

United States is sending five members suggests that this is likely to be the number allowed. If that be the case, how can the overseas Dominions expect to be represented? There are five Dominions—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland. India has to be counted as at least of equal rank with the others. A Colonial Office representative is supposed to act for the Crown Colonies. Thus it would require seven places at the Conference table to give the overseas possessions representation. How, then, would the British Government be represented? A glance at this aspect of the subject must show that to give the Dominions, India and Colonies representation at the Conference table may prove quite impossible.

It has been suggested that to meet these difficulties the representatives of these overseas possessions might agree to select one of their number to act for all, and this is followed by the assumption that in that case, as a matter of course, Canada, as the largest Dominion, must have a preference over all the others. If such an arrangement could be agreed to, it would be a happy solution of the difficulty, which we are sure the British Government would welcome. But we fear that there is no prospect of such a happy adjustment of rival claims. South Africa would hardly consent to be represented by Sir Robert Borden. Gen. Smuts, the South African statesman, has spent the last couple of years in London to enable him to be in constant attendance at the meetings of the War Cabinet. General Botha, with a record of splendid service as a military commander and as Premier, is on his way to England. It is hardly probable that these gentlemen would stand aside to allow Sir Robert Borden to be chosen. Premier Massey, of New Zealand, is no more likely to stand aside. Premier Hughes, of Australia, who has already complained that he was not consulted concerning the terms of the armistice, would not for one moment agree to waive his claim. Botha, Smuts, Massey and Hughes all could claim, with much force, that their Dominions had important interests at stake in relation to the captured German colonies, while Canada has no interest that is not common to the Empire generally. A recognition of Canada's priority is hardly to be expected in these circumstances.

If the situation admits of one of Canada's representatives having a seat at the Conference table, it will be a compliment to Canada, even though this Dominion has no special interests requiring to be guarded. But we shall not be surprised if, in view of all the difficulties in the way, the conclusion is reached that none of the Dominions can be directly represented at the Conference, and that all will have to be content to be represented by the members of the British Government, who will sit at the table as spokesmen for the whole British Empire.

Acknowledging Britain's Part

THE Baltimore editor who gathered the gossip of irresponsible persons in Paris and magnified it into wide and deep hostility to America, found many of his fellow citizens ready to accept his story; but fortunately, the responsible men have rejected it and have given evidence that the best of feeling prevails between the men who represent the Allies in Europe. The quality of boastfulness may be found in some degree in every nation. Our American neighbors would not claim to be wholly free from it. They have a big country, with a big population, doing many big

things, and if sometimes there is found a tendency to brag about them we can all admit that they have much that they can justly boast of. They have done wonders in their participation in the war. Coming late into the great conflict, late for reasons which we have always regarded as sound, they have made amends for delay by the vigor with which they carried out the part assigned to them. Peace having come not very long after the entrance of America into the war, it is hardly surprising that some of the American writers and speakers should place a very high value on the part taken by their countrymen. A great part certainly it was. Britons, Frenchmen and Italians need not hesitate to acknowledge that the moral and material support of America, coming at a critical stage of the war, greatly helped to give the final blow to the Germans, and brought victory much earlier than it would otherwise have come. Still, it is well to remember all that was done before America came in. Happily there is the very fullest recognition of this by the most responsible Americans. From many quarters in the United States come the most generous acknowledgments of the tremendous part taken by Great Britain. One of the most striking articles appeared in the Philadelphia Ledger, a very eminent journal. We quote a few passages:

"England was no more a military nation than America when the war began. She learned to fight by fighting—and dying. We are profiting to-day by her tragic experiences. Thousands of American lads will come home to us alive and whole because thousands of our blood-brothers from the British Isles have been killed and mutilated—and have taught us how to escape. . . . We are proud of our own swift shipment of troops to the firing line during this last summer; but well over half of them went in British bottoms, convoyed by British warships.

"Then where have the British fought? The Suez was in danger. It was the British that protected it. There were German naval stations in the Pacific. The British mopped them up. Russia asked help by way of the Dardanelles. The British tried to give it. Intervention was needed on the Tigris. The British supplied it. The British Colonial troops freed Africa from the Germans. British diplomacy steadied the Moslem world when the Turkish Sultan and his Sheik-ul-Islam proclaimed a holy war. The British to-day are moving south from Archangel and are at Vladivostok.

"But no one, save the German intelligence department, has known or ever will know half of what Britain has done. When it comes to self-laudation the British are the poorest advertisers the world has ever seen."

No less cordial is the testimony to Britain's part given in the National Geographic Magazine by Mr. Judson C. Welliver, a New York journalist. It was not only in her contribution to the physical forces of the war that Britain did so well. Britain's moral leadership, Mr. Welliver shows, was of the greatest value. "Britain had without hesitation entered a war to which the enemy had not challenged her, because she believed that she was doing right. For that she furnished the moral leadership, the instant courage, the true perception of underlying issues, Britain is entitled to recognition as the force which made this war, from its first gun, essentially a contest between systems rather than States, between ideals, not alliances; between good morals and bad morals. It was the confidence of the nations,

small and great, near and far, in this moral leadership that saved the world!"

Ready to do honor to Britain's part is ex-President Roosevelt, who reminds President Wilson that when he crosses the Atlantic to the Peace Conference his mission should be to co-operate with Great Britain, and to maintain the power of the British Navy. And on Saturday last, all over the United States, "Britain's Day" was celebrated and honored by millions. When some enthusiastic American, telling truthfully enough of the important part played by his own countrymen, forgets to take account of what others have done, we shall do well to remember that the best type of American citizens bear testimony to the glorious service that Britain has done for the world in the war that is now closing.

The War Savings Stamps

THE Minister of Finance, having asked for \$300,000,000, with a suggestion that \$500,000,000 would be welcome, and having received through the Victory Loan subscriptions to the amount of \$676,000,000, might be expected to be satisfied. But he is to be in the field again for a loan, this time in the form of a campaign to obtain the small savings of the people. The arrangements for a campaign of this kind have been in progress for some time, and the scheme is now launched. There will be no lack of opportunity to use the money in the early future. But apart from the need of the Government, the scheme is one for the encouragement of thrift that can well be commended to the public. The smallest bond in the Victory Loan is \$50. The War Savings Stamps are designed to allow persons to contribute to the war chest in sums of twenty-five cents and upwards. The calculations are made to give the investor of the small sums a little more than 4½ per cent. per annum, compounded half yearly. The Government loans have led many people to cultivate the habit of saving. The arrangement now proposed for utilizing smaller sums will undoubtedly have the same good effect. Similar plans have been successfully employed in Great Britain and the United States.

A Worthy Project

A CITIZEN of Toronto, who has had experience in the hotel business, is promoting a scheme which gives promise of supplying a want that is felt in most of our large cities. Women and girls are, in ever increasing numbers, coming into the cities to earn their living. How to find decent accommodation for them at moderate rates is one of the greatest of our city problems. The Torontonians believe that a hotel can be constructed to give a girl a good room with running water at \$4 per week, or \$5 and \$6 for one with private bath attached. A laundry under proper supervision would allow the girls to do their own washing, and a cafeteria would supply them with good food at low rates. The whole establishment would be conducted under conditions that would give the girls comfortable homes. It is believed that such a hotel, carried on under the authority of ladies who would be interested in the work, would be remunerative. There would be no color of charity in its management. It would be a pure business enterprise, paying its way from the beginning.

If this Toronto project proves successful it will be an example that should be followed by others. In all our large cities there is urgent need of just such accommodation as is proposed in Toronto.

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