

# EDITORIAL

## \$4 to \$15 a Day

SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S Labor Day utterances are among the soundest and finest things he has ever said. The Premier makes a strong point of the necessity for better terms between capital and labor as a result of the war. Baron Shaughnessy, speaking in the same place a week earlier, asked why the two wings of our national army could not substitute maximum for minimum concessions.

So far, so good. But—Capital and Labor will have to be redefined before we can have industrial harmony, or even common honesty. The Premier's appeal to labor to stay with the game till the war is won is not at all original. It was made nearly four years ago by Lloyd George, reiterated by President Wilson, and put into acres of sermons for advertisements. Labor knows as much about its duty as it needs to know—or it knows nothing. There is a large sign on a Toronto street advertising for labor at munitions—"Wages from \$4 to \$15 a day." We do not know what class or what percentage of labor would get \$15 a day at munitions. But suppose you average the wages of that plant at \$4 plus \$15 divided by two. You get \$9.50 a day, which is about \$50 a week. Is this a high estimate? Probably not. If not is it necessary to preach to labor about its duty when to quit labor would mean such a sacrifice?

## Where does the Money Come From?

WHERE does the money come from? In munitions alone since the Imperial Munitions Board was organized over \$1,000,000,000 has been paid out in Canada. How much of it for labor? We are not told. But more than half. Munitions sets the pace. Other industries follow. Wages in that class of labor has advanced quite as rapidly as the cost of living. Munitions have depleted other industries of labor. That was necessary. We do not complain. But the money to keep on paying these wages must come from somewhere. We do not borrow it abroad. We do not produce it by economic miracles. The only source of such money is the people. The only way to get it from the people is by Victory Loans. We are not preaching on behalf of Victory Loans. There again argument is scarcely necessary. This country would be as foolish not to subscribe to the loans as labor would be to strike under present conditions of wages on munitions. What we should like either the Chairman of the Imperial Munitions Board or the President of the Industrial Reconstruction Association to tell us is—how Canada can return to its peace industries without dislocating the whole wages system built up by the war?

## A New Alignment

IN any case, a revolution has begun. We shall never need a red-rag parade to celebrate that. Labor is beginning to understand. The people also. Labor is no arbitrary sheep and goats classification. The man who sits at a desk is as much a labor man as the man in overalls. He is entitled to as much consideration. He produces something necessary or he should be drafted away to a better job. Capital is not all owned by the man who gets dividends. Every man's power to do productive work is his capital. Wealth is created by nothing but labor working on raw materials under competent direction in the interest of—whom? The nabob on the hill? The labor union? No! There is properly no wealth that does not belong to the community. Coal, iron, copper, nickel, wheat, wool, cotton—fill a bluebook with the list and they are all the property of the people. Not the property of commercial nabobs of labor as defined by labor unions. What right has so-called capital to make huge profits from labor employed on these things? Baron Shaughnessy says sensibly that labor and capital, instead of conceding

each to the other the least possible, must give way to the new principle where each concedes the maximum. But is it a matter of concession on either side? If raw material belongs to the people and labor belongs to all of us, then it is the business of the people to get the profits of labor employed upon raw material either in manufacture or distribution. Taxing excess profits is a mischievous half-way measure. There should be no excess profits to tax.

## The World and the Empire

JUDGING from some symptoms the sun has begun to set on some people's ideas of the British Empire. The greatest political coincidence in all history was begun by soldiers and explorers, carried on by commerce, bound together by migration of peoples, vitalized by the interchange of ideas—converted into a passionate unity by the greatest of all wars; and now that we have got round the circle the experts in Empire propose to keep the Empire on the map by conferences which forever resolve themselves into tariffs and elections. The theory seems to be that if you admit the essential democracy of the Empire by the extension of the principle of Home Rule you must enact a chain of world tariffs to hold the thing together. The Empire experts say that the Empire is practically self-supporting. They argue as though it proposes to shut the rest of the world out. That way lies a heap of disillusionment. The British Empire is awkwardly sprawled all over the world for the express purpose of letting the world in. The Admiral may thump the Round Table and show that the coaling stations of the British Navy are the boundaries of a political cosmos that can sustain itself on its own trade and its own ideas. But unless he can shift the seat of Empire nearer its geographical centre he will have trouble in proving that it is anything but a glorious experiment in overseas democracy.

## The Book-keepers of Peace

PEACE when it comes will be the worst pill Germany has ever had to take. The Kaiser crowd will not like the kind of peace they are going to get. They have tried often enough to put over one or another "just as good," because they thought the Allies were as easy as they seemed to be in 1914 and after. For war they were organized. It would have taken a miracle to keep them out of it. They expected the war to make them ready for peace. But the longer the war goes the more unpalatable peace seems to the German. He avoids peace as a man does his own funeral. He prefers war. In war he can always make a show. War feeds his game of bluff. There is no exact accounting in war. You just go ahead and smash or get smashed regardless of bookkeeping. But peace will keep books with the Kaiser, and he hates that. In proportion as this is the most terrible war ever known so will the books

of peace be the most awful accounts that ever faced a nation. The world's bookkeepers have been busy on these accounts for a long while. Germany, of course, will plead bankruptcy, shew the whites of his eyes and the palms of his hands and say, "What would you?" But the Bookkeepers know better. Germany is a mine of wealth, much of it robbed from other nations, and most of it unravaged by war. There will be a receivership. What is now Germany's on the map will be taken into the accounting. And the price of peace will be awful. It will be wrung from Germany in cold blood. The child born yesterday will not live to see Germany emerge from the burdens imposed by that peace.

## De-Prussianize Germany

THE Premier of this country has decided that Germany is not fit to associate with the rest of the world. Viscount Grey, formerly Foreign Minister of Great Britain, and Mr. Roberts, British Minister of Labor, would include Germany in the League of Nations. France objects. And France's objection is the biggest condemnation of Germany. You might as well ask a woman to be a friend of the man who butchered her babies. Germany is on a moral plane that makes it unfit to be a partner of other peoples. What are we to do with it? First of all beat it so badly that we can do anything we like and be safe. If all that remains of a Prussianized Germany is a number of more or less confederated States of which Prussia is no longer the tyrant, and if Germany is called to pay every copper of her account with the Allies, we shall not need to worry about Germany's status in the League or out of it.

## Old Contemptibles and the League

MUCH is being said about the League of Nations. Some say that Mr. Taft got the idea and that President Wilson gave it popular dimensions. We are of the opinion that the League was born when Britain's Old Contemptibles struck into France in 1914, and when Canada's First Contingent crossed the Atlantic in October of that same year. Britain was bound by the League of Nations to protect little nations—which is precisely one of the main objects in the programme of the League as defined by Dr. Wilson. She put her obligation into action. There can be no League greater than the sentiment that put Britain's then little, now mighty army alongside the French to beat back the enemy of free nations. There was then no necessity for definitions. The obligation was all, and it was instinctive. We reckon that when the formal League of Nations follows the great Peace, the instinctive ideas of liberty contained in that little army and great navy, flung in the Kaiser's face, will be the dominant ideas—because it was an action built upon sacrifice. Had Britain stayed out, where now would be any dream of a League of Nations? And unless the spirit of sacrifice and something bigger than Big Business permeates the League of Nations it may as well die before it is old enough to make any trouble. Nations cannot operate the world satisfactorily on a big-business principle. If a trade war is to follow in the wake of peace, then in heaven's name let us all keep on fighting until we realize that there is something bigger for nations than trade.

NOW that the front line of to-day becomes the background of to-morrow the sensible thing to do is to try the Rhine. This map shows the old Hindenburg Line, dotted on the left; the Rhine to the right. The Allied armies will not be there for a long while yet. Some people say never; because the war will be over sooner. We make no predictions.

