hands. We revert to claws and fists.

If ever there was a time when cool, calm, far-sighted and sagacious thinking was needed it is just at the present time. It is manifestly so where the battle is joined in France. It is well that the soldiers should fight fiercely, though any informed visitor to the trenches and dugouts will tell us that he does not find the spirit of hatred and resentment against the enemy as strong there as among civilians. But much more is needed than a host of enthusiastic soldiers. Discipline is needed, and patience and obedience. Tactics and strategy are needed; The valor and energy of the armies require to be directed by a judgment that is not swayed one inch by feeling.

DANGER.

The case is similar at home, for the war is being fought as surely in Canada as in France. The enthusiasm of the people needs control and guidance. We must beware of the boiling blood, which resents control and guidance.

If the state be compared to a ship, we may say that the feelings of the people are the driving-power, and the good sense and reasonableness of the people is the steering-gear. Any human society is so constituted. Only, human nature is such that the driving-power over-balances the steering-gear. Mankind lives mostly by feelings. There is seldom any need of arousing the feelings to match the decisions of the judgment. They are first on the ground, as a rule, and wait impatiently, if at all, for the arrival of the thinking part of the human mechanism. The danger is that the vessel drives forward so fiercely that the rudder is unable to control it.

During the war the special danger from overheated feeling is in the development of faction, as the special danger after the war is reaction. It is truly wonderful how unanimously our people, and not only ours, but those of Britain and the United States as well, have laid aside the usual contentions of public life. Perhaps it was easier to lay them aside because attention had been diverted from them. And, at first, new contentions had not had time to have been produced. With the lengthening out of the war, however, a new set of contentions have had time to arise, concerned with the war. It is in regard to these that the peril is so great.

IRELAND'S FREEDOM.

One wonders at the statements which certain Irish patriots are making regarding England's oppression of Ireland. To most of us who are removed from the scene of the trouble, it seems as if the only thing which stands in the way of Ireland's freedom is the quarreling of the Irish among themselves. England appears to be willing to grant them whatever they can agree upon. Nevertheless, the leaders of cer-

tain Irish parties send messages to the United States complaining of "the infamous and hideous brutality of England." There is no doubt in the world that these gentlemen believe what they so passionately say. The secret of their certitude lies in their passion. They are so hot that they cannot think.

Now, we are seeing signs of similar heat in Canada, and similar accusations are suggested. We read of members of Parliament being asked to resign because certain sons of certain citizens are not allowed to remain at home while their fellow youths go to the war. Here and there is a discharged sergeant-cook, or a defaulting paymaster, who asserts that the financial management of the army is crooked. Public meetings are held to charge the Food Control Board with seeking to enrich a few dealers in food. A yell of "profiteer" after any miller or baker or packer will start a chorus, as if five years ago what is now called a "profiteer" was not then considered a successful business man. All these things are indications that the war has gotten onto the nerves of some of our people, and they are losing their self-control. They are letting themselves become the prey of their feelings, and ceasing to think. All of which must give comfort to the enemy.

But the danger is much greater in respect to the period immediately after the war. Victory will mean the relaxing of the tension. The kind of man who says, "All I think of is winning the war," which means that he is not thinking at all; for to think implies setting the thing one thinks about in relation to other things, will then abandon even the illusion of thinking. Remember Mafeking night! If that spirit of recklessness fastens on our people; if the resolution and alertness which, despite exceptions, characterizes the citizens of Canada, is abandoned in a moment; if the soldiers come home to find a vociferous welcome and nothing more; what will the issue be? With the war industries closed down; a huge host of men to be readjusted into the industries of peace; these industries of peace themselves dislocated; food scarce and prices high; if the people of Canada refuse then to think, the outlook is dark indeed.

We cannot say it to ourselves too often, "Keep cool!" Trust the Government! Distrust every rumor, and repel every suspicion which passes in whispers! It is better to be fooled a little than to bring on national disaster. The admiring eyes of the whole world are turned towards Canada. We have done extremely well in the fighting, let our management of our own souls be of the same quality.

INVESTMENT IN SHIPS \$433,399,000 IN U. S.

According to a compilation prepared by the New York American, investments in American shipping enterprises during the last few years have been as follows:

1914 (five months)	\$1,844,000
1915	37,662,000
1916	69,466,000
1917	271,563,000
1918 (six months)	52,924,000

Total \$433,399,000

It is further stated that, disregarding the \$2,500,000 investment that the United States Government is putting into shipping property, the records show an aggregate of \$433,399,000 invested in the shipping industry by private capital since the beginning of the war. Adding this private investment to the Government investment and the great volume of money being put into dry docks and new storage terminal facilities at the various ports, it becomes

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM.

Montreal-Portland Service.

Through sleeping car between Montreal and Portland on the Grand Trunk leaving Montreal daily at 8.20 p.m., arriving Portland 7.30 a.m. Leaves Portland 7.30 p.m. daily, arrives Montreal 7.25 a.m. Parlor and dining car service on day trains, leaving Montreal daily 8.30 a.m., arriving Portland 7.45 p.m. and leaving Portland 7.35 a.m. daily, arriving Montreal 6.50 p.m. No change between Montreal and Portland and baggage may be checked through to destination. Good connection for Old Orchard, Kennebunk, Biddeford Pool, etc. Illustrated descriptive publication of Portland, Casco Bay, and Atlantic Coast resorts, giving list of hotels and all information free at the Grand Trunk City Ticket Office, 122 St. James St., Montreal.

readily apparent that fully \$4,000,000,000 of American wealth has been put into the shipping industry, since the outbreak of hostilities.

CANADA'S TRADE AT A GLANCE.

	Whole and job trade.	Retail trade.	Mfg. and industry.	Col-lections.	Crops.	Remarks.
Toronto	Fair	Good	Active	Good	Good	Postal strike impedes business
Montreal	Good	Fair	Active	Good	Good	Warm weather stimulus to trade
Hamilton	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Fruits light but grain looking well
London	Good	Good	Active	Good	Splendid	More than average yield expected
Ottawa	Good	Good	Active	Good	Fine	Coarse rains will be heavy
St. John	Good	Good	Active	Good	Improved	Crop outlook encouraging
Halifax	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Business very active
Quebec	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Trade active
Calgary	Good	Good	Active	Good	Improved	Recent rains beneficial
Edmonton	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Crops good in Cent. & N. Alberta
Vancouver	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Business very active
Port Arthur	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Shipping moderate
Sault Ste. Marie	Good	Good	Active	Good	Good	Shipping steady