

amounted to \$835,950,019. In the House of Commons, Sir Robert Borden estimated that Canada's disbursements for war during the present year would amount to another \$516,000,000, making a total of over \$1,300,000,000. These amounts of money while not to be considered as "costs" in comparison with the loss of life, ought to be regarded as a real cause for serious thinking on the part of the tax-paying public of this country. When, to the interest charges on actual current war expenditure, is added the cost of maintaining soldiers' pensions and supporting thousands of men who will never be able to care for themselves, the annual obligation upon Canada will far exceed in money the total amount of our income from revenue before 1914. Do the people, the taxpayers who will have to carry that responsibility, realize fully the extent of this future problem of indebtedness? If so, the government of the day would not wait a moment to introduce still more rigid measures of taxation than have been already imposed.

It is not too much to say that the revenue of the Dominion could be increased very materially without causing undue hardship, through a more thorough and systematic application of the direct tax on incomes. It will certainly become necessary to do this, if Canada proposes to shoulder and carry alone, her increasing financial obligations. It will also become necessary to enforce economy to a greater extent in the administration of government work. The figures showing the cost of floating the Victory Loan last autumn have just been published, showing that five million dollars, or one-and-a-quarter per cent. of the total issue, was spent in raising money from ourselves. That, for example, was almost inexcusable. It is not sufficient to say that after the war this country will be all right; that Canada is a young country, potentially wealthy and susceptible to rapid development and quick recovery. More definite and concrete planning than that will have to be done if our burdens are to be borne satisfactorily. The whole question of production in relation to taxation must be carefully thought out and examined, with a view to finding entirely new and increased sources of revenue. The hard problem of finding more of the right kind of men and women for settlement in Canada is also presented. These things will only be settled as they ought to be, by the careful, organized study of the people who are here now.

### Formalin Scare Groundless

An unfortunate report that the stores of formaldehyde or formalin, for the treatment of seed grain had been seriously tampered with by enemy agents was spread abroad recently. It started in Alberta. The supposition was that the effect of the formalin was not only lost but the germinat-

ing power of the grain itself was largely destroyed. Tests carried on by both the Alberta Department of Agriculture and Professor Galbraith of the Manitoba Agricultural College prove this report to have been entirely groundless. The formalin is alright and farmers should not hesitate to use it. If there was ever any enemy design in this its purpose was to scare farmers out of using the treatment and the wholesale publication of the report must have had that effect on many. Read Prof. Galbraith's report in this issue and be sure to treat the rest of the grain you sow this spring with formalin.

### Carvell Hits Patronage

The recent tabling in the House of Commons of certain correspondence which passed between Hon. F. B. Carvell, Minister of Public Works and A. E. Fripp, senior member of the House of Commons for Ottawa, dealing with a concrete instance of patronage, revealed an admirable point of view on the part, at least, of one federal minister. One of Mr. Fripp's letters, written last autumn just before the new Union Government had taken office, asked that a firm of contractors in Ottawa be placed on the patronage list. In reply, Mr. Carvell wrote: "Your friends will have the opportunity of tendering on any work coming within their line, but so far as this department is concerned, there will be no patronage list in the future." This note of positive decision ran throughout the whole file of letters which were sent from the Public Works department to Mr. Fripp, who in one of his concluding letters confided to the minister that: "The people of Ottawa have lived on patronage for 50 years, and it will require some tact to eradicate the practise."

People in other parts of Canada than Ottawa have also lived upon patronage for 50 years, or, at least, for the greater part of that period, and we are sure that the sort of tact that is required to uproot the system stem and branch, is the plain-spoken, unadorned variety which Mr. Carvell seems to be employing. Let the provincial governments take the same determined attitude as that adopted by the Department of Public Works at Ottawa to-day, and Canada will soon become a country about which an honest citizen can truly boast.

### The Y.M.C.A. Appeal

Next to the work of the Red Cross organization, no greater humanitarian service has been done in the war than that performed by the Y.M.C.A. At home, in Canada, in England and at the front—in all the military camps and right up to the very trenches themselves—the helping hand of the Y.M.C.A. man has been extended to the soldier, creating for him an atmosphere of home which the lads in khaki have learned to appreciate and openly acknowledge. The highest praise from the military authorities and statesmen, and decorations by the King, have been conferred upon gallant workers of the "Y" who on many occasions have risked their lives in giving much-needed succor to wounded men in the trenches.

In France, the Y.M.C.A. has 121 military secretaries and 900 assistants. These men in addition to helping the wounded soldiers, provide all sorts of athletic and musical entertainment for the battalions when they are out of the trenches. They supply letter paper and postcards and writing equipment, with the result that since the war began,

500,000,000 letters and postal-card messages have been written and posted in Y.M.C.A. tents, huts and dug-outs. In short, the Y.M.C.A. has been a great, friendly agent acting as the medium between the folk at home and the boys in the army.

This organization which extends its service for Canada from Vancouver to Europe and back again to the military hospitals, is preparing to ask the people of the Dominion for \$2,250,000 to aid in the maintenance of its war work. The Red Triangle Fund which is the financial support of the Y.M.C.A. in its military activities, will make its first nationwide appeal to Canada on May 7, 8, and 9, and no cause was ever more deserving of support from Canadians. The Guide will be glad to secure and acknowledge all donations to this fund and will forward them to the proper authorities. Make all checks payable to The Grain Growers' Guide.

The Kaiser laid bare his hand when he announced that he would keep Belgium and Northern France as part of the spoils of war.



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