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This day three long years ago Great Britain declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary. It was then believed that the war would be short, six months to a year, in duration; some wiser heads said the war would last eighteen months. It could not last longer was the opinion of financialdom because of financial and economic exhaustion. Three trying years have rolled by, the Allies and Central Powers are fighting more aggressively than ever, and financial and economic exhaustion is nowhere in sight.

The great Kitchener was asked how long the war would last and he answered "three years," and added that if it was ended then the direction and control would have to be passed on to younger men because the present directors would be worn out. This was shortly after war broke out.

Kitchener was asked again early in 1915 when the war would end. He said he didn't know when it would end, but it would begin in May. The month of May ushered in an offensive after a defensive in April and it proved disastrous. British armies were not prepared. The great soldier was mistaken, the British offensive commenced in July, 1916, and except for weather and necessary delays, due to transportation and tactics, has not stopped since.

The Allied plan for 1917 was a continuous pressure upon all fronts as soon as the weather permitted of field activities. The Russian revolution quickly sent all plans askew. The western front must carry the burden of an remain true to her Allies, but another year will roll around at least before Russia will be prepared for a steady offensive.

When will the war end? It cannot end victoriously, it cannot end with a defeated militarism, with a Europe safe for democracy for a considerable period ahead. A prolonged and steady offensive by France and Britain on the west front for the remainder of the year will make costly inroads on German man power and resources, but it cannot prove decisive. By the spring of 1918 Russia will likely be able to instil a degree of discipline into her armies and may be able to make a reasonably serious offensive. By the spring of 1918 the United States will have a fair sized army in the field and will be supplementing the work of the armies of Britain and France. The test of the Central Powers to withstand the assault will be very severe. The end of 1918 will see a weakened Germany but not an exhausted one. Another year of campaign seems likely, 1919 may reasonably be expected to see the end of the war. The above statement precludes the possibility of a "peace by diplomacy" as put forth by Dr. Michaelis, the new Ger-

man chancellor. What could force an inclusive peace is industrial troubles within the Allies and then there would have to be industrial anarchy throughout the allied countries. The problem of government in the waging of war must take increasing cognizance of the industrial situation. The industrial ills must be treated as soon as their symptoms appear. What is so disconcerting, if not alarming, at the present time is the fact that, so far as the British Empire is concerned, industrial unrest is permitted to gather force before the government attempts usually in a blundering way to apply remedies.

But if the war is to last until the year 1919, perhaps late in the year, what must be the attitude of Canadian business and enterprise, and also of British Columbia in particular, toward winning the war?

Grave problems present themselves to the people and government of Canada. The first great problem is to allay the seething unrest among the laboring and middle classes. The first cause is the ever increasing cost of living, and the second is the deep seated idea that labor is not getting a square deal.

While a rise in the price of commodities is natural, the people have an idea that the excessive rise is not natural nor warranted in the circumstances. The price between what the producer receives and the consumer is required to give, is, in the opinion of the people of Canada, entirely too wide. Some are believed to be getting an inordinate profit, particularly in food products, out of the transaction.

Would not complete price-fixing by the government completely adjust this matter? If not, then the government will have to consider going into the business monopoly of buying all food and essential products and selling them to the consumer.

The second cause, that of the belief that labor is not getting its just profit, can be handled in perhaps two ways: education and taxation. By education, we mean the presenting to thinking labor (if labor won't think we have got to make him) of the balance sheet of profit and loss of industry and enterprise. If the profit and loss statement cannot bear the light of day because of extraordinary profit, then an adjustment with labor is necessary if industrial revolution is to be averted. The solution of large profit is large taxes. If labor were persuaded that large profit was being absorbed in heavy taxation so that the ultimate yield to capital would be moderate and to the mind of labor reasonable, then perhaps labor would be satisfied.

These problems, great as they are, must be faced and handled by the statesmanship of Canada, and not made the football of party politics. But an even greater problem affecting the eligible conscript and the man already in khaki presents itself.

The eligible conscript and the soldier argues that he must go to fight for his country. In doing so he makes a sacrifice knowingly or unknowingly. He must face all inconveniences and privations of soldiering; he must face the probability of being wounded or disabled by sickness and being rendered unfit for industrial service when he returns from the field of battle. He must face the possibility of that which he holds most dear—life. What can recompense him for the loss of life? What can recompense him for enduring permanent disablement? Must not those that remain at home offer some compensatory sacrifice? Instead, he sees the stay-at-home reaping great prosperity and capital enjoying excessive returns. This appeals to him as gross injustice, and he is gradually turned into a restless agitator for the subversion of the existing order. Patriotism in the old sense is no longer existent or existent only in a very limited degree. What is to be done, we cannot venture an opinion. Capital for its own protection and preservation must work out a solution. Canada and British Columbia have some giant problems to work out.