

What England did

The contrast between the highly patriotic and effective measures taken in England to keep up and even enhance the trade and industry of the United Kingdom, and the complete inaction of Canada, is simply lamentable. It was brought under vivid light in an interview given to the *Montreal Gazette*, on the 7th of September last, by Mr. P. G. Donald, delegate of a large section of the iron-mongers of Great Britain.

The moment war was declared, the men interested in the vast trade connected with the steel and iron industries set themselves to immediate action, with a view not only to keep up their business but also to snatch that of their German rivals. They besieged the government Board of Trade till they got what they wanted. Then they immediately started to look for new fields of operation all over the world.

It is a favorite pastime among colonials to laugh at the "sluggish and clumsy Englishman", at his inaptitude for turning a sharp corner and facing a new and unexpected situation. In ordinary circumstances, the criticism may be well founded; but in time of national crisis, the English, as the French, the Germans or the Americans, — as the citizens of all sovereign states, conscious of their responsibilities, — arise from their apathy and take without delay all measures tending to place their country and themselves in a position enabling them to support the extraordinary burdens imposed by circumstances. In Canada, a country under tutelage, rulers and leaders of public opinion rest content with making patriotic speeches and pouring out inflamed prose. Business men catch the craze and do nothing. The only activity displayed is that of the political bloodsuckers, boodlers and corrupt publicists, who speculate on the childish patriotism of the nation, the equipment of troops and the gathering of patriotic subscriptions.

In forty-eight hours, the delegate of British trade, without waiting for the arrival in London of alert American agents, had prepared his calculations, packed his trunks and started for Canada.

He wanted to take advantage of the emergency session of parliament; but parliament, having voted millions for the

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