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For all time, 1918 will stand out as the year of the great deliverance. There are no short cuts to the millennium, as some soft-hearted and also soft-headed people will discover before very long. But it can at least be felt that during the past twelve months a very definite step has been achieved in the securing of the necessary freedom and liberty for mankind to develop itself to the limit of its capabilities. The gravest threat to its existence that modern civilization has yet encountered has been overwhelmingly defeated. Whether the freedom that has been thus secured, necessarily by blood and sweat and tears, will be used or abused, remains one of the problems of the Future. Eternal vigilance remains the price of freedom in the new world as in the far-off days before 1914, and it would be foolish to expect any abrogation of that law. Already in many lands there is looming up the new menace to freedom of Bolshevism, and it will need all the sanity of the race at large to ward off that menace.

In Canadian history, the year which has just closed will certainly rank as the most brilliant since the union of the scattered British North American colonies made Canada a reality. Our increasing concentration upon the war at home backed up an army in the field whose magnificent record will make the most glorious page in Canadian annals. In the realms of finance and economics, with which this journal is especially associated, new efforts have been made with a success, the real significance of which is perhaps even yet scarcely appreciated. The second Victory Loan with its subscription of almost \$700,000,000 was a fitting crowning to four years of financial effort, which have been the more impressive, in that, judged by all pre-war standards, they could not possibly have been anticipated.

But if 1918 marked an end, it marked also a beginning, and on the threshold of the new year, and in a country like Canada, with all its future before it, it is natural to be concerned more with the future than the past, to be concerned only with the past in so far as its experience is a guide to the problems of the future. A year ago, the problems with which Canada was faced were those of greater concentration upon war service; to-day an entirely new set of problems, even more thorny and difficult of solution than those of war service, demand attention. In the light of experience, they can be attacked with confidence; nevertheless, the complexity and gravity of these problems must not be underestimated. The matter of demobilisation and the settlement of returned soldiers naturally looms uppermost in many peoples' minds at the moment.

Apparently, demobilisation will be in full swing by the early spring, and men will be pressing home by thousands for care, supervision and settlement in their new occupations. Yet demobilisation, for all its present day importance, is a temporary problem. It is only a question of time, and if sufficient energy be displayed, not necessarily a very long time, before our armies are re-absorbed into the peaceful industries from which they went to war. The really important problems of this present day are those concerned with the maintenance of a sound, social policy, a policy which means the full dinner pail for every worker, the chance to live decently not to merely exist, the opportunity to enjoy, if there is the willingness to enjoy, the finer things of life. This entails not merely industrial and commercial development, it means also decent housing, better opportunities for all. Sound education, and a keener appreciation of public and civic responsibilities. Only by a thorough-going sensible policy of this kind will it be possible to keep at bay the new menace of Bolshevism, with its anarchistic tyranny.

If the exercise of the journalistic prerogative of prophecy during the days of the war was folly, it is scarcely less venturesome under new circumstances. But some directions which it seems that Canadian economic developments are not unlikely to take during 1919 may be briefly indicated. There are already signs that the coming twelve-months will mark the incongruities of a new period of development in Canadian banking. In the years previous to the war, there was a period of great domestic banking development, and during the war there has been a great expansion in connection with the bank's national services. The new period, at whose threshold we are now standing it appears, will be one of the development of foreign connections, and it would not be surprising if before the New Year is over, more than one Canadian bank was found established in South America and the Far East as well as on the Continent of Europe. Some of the preliminary steps in this connection have been already announced. Again it seems likely that while there will be necessarily this year a considerable upheaval in Canadian industrial activity as a whole, and a vast amount of change from one kind of production to another, that activity will be maintained at a high level, through Governmental orders in many lines. The active steps which have been taken to ensure Canadian industry securing its fair share of re-construction work are beginning to bear fruit, while the demand for food for the half-starved populations of many parts of Europe, ensures the sale at remunerative prices of every ounce

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