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# The Journal of Commerce

Vol. XLIII., No. 24

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1917

Price, 10 Cents

## The 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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- The High-Record Dominion Note Circulation,**  
By H. M. P. Eckardt.
- The Human Side of the Railways,**  
By J. W. Macmillan.
- Conditions in the West,**  
By E. Cora Hind.
- Banking and Business Affairs in the U. S.,**  
By Elmer H. Youngman.
- Comments on Current Commerce.**  
By E. Stanley Bates.

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### Democracy's Ambassadors

INTERESTING and, in many instances, exciting events are daily occurring in each of the Allied Nations battling for civilization. The British campaigns in all directions are going well. The Canadian soldiers in France are participating in severe engagements, and continuing to win honor. The gallant French army is pressing the Germans back. The Italians are waging effective war against Austria. The American navy is operating in union with the British navy on both sides of the Atlantic. The advance guard of the American army has arrived in England on its way to France. The German aircraft and the German submarines are being successfully resisted. The youth of America are giving a splendid response to the call for registration. Almost everywhere, though not without much sacrifice, the great war is making progress that may justly be regarded as satisfactory.

Almost—but not everywhere. Over all this good report hovers the dark shadow of the perilous situation in Russia. The moderate revolutionary movement, which for a little while seemed to give assurance that Russia would have a new freedom combined with order and patriotism, is being thrust aside, and the direction of affairs seems to be falling largely into the hands of extremists whose notions of government can be productive of only confusion and disorder. The ablest generals of the Russian army are giving up their commands in disgust. Demoralization of the army is too apparent. The Socialist Minister of War, Kerenski, has made vigorous efforts to rally the soldiers to their duty, but with doubtful success. The Russian peace movement, undoubtedly inspired by the German influence that has so long been manifest in Russia, wins support among the soldiers and workmen who have so suddenly been placed in power. The cry of "peace without annexation" is but another call for a kind of peace that would leave Germany in possession of power to renew her war against the world's democracy.

It is most fortunate that at this moment the democracies of the Allies have their representatives in Russia, charged with the mission of making their principles and their purposes known to the Russian people. Britain is now represented at Petrograd by several leaders of the British masses, including Mr. Arthur Henderson, a member of the British Cabinet. France has sent its Minister of Munitions, Mr. Albert Thomas. The American mission, headed by Mr. Elihu Root, has just arrived at Petrograd. These and other representatives of the Allied democracies should be able to counteract the German influences, and to satisfy the organized bodies of the Russian people that in the crushing of the German military power is to be found the only hope of real freedom. The chief difficulty probably will be in

reaching the masses of the people, who have but little knowledge of the duties or responsibilities of citizenship. But the men who have assembled in Petrograd to assist the Russians in the organization of their new freedom should be able to do much towards bringing about a more vigorous prosecution of the war by Russia. The situation at Petrograd will be watched with the deepest interest.

### Coalition

THE political situation at Ottawa has been watched with more than ordinary interest lately, because of difficulties looming up in relation to the adoption of military conscription. Sir Robert Borden invited Sir Wilfrid Laurier to join him in forming a Coalition Government under the premiership of Sir Robert. Sir Wilfrid has declined the invitation.

A great many people have been hoping that a way might be found which would lead to more unity of action among our public men in all matters relating to the war. Apart from the question of conscription—upon which, it is evident enough, there is grave difference of opinion—the Canadian people are heartily united in their support of all war measures. They are resolved that whatever is necessary to enable Canada to do her part in the great conflict ought to be done. That there has not been more unity among the people's representatives in Parliament must be sincerely regretted. What seems clearest amidst the present controversy is that it would have been well if there had been in Canada, as in England, co-operation and coalition from the beginning of the war. Difficulties easily arise now, which might not have been raised at an earlier stage.

### The Letter and the Spirit

THE Minister of Justice, Hon. Mr. Doherty, has introduced in the House of Commons a bill to remedy an abuse that has been observed in connection with the judiciary. It appears that in a number of cases judges appointed to the bench for particular districts have, for their own convenience, taken up their residence in other places, and have drawn travelling expenses for the journey from their homes to the places where their duties are performed. Apparently the letter of the law has allowed this to be done. The spirit of the law certainly is that the judges should reside in their judicial districts, and if, for their personal convenience, they reside elsewhere the charge for travelling expenses should not be made. Mr. Doherty's bill is to make the letter of the law conform to the spirit of it, and prevent the payment of travelling expenses in the circumstances men-