

"CANADA HAS PASSED THROUGH ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHICH TRY MEN'S SOULS"

Col. Theodore Roosevelt

Ex-President of United States Urges That Country to Profit by Example of the Dominion; Canada Proved Herself Able to Shape Her Own Destiny

Col. Theodore Roosevelt has contributed to the March issue of The Metropolitan Magazine an article on "The Lesson Taught by Canada." He says in part:

"No nation ever yet achieved greatness through ease and absence of effort; and although material prosperity is an absolutely essential foundation, the lack of which renders hopeless any attempt to raise a worthy super-structure, yet by itself, and to the exclusion of all else, material prosperity, no matter how abundant, means at the very utmost a kind of bastard greatness, more contemptible than any other kind. The flag that commands the respect of other nations and inspires among its own followers the high passion of loyalty must float over a land where there is well-distributed material well-being, but

what is even more important, where there have also been developed the stern and lofty virtues of resolute process, of readiness for self-sacrifice, of power to render service, and of determined and unshakable patriotism.

Virtues of Canada

"These are the virtues which during the last two years, and a half, Canada has pre-eminently shown. She has passed through one of those times which try men's souls, and which sift out the strong and the weak from the weak and the worthy. She has stood the test. She has proved her possession of those qualities that mark the people of masterful ability, able to shape their own destinies and to hold their own in the rough world of actual life. Her sister commonwealths of the

British Empire overseas—Australia, South Africa, New Zealand—have shown a like farsightedness and proud capacity for service for the common good, and have borne themselves with similar heroism. The action of the Boers in South Africa has been a most striking tribute to the farsighted wisdom and justice of the Imperial Government. But Canada is our neighbor to the north, and we are more familiar with what she has done; and as the conditions of her social, industrial and political life substantially resemble our own, her example is of peculiar value to us.

"Canada has sent to the front about 250,000 men. She has 150,000 more in training. This means that she has enlisted all told about 400,000 men. The casualties up to date are well over 50,000. Meanwhile Canada has faced undaunted the necessary taxation, and has voluntarily contributed 40,000,000 dollars to relief funds. Let us people understand what these figures mean by remembering that Canada has only one-thirtieth of our population and one-thirtieth of our wealth. Her shores were not immediately menaced; the counsels of cold and timid selfishness, had they prevailed, would have bid her take a merely perfunctory part in the war, and rest in safety behind Britain's control of the ocean.

"But Canada was too proud not to fight. She scorned the ignoble role of shirking duty, and letting others protect her. Her effort in the war, relatively as great as if we had raised an army of over five million soldiers—and her troops are as splendid fighting men as their Australasian and South African brothers, or as any others among the war-hardened veterans who have fought on both sides in this terrible world war. Her money effort in the single item given above is equivalent to what this nation would have done if it had voluntarily contributed over a billion dollars in relief funds.

Something New in History

Unfortunately, the Canadians, like ourselves, have not yet overcome the foolish dread of universal obligatory military training in times of peace, and universal service in time of war. Hence they have not shown the extraordinary efficiency of Germany and France. But there never has been finer work done under the old volunteer system than by Canada; and the way in which Canada and her sister overseas commonwealths have sprung to the defence of the Empire is something absolutely new in history, and sets a mark in farsighted patriotism and in high-minded ability to sacrifice present ease and safety for a vast and permanent future good, which will not soon be passed by any nation.

Caring for the Dependents

"The people who have stayed at home have devoted themselves to the welfare of the men who have gone and of their families. Not only the Governmental bodies, but various patriotic organizations, have taken up the work with equal zeal and knowledge. The pensions are liberal; the widow of one of the rank and file gets three hundred and eighty-four dollars a year and seventy-two dollars extra for each child. A man totally incapacitated by wounds receives four hundred and eighty dol-

lars a year and seventy-two dollars for each child. The wife of the soldier on active service receives twenty dollars a month, plus half his pay, which amounts to fifteen dollars, and an additional sum called the patriotic allowance, according to the particular circumstances of the case. This is a great improvement upon what was done in our civil war.

The Wounded Soldier

"The wounded returned soldier is put in a convalescent home, under the Military Hospitals Commission, and is given vocational training, so as to enable him to take up a new occupation which he is unable to follow the one in which he was previously engaged. A Soldier's Aid Commission and various employment bureaus, devote themselves to placing the men in permanent positions after they have been discharged. All of these commissions work together.

"The Patriotic Fund is administered by a great number of men and women, who apply it with a flexible accommodation to needs and conditions which can hardly be attained under the necessary red tape of a Government office. For example, an accountant which he is unable to support a family in a country district would be wholly insufficient in a large city. The fund cares for the wives and children of the soldiers fighting in Europe and for the widows of those killed and the men invalided home. Some fifteen million dollars have been disbursed under the management of the fund, and some sixty thousand families helped. The money spent represents but a portion of the activities of the fund. There is also unwearied personal work. In Montreal, for instance, the Ladies' Auxiliary contains nearly seven hundred volunteer workers; and during September last the 4,036 families receiving assistance in Montreal were each visited at least once by one of these workers.

Model Training Camps

"I am, of course, not trying to mention here the smallest fraction of the innumerable benevolent activities in which the devoted patriotism of the men and women of Canada has found expression. The above merely indicates the extent and thoroughness of the work. As for the men at the front, their gallantry has been beyond praise; and the training camps now established in Canada are models for us to copy."

"In a notable speech in New York at the Lawyer's Club, last November, Sir Robert Laird Borden, Premier of Canada, set forth what Canada had done, and the spirit in which she had acted. The head of the nation is indeed fortunate who can report such action by the nation. He showed with just pride that in this great world crisis Canada had risen to that high conception of duty under which it is recognized that: Just as the citizen who fails to realize his duty to service to the state has not attained the highest conception of citizenship, so the nation which does not realize and fulfill its duty of service to the world has not reached the highest conception of national life."

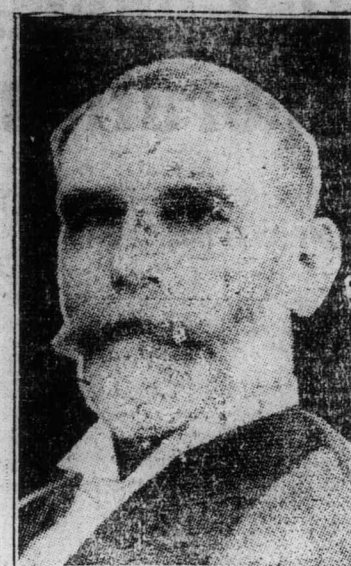
"I cannot quote at length from this really noble speech; although I would like to quote both his estimate of the immense importance of sea-power as his primary contribution as an instrument for securing world domination than as an instrument for successfully resisting world domination; and the fine tribute to the Canadian dead, with the gallant thought that on the anniversary of the victorious fight of the Canadians at Ypres, with its fearful slaughter, the flags were not half-masted in mourning but flew at masthead in triumph from ocean to ocean. There are certain phrases, however, which teach us so pertinent a lesson that, with one or two omissions, I do quote them. Sir Robert dwelt on the way returning troops would again take up their ordinary life-work, with the consciousness that Canada has played a worthy part in the fateful struggle which she entered at the call of duty, and for the cause of freedom. 'There will be an imperishable recollection of comradeship with men of the motherland and of all parts of the King's dominions; theirs, also a wider vision and deeper insight from service in a high cause. Hardly less profound will be the influence of the war upon all our people. They have learned that self-sacrifice in a just cause is at once a duty and a blessing; and this lesson has both inspired and ennobled the men and women of Canada. It was indeed worth a great sacrifice to know that beneath that eagerness for wealth and apparent absorption in material development there still burned the flame of that spirit upon which alone a nation's permanence can be founded. One must more among our people to realize their overmastering conviction that the justice and greatness of our cause overpower all other considerations and to comprehend the intensity of the spirit which permeates and quickens every Canadian community.'

Entitled to Hearing

"This is the spirit by which a world peace will eventually be won. Canada can now speak for such a peace and be entitled to a respectful hearing; because her deeds have made good her words."

"We ourselves after the Spanish war were able for a decade to take a real and leading part in movements for international peace, and we widened the area in which orderly liberty and the peace of justice obtained. We were able so to act because we were at the time strong in material strength and, above all, in tempered strength of soul and in clearness of vision; and because we were scrupulously careful to keep our promises, to correlate our deeds with our words; and because we refused to embark on the sea of making utterly impossible and unworthy promises which could not possibly be kept, and which in the event of crisis it would be damaging and dishonorable to keep and yet only less damaging and dishonorable to break."

"The Hague Conventions have never been abrogated; they are still nominally in existence



MR. JUSTICE JAMES LEITCH, of the Supreme Court of Ontario, who died at Toronto, aged 67.

—as scraps of paper. Germany's violation of them has been continuous and is continuing (not to mention her repeated and scandalous assaults on our own honor and vital national interests). So long as we treat violations of these Hague Conventions as not demanding any action on our part, even by a protest, it is proof positive that we would not keep any promise hereafter to go to war when similar conventions should require us to do so. When we refuse to keep the mild promise we have already made, it is either sheer silliness or sheer hypocrisy and bad faith to make new promises of far more drastic and heroic action in the future, promises which it would be infinitely more difficult to keep, and which it is much more likely that we would break. Nor is this all. It would be worse than folly, it would be wickedness, to make such promises until after we had built up a military force that would make them effective."

Canada Shows the Way

"Canada's experience in the great war has shown us what would be necessary. In order to make our participation effective, according to our promise, we should need an army relatively to our size as large as Canada's—that is, an army of five million men, which could at once be sent over to make war, say, on behalf of Belgium if it were again menaced by Germany (or, of course, by England or France or any other power)."

"Let our people profit by Canada's example and by the teachings of our own patriots. We are proud of the great past of our land. We cannot afford to have this country, which ought to be, and can be, made the hope and the example for the free peoples of the world, turned into the Greatest of the Yellow Nations."

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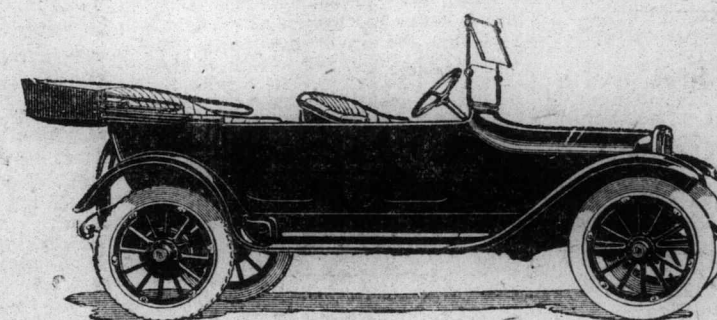
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