



# The Journal of Commerce

Vol. XLIII., No. 15

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1917

Price, 10 Cents

## Journal of Commerce

Devoted to  
CANADIAN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND  
FINANCE.

Published every Tuesday Morning by

The Journal of Commerce Publishing Company,  
Limited.

Head Office: 35-45 St. Alexander Street, Montreal.  
Telephone: Main 2662.  
Toronto Office: 263 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.  
Telephone: Adelaide 917.

HON. W. S. FIELDING,  
President and Editor-in-Chief.

Subscription price, \$3.00 a year.  
Advertising rates on application.

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### Special Articles

The Creation and Management of the Surplus.

By W. W. Swanson, Ph.D.

The Problem of Domestic Service.

By J. W. Macmillan.

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Editorials:	Page.
Our American Allies.....	1
The "Nation".....	1
Civil Service Reform.....	2
Uncle Sam's New Property.....	2
States and Provinces.....	2
The Creation Management and Distribution of the Surplus.....	3
How the United States Can Help.....	4
Public Opinion.....	5
Mentioned in Despatches.....	6
The Problem of Domestic Service.....	7
Among the Companies.....	8
Canada's Big Railway Problem.....	9
Bank Clearings.....	10
Allied Borrowings in U. S.....	12
Women Good Risks.....	13
President Wilson's War Statement.....	14
The Exporter's Field.....	17
Canada and the Paper Trade of the United King- dom.....	18
Are There Too Many Grocers?.....	19
What You Should Know About Wheat.....	20
Commodity Markets.....	21-22
A Solution for Car Shortage.....	28
What is Wrong With the Railroads?.....	24

## Our American Allies

IN the past there has been, in England and in Canada, much ungenerous criticism of the action or inaction of President Wilson and the United States Government in relation to the war. British and Canadian writers, having no neutral position to guard, being heart and soul against Germany, seem to have expected the President of the United States to think as they thought, and to speak as they did in condemnation of all the German crimes. But such an expectation was not reasonable. The United States was not at war with Germany. Whatever might be the opinions of individuals, the nation had the position of a neutral and, so long as this condition remained, was bound to officially treat Great Britain and Germany alike. We cannot doubt that an American citizen of the character and training of Mr. Wilson was from the first moment of the war conscious that Britain was fighting for the world's liberty against the German attempt at domination. There is good reason to believe that the great majority of American citizens held that view. But there were large numbers of others whose sympathies were naturally with Germany. Even if there had been greater unanimity than there was among his people in favor of Great Britain and her Allies, the President of the United States would not have been free to give play to his own feelings, but would have been bound to observe strict neutrality. It is not unlikely that Mr. Wilson, at an early stage of the war, found reason to fear that his country would ultimately be drawn into the war, and that he was resolved that that result, if it had to come, would only take place after the exercise of all possible patience by the United States Government in their negotiations with Germany. Now that the crisis has arisen, and the need for action can no longer be avoided, Mr. Wilson is able to call with confidence upon his countrymen and to receive a support which he could not have obtained if he had yielded to the pressure of those who months ago urged a war policy upon him.

What form the United States Government's war measures may take has yet to be learned. There is no large American army available for overseas service. If American soldiers are to enter upon service in France or Belgium, it will not be their numbers that will prove effective. But even a comparatively small force carrying the American flag on the battlefields of the continent alongside the soldiers of France, Great Britain and the Dominions would be an object lesson to Germany and to the world that would be of the highest value. As for the American navy, while it is not very large, it includes many fine ships which can render useful service in meeting the German submarine operations.

The advent of the United States in the battle arena is an event of the greatest importance, both as to its moral effect upon the civilized world, and as an additional guarantee of the crushing of German militarism and the winning of a just peace at no distant day.

Mr. Wilson's address to the two Houses of Congress declaring that a state of war exists will take rank among the world's greatest state-papers. What could be finer than this closing passage of the address:

"It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Government, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right, by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."

## The "Nation"

ONE of the most remarkable bits of news in the latest cablegrams is the statement that the British censors have forbidden the transmission abroad of the current number of the London Nation. There are few things in the programme of war measures which the average Briton is more reluctant to accept than the press censorship. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are among the things which British people everywhere have recognized as essential to the maintenance of liberty. In war time, restrictions of many kinds are accepted as unavoidable. Even a measure of press restriction has been acknowledged as necessary. But in that field, more perhaps than in any other, it is desirable that rules be strained in the direction of freedom rather than of restriction. The British authorities will do better to err on the side of liberty of the press than to be hasty in restraining the freedom of any respectable British journal. We are not advised as to the contents of the particular number of the Nation in question. But unless its character is very different from that of the ordinary issues of the paper, public opinion will hardly approve the action that has been taken. The Nation is a weekly journal of high