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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1916.

Special Articles

British Industry in War-Time.
By Prof. W. W. Swanson.

British Newspapers and the Paper Shortage.
By W. E. Dowding.

The Next Internal Loan.
By H. M. P. Eckardt.

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No Election

THE best public opinion of the country will, we believe, receive with satisfaction the news that both Houses of the Canadian Parliament have unanimously adopted the Address to His Majesty praying for Imperial legislation to extend the Canadian Parliamentary term for one year. The passage of the Address is a virtual settlement of the question, for, while it is pretty certain that in such a matter the Imperial Parliament under different conditions would not take the proposed action, there is no reason to doubt that a temporary amendment of the British North America Act, unanimously recommended by the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, will be readily enacted. Some few people, wedded to the letter of the constitution, and properly sensitive about amendments not urgently called for, have been unwilling to approve of this very important departure; but the exceptional conditions should lead them to the conclusion that the holding of a general election at this time is most undesirable. We all know that such elections, either Dominion or Provincial, are always attended by keen party strife which exercises a disturbing influence upon business, and indeed upon nearly all the affairs of the people. No one who has observed the progress of political campaigns can seriously doubt that a general election this year would divert the attention of our people from the great service, in which they are so happily united, of supporting the various movements necessary for the prosecution of the war. Any honorable arrangement to avoid such disturbing events should be welcomed by the public.

The Ottawa Fire

IT is doubtful if there is much to be learned that is not already known to the public concerning the fire which destroyed the Parliament Building at Ottawa. Nevertheless it is well that there should be the most rigid investigation. The appointment of Judge McTavish and Mr. R. A. Pringle, K.C., to conduct the inquiry, gives assurance that whatever can be learned will be laid before the public. If it is only to show on official authority the unfounded character of many of the reports circulated at Ottawa, the inquiry will serve a good purpose.

Fires, unfortunately, are not so rare that the breaking out of one anywhere need be a cause for surprise. The thing that seemed most remarkable in the case of the Ottawa disaster was the great rapidity with which the fire spread. Within a very few moments of the discovery of the fire the reading room was a mass of flames, and the whole building filled with suffocating smoke. Surely, it has been

said, no ordinary fire could have spread in that way; surely there must have been a secret sprinkling of chemicals of some sort—just the kind of thing to be expected from the German enemy—which made the premises so inflammable. But there is a feature of the case that has received little notice. In the portion of the basement beneath the reading room there is a system of air supply for the various rooms in which fans are used. Once a fire started, from whatever cause, in the basement or in the reading room, the currents of air would easily account for the rapid spread of the flames. Thus, while it is still quite possible that the fire had its origin in incendiaryism, the quickness of its spread is not necessarily an evidence that such was the case.

A Lesson to Germany

THERE are many people in Great Britain who, in their natural resentment of the horrors of the German methods of warfare, demand that Britain shall retaliate by the adoption of similar methods, or, indeed, of any means by which Germany or the Germans can be assailed. One can easily understand this feeling. Indeed, on first thoughts one is disposed to agree with it. Fortunately, however, there are calm and cool men like Viscount Bryce to raise their voices against the adoption, even in the way of retaliation, by Britain of the system of warfare which has made Germany hated by the civilized world. England has ever stood, in peace and in war, for the principles of freedom and humanity. She cannot afford, even under the provocation that is offered, to abandon those principles and adopt the brutal Prussian system of warfare. Germany will in the end pay heavily for the reputation she enjoys for inhumanity and brutality. Already those Germans who are not wholly lost to all sense of right must see that their countrymen are paying this penalty. The report of Captain Martin, of the British steam trawler King Stephen, recently made public, must give such Germans much food for thought.

One of the great Zeppelin air ships was wrecked and fell into the North Sea, but remained afloat for some time. The King Stephen approached and found as many as thirty persons on the wreck. Naturally the first thought of the British crew was to rescue the men in distress. The fishermen, apparently, at that moment, had no feeling of anger towards the Germans. They wanted to save them, enemies though they were. But they remembered that these men, whose lives were in great peril, were part of an army which waged war without the slightest regard to honor, good faith, or humanity. The little crew of the trawler, nine in number, were