

# The Journal of Commerce

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## The Journal of Commerce

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### Special Articles

FINANCING FURTHER MUNITION ORDERS,  
By H. W. Eckhardt.

THE GREAT WAR.

THE WORLD'S GOLD PRODUCTION.

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## The National Service Cards

THE cards designed by the National Service Commission to obtain information respecting the man-power of the Dominion are now being distributed through the agency of the Post Office. It is necessary that all men between the ages of 16 and 65 years shall furnish the desired information by filling in the answers to the questions and mailing the cards to the Director of National Service at Ottawa. The questions have been framed with a view to ascertaining every man's nationality, his physical condition, his present occupation, and his willingness to engage if required in any other line of service that may be deemed more useful for the purpose of prosecuting the war. How far and in what manner the information so furnished may be acted on must, of course, be a question for consideration by the authorities at a later stage. It is, however, very important that there should be a full and reliable record of the number of men available. There should, therefore, be hearty co-operation in the distribution of the cards and in the supplying of the information asked for.

## Mr. Lloyd George's Speech

THE speech of Mr. Lloyd George, setting forth the policy of his Government in relation to the war, was, in the main, exactly what everybody expected. It was a firm reiteration of the righteousness of Britain's course, an emphatic refusal to regard the so-called peace proposals of the German Chancellor as entitled to serious consideration, and a vigorous declaration of the determination of Great Britain and the Entente Allies to prosecute the war until the military domination which Germany and her partners have attempted is no longer a menace to the world. There can be no doubt that the new Prime Minister gave expression to the general feeling of the British people, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the Empire. Very gratifying too were the speeches of Mr. Asquith, who remains the leader of the Liberal party, and Sir John Simon, the brilliant young statesman who left the Asquith Cabinet because of a difference concerning the question of conscription. Sir John is looked upon as the chief spokesman of a group of members who are particularly hostile to everything in the way of jingoism. His opponents, no doubt, would call him a pacifist and perhaps he would not object to the name. But he realizes as clearly as Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George that in the present stage of the war there can be no peace with Germany. The unanimity of the British Parliament in the determination to prosecute

the war must satisfy the Germans that their hopes of a premature peace are doomed to disappointment.

## The President's Latest Note

THE latest "note" of President Wilson has elicited perhaps more extensive comment than any of his previous documents concerning the war. Among British people generally it has been regarded as, to say the least, inopportune. Realizing as nearly all of them do that the present attitude of Germany makes peace now or in the early future an impossibility, most Britons are inclined to regard Mr. Wilson's move as meddlesome and entirely useless. Many are ready to assume that his note is intended to be an aid to Germany. For this view, however, there seems to be no good ground. There is every reason to believe that, while the way chosen by him was the wrong one, his note was dictated solely by a desire to do something towards finding a basis for negotiations leading to that peace which, if it came, would be the greatest blessing to the world. The passage in the note which states that the objects of the belligerents on both sides are the same has naturally called forth indignant protest. Surely, from our point of view, and from the standpoint of all fair minded men who undertake to judge, the objects with which Britain and her Allies entered the war are not the same as the objects which the German Kaiser and his militarists had in view when, in flagrant violation of their own treaty, they invaded peaceful Belgium. But we must remember that Mr. Wilson was not undertaking to pass judgment on the conduct of any of the belligerents. He was endeavoring, not in the very wisest way, to induce all the nations concerned to meet him in his effort towards peace. If his move was to find any response from the belligerents he must approach them all in a manner that would not antagonize any of them. In a sense all of them claim to have the same objects in view. For the Kaiser is loud in his declarations that his whole policy aims at the glory of God and the good of mankind. We of the British side can properly treat the Kaiser's pretensions in this respect as blasphemy and hypocrisy. But while Mr. Wilson probably feels as we do on that question he is not as free as British subjects are to express his mind; he is officially bound to hold a strictly neutral position, and particularly to do so in a document which invites friendly co-operation from all the belligerents. Hence that passage in his note which grates most harshly on the ears of all friends of the Entente Allies should not be taken as designed to express any view adverse to us or favorable to our enemies. For