

"I think it most unfortunate that the Government at this time should have had recourse to the increase of the duty upon two of what are the necessities of life of the poor in this country. . . . The poor in this combat, whether in this country or the old land will bear more than their share of the suffering that the war will entail. . . . When you tax the sugar and coffee of the country you make it certain that by the pressure of your taxation the poor will bear more than their share."

As alternatives to a tax on sugar and coffee, Liberal speakers suggested the consideration of a direct tax on incomes above a certain amount, a stamp duty on checks and bills of exchange and promissory notes, heavier taxation upon liquors and tobacco, a tax upon automobiles and a tax upon patent medicines.

It was pointed out that the coming winter was likely to be one of great hardship for thousands of persons all over Canada, that already the numbers of unemployed were being augmented to alarming proportions, and Liberal speakers urged that instead of imposing taxation which would lay heavier burdens by increasing the price of food, the Government should consider if it were not possible to lessen the cost of food products in some particulars, as for example, by taking the duty either in whole or in part off of some of the food stuffs obtainable from other countries.

Mr. A. K. Maclean, urged that the Government should anticipate the opportunity offered by the war for obtaining for Canadian manufacturers and exporters, markets which hitherto they had been unable to enter. It was also suggested that where it was in the power of the Government to increase the selling power of Canadian producers special attention should be given to this. It was pointed out that by approaching the United States government with a view of removing the embargo on potatoes, the producers of the Maritime Provinces would be vastly benefitted, and that by removing the duty on flour, the price of this commodity would be kept at a normal rate, and the country saved from the possible evil effect of a combine among millers and dealers to raise prices. Almost without exception, the Opposition speakers emphasized the necessity of the Government taking active steps to control prices and protect consumers.

#### **Patriotic Gifts from Provinces and Individuals**

The assistance which it has been sought to render Great Britain and her allies in this world crisis has not been confined to action taken by the Federal Govern-

ment on behalf of the people of the Dominion as a whole, the Governments of the several Provinces, municipalities, industrial and commercial corporations, societies, organizations and individuals have come forward with voluntary offerings of generous, and in many instances, munificent proportions, which have gone either direct to the Mother Country, or been accepted by the Government of Canada, or authorized associations, as contributions towards expenditures and emergencies arising out of the war.

Among contributions made by the Provinces and accepted before the beginning of September, were: 100,000 tons of coal from Nova Scotia; 100,000 bushels of oats from Prince Edward Island; 100,000 bags of potatoes from New Brunswick, 4,000,000 lbs. of cheese from Quebec; 250,000 bags of flour from Ontario; and 500,000 bushels of oats from Alberta. At the time these gifts were announced, the Governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia were also in communication with the Federal Government as to gifts which would be acceptable from them, and which will be made in due course. Municipalities have vied with each other in raising sums of money to be contributed to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, inaugurated by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, to provide in case of need, adequate support to the wives, children and dependent relatives of men residents of Canada who are serving with any of the naval and military forces of the British Empire, or with Great Britain's allies.

What has already been donated and is likely still to be contributed to this Fund, to the Hospital Ship Fund, to the Red Cross Society, and to the Government or other organizations for use in a variety of ways, and what will be incurred for patriotic ends in voluntary sacrifice in other ways by countless numbers of citizens will soon outrun the amount appropriated by Parliament at its special session. The honour list in this connection, if it could be printed in full, would stir with pride the heart of every Canadian. Fortunately, already it is too large to admit even of a summary. Some day, when the work of destruction is ended, when the noise of battle has been hushed, and the many dead lie silent in their graves, when the world's great sacrifice is being weighed in the balances of Time, this expression of Canada's devotion to the Motherland may prove the consolation that will help to assuage the grief; this, and the thought that our country has been privileged to share in the world's greatest struggle for Freedom against Aggression, for Liberty against Oppression, and for Honour against Might.

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