

retarded by the discount which the incoming settler must accept on the transfer of his money. If present conditions are to continue it is apparent that not only must we be prepared to accept the United States as our one and only creditor, but we must look to it for our immigration and for the money to carry on the development which immigration necessitates. This prospect raises a question of very serious concern to all Canadians. The Empire pooled its forces to win the War; why not to win Peace?

SELF-PRESERVATION THE FIRST LAW OF NATIONS.

Self-preservation is the first law of Nations as well as nature. In the present world upheaval it is the first duty of every country to take care of itself. Sentiment can no longer be permitted to govern. We are now eating the dessert course at the present gorgeous banquet of Expansion and Inflation and are about to be called on to pay the bill. It is madness to think that such a reckless feast can last indefinitely. We must get down to a cold realization of the situation and prepare to meet it. It has been said that Canada can solve her war problems easier than any other country in the War. With our great undeveloped natural resources, we are, so far as raw materials are concerned, undoubtedly in a more advantageous position than any of our allies, but our wealth, so to speak, is at the grass roots. To "cash in" we must have increased production, which means more population. Immigration and production, that is our problem. Undeveloped natural resources as they stand with us to-day cannot be "cashed" at the Bank.

PUT OUR HOUSE IN ORDER.

There is little assurance that the United States will rise to the occasion and discharge her duty to civilization by joining with the other nations in a sound business effort to maintain international trade. On the contrary the lack of understanding and the indifference of a great part of the American people to anything European, complicated as it is by a growing hostility to Europe (particularly to Great Britain) and with a presidential campaign under way, it is more than probable that America will fail to do anything material towards the relief of Europe this year. A continuance of trade under present conditions in Europe is unthinkable and at best a bold speculation which will soon become an impossible gamble. With such a rough road in prospect, should not our Government at once adjust its "shock absorbers" and get ready to apply the brakes.

RETRENCHMENT THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

There has been repeated urging of individual economy in Canada. Excessive government expenditures have had a great deal to do with our inflation and the falling value of money. So long as the Government fails to live within its income it is useless to admonish the individual to save. The Government must show the way. If Canada is to get through without a crash, retrenchment must be made the order of the day. We must live more within ourselves or our creditors are going to pull us up even shorter than they are doing at the present time. In the state, as in domestic finance, both ends must be made to meet. Public expenditure should be brought to the irreducible minimum. Drastic changes beginning with the ruthless reduction of government departments, bureaus and commissions and the insistence of efficiency in every branch of the Government service, should be put into effect at once. Resolute retrenchment and ruthless economy is the only sound policy. There must be such cutting down or postponement of government appropriations as will bring our expenditures within our revenue. Only by such means can we check the rise in the cost of living, and prepare to weather the storm.

ENFORCED PERSONAL ECONOMY.

Once the Government has set the example, they can insist on the individual getting into line. In these days when the value of money is so little appreciated by the average citizen, the Government might well impress economy on the wasters. It is surprising that in Canada where revenue is so badly needed, we have neglected to make use of the luxury tax (so generally in effect throughout the world) to force economy on our spenders and to compel our people to buy more at home.

LIMIT TO TAXES.

It is evident to the casual observer that there is a limit to the taxes which the business of the country can pay. Taxation in Canada is already near the point at which thrift, business enterprise and new capital for development becomes dangerously impaired. In some of our provinces that limit appears to have been reached. We must pay our War debt, not by taxing our existing business to death, but by developing new sources of wealth.

NO MORE BORROWING.

If the business of the Country is already carrying its full load of taxation and the present rate of expenditure is to continue, it is evident that further borrowing on the part of the Government must occur. Under the conditions we are likely to experience for this year at least, such borrowings will not only add to the present great burdens of the country but also will be disastrous to the credit of Canada. It should be made plain to our legislators that the country will tolerate no more Government loans.

CAN WAR GOVERNMENTS RETRENCH?

Can a War Government, concerned for years only in accomplishment regardless of expense, its officials schooled in the extravagance of War, its departments built up on a War basis, spending unlimited millions without any concern as to how it was obtained (money supplied without question by a patriotic people); can

such a Government effect the retrenchment and economies the present situation demands? Or must it be a new broom to sweep clean? It is nearly a year and a half since the Armistice when this question was first asked, and it still waits for a favorable answer.

NO TIME TO WASTE.

Inaction, timidity and procrastination on the part of our politicians will but confirm the uneasiness of the thousands of Canadians who are to-day living on the narrowest margin in their experience. This is no time for "Mother Hubbard Governments" (covering everything and touching nothing). Popular opinion should not permit our legislators to mark time or wait for something to turn up. The call of the hour is for action.

NEED FOR A CITIZENS' UNION.

Has not the time arrived (in these days of unions) when the great body of Canadians, who know no class distinctions and who have at heart only the best interests of Canada as a whole, should join in a real Citizens' Union so that through organization, consolidation and co-operation, they can make their united voice heard and heeded.

With the world approaching disaster there is urgent need for the active co-operation of all loyal Canadians to save our Dominion from "drifting" into the breakers ahead.

NOTE.—The above article, written by Major General McRae, is by no means optimistic, but it gives the state of affairs in Europe as seen by the writer, who has but recently returned from overseas. Evidently we are riding on the crest of the wave, and from facts stated in the article it is very uncertain what the future will reveal. When countries practically the world over are bankrupt, or on the verge of bankruptcy, the outlook for continued prosperity in this country is not luminous. Canada is undoubtedly in the best position of any of the countries as she has practically unlimited natural resources to develop, the returns from which will assist in meeting the obligations. But before these resources have collateral value they must be developed. The writer emphasizes the fact that in order to avoid a crisis there is great need for retrenchment in expenditure, and for increased production in every line. The conditions set forth in the article should be pondered on by our readers.—Editor.

Ontario Legislature Not Yet Started to Work.

Whether or not it would be fair to criticize the Ontario Government for the fact that the debate on the address has already dragged out for two weeks, is not certain. Legislatures have apparently acquired a pernicious custom of regarding the opening debate of the session as a free for all, wherein members may try out their powers of oratory and spring anything they have no license to spring at any other time. Anything from religion to political hatred seems quite in order, to say nothing of humor, sedition, or remarks leading to international strife. The occasion seems one whereby members endeavor to "get set" for the session and we cannot see the efficiency of any legislative body that requires from two weeks to a month to do it in. It is only just to say that in the present instance the wasteful practice seems to be very much intensified through no particular fault of the Government. Instead of two political parties to take turns at sparring at each other there are now four groups in the House and it is common for representatives of each to take turns in speaking on any debate. So far there have been only ten speeches delivered in five days. The House has actually sat for eight days at the time of writing, but one day was taken up with the opening ceremony and two others given over to routine business such as the introduction of bills. Ten speeches in five days means two speeches per day which would seem to employ a rather extravagant valuation of the contribution made by each member. The House does not sit until three o'clock in the afternoon and so far there have been no night sessions, a fact which will make less pardonable any further extension of the debate, although it must be remembered that so far as the Government is concerned they have had only a very short time to prepare legislation and this must be done thoroughly before the real business of the House can proceed. Moreover, those who are not familiar with the business of legislative bodies may consider that the House should sit earlier than mid-afternoon, but in justice to Governments and members there would seem to be ample reason for the present practice. Ministers of the Crown have the regular business of their departments to attend to; the Cabinet Council must find time for daily meetings; the committees of the House must get their work done so that legislation can be presented to the House at the proper time; and members must have some time during the day to attend to correspondence and look after the work in their constituencies that must be done through the various Ministers or their officials. All this requires time and if members must sit until late hours in the House, especially later on in the session, it is only fair to leave the actual sitting of the House until 3 p.m.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has not much concern for the "political" situation so far as it relates to the ascending of any political group or party in the Province. The Farmers of Ontario at the last election made a strong effort to gain adequate representation for rural constituencies and only the fact that the old parties had lost the confidence of the "people" to a greater extent than was thought for, created the present unexpected form of Government in the Province. As a farmer's Government through force of circumstances we are only

interested in seeing it get a fair chance to prove its ability to equalize and improve conditions as they affect all classes of people in the Province. Class legislation has no place in Ontario and we feel absolutely confident that it has no place in the platform of the farmer. Nothing could be more disadvantageous to his continued progress than to introduce it. At the same time there are so many things that farmers need to secure equalization with other industries that any attempt to secure them will almost surely be regarded as class legislation. The necessity for bitter political struggles would be at least minimized, if not entirely done away with, if the various classes in the country would only get together in a spirit of toleration. Canadians now are in a reckless mood, riding on a strong tide of inflated prosperity, but at the same time we are fearful of the general unrest which few can understand.

THE PREMIER'S MAIDEN SPEECH.

When Premier Drury rose to speak on Tuesday afternoon, March 16, everyone was wondering how he would do at his first attempt. He doubtless felt the curiosity and interest that centred about him on that occasion, but gave no sign of nervousness except for a few brief moments until he got his stride and became warmed up to the subject matter of his remarks. He hoped it would be possible to strengthen the legislation of the Province through the co-operation of all the members of the House and believed that the people now desire discussions of a higher order than has often been the case, previously. He also believed that the people want to be taken more fully into the confidence of the legislators. For this reason his Government would adopt a policy of open diplomacy between political parties in order that secretiveness would be minimized and the seething thoughts of the people controlled more easily by inviting a feeling of confidence in Governments. Personally he would favor making the Government the executive of the legislature and leave to the members in the House as much as possible of the legislative function. This Government would be willing to accept full responsibility for all measures they introduced but he wanted suggestions and free discussions from all sides of the chamber. His hope was, by building up precedent upon precedent if necessary, to abolish caucus rule and bring to bear upon the affairs of the Province, the legislative ability of the whole House. In this respect, however, he felt that Messrs. Dewar and Ferguson gave him little encouragement. He thought with the liberal leader that Liberal platforms in the past have been good, but that they had been built to get in on and not to ride on. In other words the element of performance has been lacking. If he was on the same platform with Mr. Dewar in 1911 the latter was there because his party was there, while he himself was there because he had taken the same ground before any party had taken it up.

As regards his stand on conscription in 1917 he felt that the country was committed to conscription before the election and that Canada could not withdraw her promise. Moreover, he was surprised and not pleased that his candidature in North Simcoe was endorsed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with whom he could not agree. He stated that the U. F. O. movement had not sprung from an anti-conscription platform, because the roots of the movement go much deeper and farther back than the beginning of the war, and it is even now spreading through urban centres. With regard to charges of class legislation the Premier thought they would be in order only when such legislation was proposed by the Government. He was very strong against patronage and believed that if the angel Gabriel were to represent the purest constituency in the Province he could not advise as regards appointments to the civil service in a disinterested manner. He defended his choice of Hon. Mr. Raney, called attention to the open manner by which seats had been found for the unseated Ministers and declared that never before had members given up seats for the Ministers, with no promise of reward. He declared he would not be stamped on the question of an eight hour day, but the Government proposed to study the question thoroughly and then move forward. Regarding the Hon. Howard Ferguson's statement that the Government did not have the popular plurality at the last election, Mr. Drury said they represented 17 ordinarily conceded Conservative seats and 15 ordinarily conceded Liberal seats with six seats usually going Conservative and seven usually going Liberal. Moreover, eliminating double constituencies which were calculated in Mr. Ferguson's figures, the Government really had a substantial plurality. He thought the people had shown themselves about as much through with one party as the other at the last election.

As regards the Ontario Temperance Act, he felt that it was very unsatisfactory, but that as long as interprovincial trade existed it would always be so. If the temperance people would come together and make up their minds to ask for something the problem would be quickly solved. He believed that the Government should not go beyond the will of the people, but thought that the principle of the referendum was well established.

MR. DOHERTY FOR RURAL CREDITS.

The Hon. Manning W. Doherty, Minister of Agriculture also made his maiden speech in the House during the week. Mr. Doherty is more than a fair orator, while the Premier inclines more to ordinary public speaking. The Minister of Agriculture is fairly free with gestures and speaks very forcefully which is quite characteristic of his general temperament. The rise and fall and the inflections of his voice have, however, more or less of a sameness, which leads somewhat to monotony during the course of a lengthy speech so that his real ability as a speaker is more or less impaired. The Hon. Mr. Doherty emphasized the fact that the