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Ship this Country Ahead

SOME day soon Canadians will wake up, blink their eyes and find that they belong to one of the world's greatest nations, not in area alone, but in wealth and power—a regular whale of a nation.

The war has probably pushed the coming of this day ahead at least a decade. In spite of the suffering, poverty and misery, loss of life, wastage of materials and cost in money, no one doubts that the world will emerge from the struggle—better. The triumph of the doctrines for which we are fighting, no matter how long it takes to achieve, will mean benefit to every country engaged.

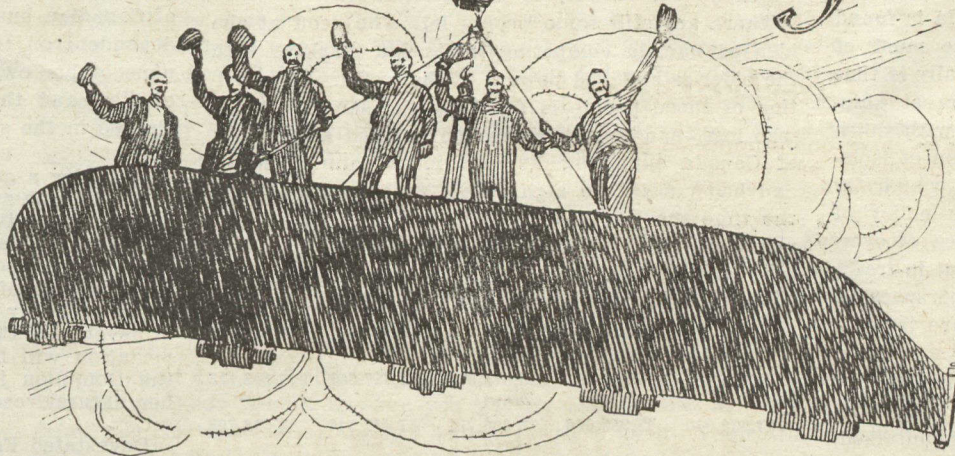
Canada will probably profit more than any other country. Everything points to that. Her losses, apart from those of her gallant sons who fell in battle, are only skin-deep. Canada has been isolated from the actual hostilities. While

in Europe, countless villages and towns have been razed to the ground, Canada, relatively speaking, is precisely the same as she was before the war.

Suppose we kept a balance sheet for Canada. On the loss account place the loss of soldiers; men who would have led the nation a few years hence. The other losses are only temporary and will be retrieved in overflowing measure by the stupendous commercial and industrial awakening that has already come.

A certain type of Canadian might say, "Why, things are dead to what they were three years ago. And then he would go on and tell about the big land deals, and the building booms that characterized those days which now seem to the most of us like part of a dream. He might go on to say that the present industrial situation in Canada is due only to war orders and that on the return of peace the whole fabric will fall flat. To that argument we will reply presently. Two years ago the man from the Pacific Coast might truthfully have said conditions were critical, and his remark would have described the situation throughout the country. But the crisis has been passed. The big cities of the West, which seemed half-deserted a while ago, are now rapidly filling up again. Hotels have just experienced the best season since the war. In many towns it takes days to find a vacant dwelling-house for occupation. "To Rent" and "For Sale" signs are rapidly elbowing their way to the dodo category.

PROSPERITY is returning, and it is a better kind of prosperity than we had in the boom days. It can't be measured only in land values, and for that we may be thankful. It hasn't so far meant an appreciable increase in building activity, and for the one reason that the country hasn't



CANADA has had enough of real estate booms and other kinds. What we want now is ship's booms and the boom of organized Canadian industry roaring with real national progress. Jellicoe says, wait till August and we'll curb the subs. Very same week, sub sinkings show a 20 per cent. increase. Bonar Law says we lost 6,000,000 tonnage in 1917, and replaced less than 2,000,000; and we must beat that record. We are dead sick of bunkum. Let us get down to business, and believe in the future of Canada as a nation.

By CHARLES L. SHAW

freight-carriers, motorships and steel steamships. A great industry has sprung into being within a few months. Factories with million-dollar pay-rolls and production capacities far greater than the average Canadian believed possible a short time ago have been created overnight. Many of them are working twenty-four hours a day to supply materials to be shipped away on Canadian-built and other bottoms.

The war has stimulated every basic industry of the country. In spite of the nation-wide labor shortage, the great agricultural, lumbering, mining and fishing industries have simply had to progress. Output records have been smashed. War-time conditions demanded it. The Canadian people have had the meaning of production and thrift drilled into them as never before. Those engaged in

industrial work have had, to work a little harder and a little longer per day than before, and they have done it cheerfully.

Canada to-day stands industrially stronger and more prosperous than at any time in her past history.

And now comes the big question. What is going to happen when the newspaper headlines announce peace? What will happen to Canada's industrial machine when the demand for shells and other war supplies suddenly ceases? Will stagnation follow until the nation gradually readjusts itself to the new conditions imposed by peace? Will the return of overseas soldiers clog the labor market? Will commodity prices undergo a shock? Will Canada linger in preparing herself for the new era until other nations have secured for themselves a lead that will be hard to overtake?

Most certainly not. Canadians, individually and collectively, must determine that no

