



# WHAT TWELVE CANADIAN WOMEN HOPE TO SEE AS THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR



**W**HAT do you as a woman hope to see as the outcome of the war: (1) for the world at large, (2) for women in particular?"

In November EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD addressed this question to several prominent Canadian women with the object of getting a national expression of Canadian women's feeling on the result of the war, and of giving this symposium to Canadian women, to all Canadians, to the world, as a representative expression of what Canadian women hope to see as the outcome of the greatest, and, as they all hope, the last world war. The thought of Canadian women would pretty well represent the general thought of Canadian, of American, of women throughout the world on the subject of the war. All of us have the heartfelt hope that it may soon end, and as to what the outcome of the war is to be, there have been many predictions. So far, however, no one has been asked or perhaps thought of what she hoped would be the outcome of the war. The contributors who have written for the symposium have frankly said what they hoped would be the outcome of the war, and this expression of personal desire is for that reason all the more valuable. What these women, and all the women whom they represent, want, is the object of the symposium to bring to the attention of our readers.

## The First National Expression of Opinion by Canadian Women

These Canadian women appreciated what we were trying to do, and responded in such a way that they should have not only our appreciation and thanks—because we want Canadian women to think and feel and write nationally—but they should have, and we think they will get them, the appreciation and thanks of the women of Canada and the country generally. We are proud to have been the means of collecting in one page the public expression of representative Canadian women from coast to coast—the first national public expression by Canadian women on any question.

Some whom we wanted and you would want were not able to contribute—either, as they said, because they were not writers, or because they were so involved in executive patriotic work of the moment that they could not look so far ahead. Mrs. Willoughby Cummings (President of the Toronto Women's Patriotic League), Toronto, says: "It is altogether too soon to attempt to define what will be, or may be, the outcome of a war that may last for years, when it is only three months old." Mrs. Albert Gooderham, President of the National Chapter of The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, writes of the Symposium: "I feel that I do not care to express my views publicly unless I am able to give considerable time and thought to the matter, and this I cannot do at present, as I belong to several organizations which more than fully occupy my time. I can only pray that this war and the sorrow and suffering it entails may soon end, and that peace may come forever." One or two women did not feel qualified to express an opinion at all, a matter of regret to us for two reasons: (1) because we and you thereby lose the expression of valuable feeling and thought; (2) because we think it is not only the duty but the privilege of Canadian women who, by reason of intellect, position, and achievement, are the prominent women of our country, to take part publicly in the life of Canadian women and in Canadian affairs.

The majority of our correspondents, however, realized what part in national life public expression of opinion plays; how it is worth while, for themselves and for others to take part in the life of the times and of the nation. Katherine Hale, Toronto, wrote: "Thank you for the

opportunity of saying what I heartily believe must be one outcome at least of this war." Mrs. Arthur Murphy, Edmonton (Janey Canuck) says: "Congratulations on your enterprise in arranging this Symposium, and best wishes for its success."

So you may imagine this Symposium, as if these thoughtful women had really met, coming together from the farthest east and west, to talk to each other and to us, expressing their inmost hope for the outcome of the war.

## Shall We Have Peace?

Mrs. Arthur Murphy (Janey Canuck), of Edmonton, Convenor of the Peace and Arbitration Committee of the National Council of Women of Canada, wrote:

"As an outcome of the war I hope to see:

"I. An amnestia.

"When in the year 400 B.C., at a time of great bitterness of feeling, Thrasybulus, one of the chief men of Athens, came to the head of affairs, he exerted his influence to secure the passage of a law they called *amnestia*, from a Greek word signifying no recollection. It is from this our word amnesty comes. The law provided that all former quarrels and offences be forgotten, and that the people take pledge to live peaceably towards each other as if the offences had never taken place.

"Yes! let this be the way of it—that John, Jean, Johann, and Jack sponge off their memories all red-written records.

"II. That contentious matters between nations, which cannot be settled by diplomacy, shall be arbitrated upon by the Hague Court.

"III. The establishment of international police forces

on the high seas and on the land to suppress rebellion and to enforce the general decrees of the Hague Court.

"IV. Disarmament of all nations, that our fighting men, as prophesied by a seer of Israel, shall 'go forth and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows and the handstaves, and the spears, and shall burn them with fire seven years so that they shall take no wood out of the field, nor cut down any of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire.'

"V. That the money hitherto spent upon armaments be devoted to education, commerce, science, and to the general amelioration of the sufferings to which men and women are subject.

"VI. That brute force being no longer the supreme arbiter, women may cease to suffer from the disability of a lesser muscular development and so may attain to their due economic, legal, and political status as human beings of the mother-sex.

"Meanwhile, the war continues, and there is no House of Refuge in all the blood-stained world.

"While I have been writing and you have been reading, a million men have rendered up their lives to a monstrous Moloch called militarism. Lads with torn breasts and torn viscera, crying for rescue in the dark and—oh, tragedy beyond compare!—we are grown callous because their cry is continuous.

"Lord have mercy upon us!

"Christ have mercy upon us!"

## Woman Suffrage

Since the outbreak of the war, woman suffrage has appeared in two lights: (1) as a dead issue. As the first consternation passed away, woman suffrage as an outcome of the war appears more and more a certainty. How will women get the vote?

The President of the United Suffrage Societies of Canada, Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, says:

"You have asked me to state what I think will be the results of the present war, and to express my hopes as to its outcome in regard to its effects upon women.

"I am neither a prophet, nor the daughter of a prophet, and I must further confess that I shrink from putting a big subject into a small compass. Life is moving very fast just now, and changes are so rapid that no one of us can foresee clearly—or even think clearly—this is rather a moment for action, and our work is laid out plainly before us.

"The war has set the whole world in motion—men and women, all humanity, all are working, even the weakest contributing either actively or passively, to the liberation of an enormous reserve energy. I believe this energy is now putting into motion constructive forces which have hitherto not had a 'fair field' of action; forces which once liberated will bring about marked progress. I believe we are on the eve of a great social re-creation—of a brotherhood more true, and that we are coming nearer to the true ideals of Christianity.

"We see the first signs of this in the drawing together of individuals, classes, and nations, for a common cause—a common defence, and a common well-being. I hope that from this blending process great results may come, that barriers will be broken down—barriers of class prejudice, of sex-inequality, of national and racial difference and misunderstanding. I hope when the tumult is over that we may see the nations working together for international good, that there may be an international tribunal which shall aim not at the domination of one or more nations, but at the good of all—at a true international common weal. If, as a woman, I must prophesy, I may say how I



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