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## Around Parliament Hill

**Agreement on Great Air Training Scheme Intimated—Fanfare and Tub Thumping of Early Days of Last War Absent in Serious Preparations Now Going Forward—War Contracts—Next Session of Parliament.**

By CHARLES BISHOP.

The outstanding thing at this week-end is the official intimation of agreement over the air training scheme. The negotiations have covered about a month, which is long enough in a matter of urgency. It is not too long considering the magnitude of the scheme and its implications. Agreements which affect the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and call for consultations back and forth, are not concluded in a day or so. It now appears that any difficulties have been overcome and that some time next week announcements will be made simultaneously in the British House of Commons, in Ottawa and in the Capitals of the sister southern dominions.

It is a big scheme for the advance training of recruits from outside and for the preliminary and advance training of Canadians. The resources of the Commonwealth in various contributory lines are pooled. The Canadian share will be large but not too large, considering that this country will be the Empire's central air training ground. It stands to reach material advantages during the war, while considerable, but not all, of the facilities will be adaptable to commercial aviation after the peace.

In London, Mr. Crerar conveys the information that Canada, with its resources, is in the war up to the hilt which will be satisfying to the masses of people. Those who won't like such a pronouncement didn't appear to cut much of a figure of influence when hawking their wares in Quebec.

Not the easiest thing in this war is the satisfying of everybody. This goes for England as it does for Canada. All are vitally concerned in the conflict. Everybody, save the alien enemies, who are quiescent, and the Communists who are mouthy, wants the Allies to win. Unity of purpose, between the parties and between the provinces, is instructively illustrated. Any trouble is with impatient folk who want to get on with the war and get it over and, anticipating victory, to get back to the pursuits and pleasures of peace.

A certain degree of complaint is that there is not enough fanfare and tub thumping—parades, ceremonies, recruiting meetings, flag waving and general hub-bub, as there was in the first stages of the last war. One reason why there is not is because, at that time, war was new and sudden and every preparation had to be made in a hurry. This time, a new personnel has been necessary and a lot of other things were not ready but, at least, all the machinery was in place. All that was necessary was to start it in motion, by reviving the War Measures Act and other acts, at the beginning. Recruiting, in 1914, commenced in an atmosphere of excitement and some adventure. This year, there was no excitement. If there is any adventure in it, great peril goes along.

Admitting that a great deal is going on and being done, there are complaints of insufficient information of what it is all about. The government, it seems to this writer, in the light of last war's experience, is doing very well, so far, in this line. Just as much in-

formation is divulged now as in 1914, with this difference; newspaper correspondents hear less about the personal exploits of the present than they did about the first war minister after 1914. Sam Hughes was much more accessible than Mr. Rogers. The latter's office, moreover, is not filled with the species of sycophants of various callings, as was that of the late regretted minister of the last war. He was delighted always to have them in his smiling, eagerly acquiescent entourage. If they didn't come around, they were reminded of that disturbing fact. When it came to real news, as much is given out now, as was then. And, of course, the recruiting was different. The regular regiments were not the nucleus. New battalions were raised, some of them by moneyed people; some by people of political prominence.

Reason exists for the belief that when a system of publicity is better co-ordinated, more information—more detail—will be given out. But perhaps not. The censorship, here and overseas, in the last war was not more than a patch on this one though there are times when one passes what the other one bans. On field operations, as well as the movement of troops, and even on contracts and military projects, the restrictions are great.

The spy system is supposed to be operating more efficiently. Difficulty thus develops in reconciling the public thirst for information and the prohibitions which the Allies think it wise to dictate. The war is not being run from here but by the military strategists of Great Britain and France. The whole dynamic direction comes from them—what they want, and when, and how, and where operations will be carried on. However, the clamor in Great Britain led to the Ministry of Information being revolutionized, and to whatever extent is needed, things may be loosened up here. In a co-ordinated war effort, nevertheless, any system applied overseas is likely to

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