

## Editorial

## National Economy

IN August, 1914, a vote of credit amounting to fifty million dollars was passed for war purposes. In February, 1915, authority was given to appropriate one hundred million, and now two hundred and fifty million more is authorized. The interest on the vast loans will be an immense burden to a young country, though the burden is not keenly felt at the present time. It is not felt because the volume of business being done by Canada is so enormous. The orders of the British government alone for ammunition was over three hundred million for 1915, and the expenditure for equipment of our own troops will be quite as much. Greater demands than these are likely to be made upon our industries, so that there will be work in plenty while the war lasts.

## After the War

But what after the war? Though our fields, forests and mines will continue to offset our indebtedness, the income from these will not meet our increased obligations. It will take every effort we can put forth to pull through the period of reconstruction, even though we shall probably be in a better position than any other of the combatants in the world struggle. To meet the situation two things are necessary. The first is economy at home, and the second is trade expansion at the expense of the enemy. Economy at home is possible in the life of individuals and in state undertakings. It is good for all to live the simple life, and it is equally good for governments to practise economy. And as for trade expansion, it is quite possible, if we decide to pay the price. We must make provision for training workers and for carrying our wares to foreign markets. Trade schools and a mercantile marine—these are essential to national progress. Anything spent on them will be returned a hundred fold.

## Trade Schools

The need of trained workers is felt in all industrial concerns. We are dependent upon the older lands for foremen and for most of our high class operatives. A beginning has been made in most of the provinces by the opening of Agricultural Colleges, but as yet no adequate provision is made for training young men and young women to enter the great manufacturing industries. To-morrow call for leaders, and it will be calamitous if these are not developed in our own land, the children of our own homes.

## A Merchant Marine

The need of a merchant marine is well illustrated to-day by the condition of the wheat crop of 1915. At present there is in elevators, and at terminals one hundred million bushels of grain, while an inconceivable amount lies in the open all winter. This no doubt will suffer deterioration. The railroads could have done much more if there could have been boats to relieve the elevators. The packers of British Columbia salmon are having quite as great a difficulty as the farmers of the plains. It is impossible to obtain the tonnage required. It is necessary in this matter that we depend upon our own carriers rather than upon those of the mother land or other nations.

## Canada's Trade

Figures are not very interesting but they are somewhat informing. Reduced to their simplest form they show Canada's financial and trade position with startling clearness. For ten months of 1915 the revenue was \$109,500,000 and for corresponding period in same periods were \$102,000,000 and \$127,000,000. Capital expenditures were \$68,000,000 and \$127,000,000. Imports in the two years are represented as \$603,000,000 and

\$503,000,000 while exports are represented as \$449,000,000 and \$837,000,000. In other words we are doing good business just now, but there will be a big bill to pay later on. Nobody will dream that Canada will not be quite equal to the situation. Nature has blessed us. It is for us to use willing hand and trained intelligence to use the blessings to the utmost.

## The Beginning of the End

The greatest battle in the history of the world! The most reckless sacrifice of life! The finest illustration of studied resistance! All this we couple with the name Verdun, a name that will live in history with Waterloo and Thermopylae. It is the turning point of the war. Even should the Teuton bands break through they have but begun their forward march. It's a long, long way to Paris city, and the road is very rough. More likely is it, indeed, that the French guns will be shelling the Rhenish borders than that the Germans will be lining their forces along the Seine. War is terrible. It is cruel and murderous. But war the Hun would have and war he is going to get; until he is satiated. Asquith expressed the spirit of the British people in the Homeland and in the Overseas Dominions when he said:

## THE NATIVE BORN

There's a thing we love to think of when the summer days are long,  
When the summer winds are blowing, and the summer sun is strong;  
When the orchards and the meadows fling their sweetness on the air,  
And the grainfields flaunt their riches, and the glow is everywhere;  
Something sings it all the day,  
Canada, fair Canada!  
And the pride thrills through and through us;  
'Tis our birthplace—Canada!

There's a thing we love to think of when the frost and ice and snow hold a carnival together, and the biting north winds blow;  
There's a thing we love to think of through the bitter winter hours,  
For it stirs a warmth within us—'tis this fair young land of ours.  
Ours with all her youth and promise, ours with all her strength and might,  
Ours with all her wealth of waters, and her forests deep as night,  
With her mines—her hidden treasures—  
With her sun-steeped hill and plain;  
With her mountains and her meadows, and her fields of golden grain.  
Other lands may far outshine her, boast more charms than she can claim,  
But this young land is our own land, and we love her very name.  
Canada, fair Canada!  
Native-born are we, are we,  
And the pride thrills through and through us;  
'Tis our birthplace—Canada!

"We shall never sheathe the sword until Belgium recovers in full measure all, and more than all, that she has sacrificed, until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed."

## Spring's Opportunity

Report has it that the acreage of 1916 will be much less than that of last year. It is to be expected that such will be the case. The shortage will be made up in other ways. The growing of grain from year to year on the same soil is impossible, even if there were men to do the seeding and harvesting. The movement towards mixed farming is very gratifying. If as is expected the crop area this year is only ninety or ninety-five per cent of that of last year, everybody will be satisfied. There is gain in other ways.

There is one thing which under the circumstances can be done without trouble and effort: An attempt can be made to beautify the homes and the farms. As a people we have failed in this regard, but it is not too

late to mend our ways. Consider, for example, what might be done in tree planting and conservation of forests.

Some years ago in a Canadian town a boy who was fond of trees bought a wild, rough, piece of ground in the suburbs. He bought it for a song since part of it was used as a dumping ground. At great effort he raked all the rubbish into a gulley, hauled manure and earth to cover it over, then plowed and cleaned the remainder and planted trees and a flower garden. For five summers he kept this up. And then! Well, a manufacturer who had come to town wanted a residence. The little plot owned by the boy was the most attractive and most picturesque in the neighborhood. A bargain was made and the property changed hands on terms that made it possible for the young fellow to lay by more than his regular salary for the five years. And this says nothing of the joy that he had while doing the work during his evening hours.

Down in Ontario there grew a giant maple tree. It was said to be the finest specimen in Eastern Canada. It was an education to look at it. How many years it had flourished there no one could say. Well, the property changed hands. A sordid soul came into possession. He saw not the tree and its beauty, but the little plot of land around it. And so the axe was laid to the root; what is the result? The country side has lost its charm and its best preacher. The farm itself has depreciated in value in every way because it has ceased to have an individuality.

There is not a farm that could not be improved by tree culture and by the culture of flowers and shrubs. A garden does not take much time. There is no burden of expense. It is a perpetual joy, a resting-place in the evenings, a resort on Sunday afternoons. It will contribute to the table decoration. It will convert a hovel into a home. It will educate the children to whose care it might be committed.

Western Canada should be known throughout the world, not only as the great grain-producing district, but as the land of beautiful homes, and of attractive farms. If for no other reason than the selfish one of gain, a man should add to the beauty of his farm. A purchasing agent will not only admire beauty, but pay for it in dollars—yes, pay twice over. Of course, this is not the main reason for emphasizing tree-planting and gardening. In order that men, women and children may liberate their own souls, realize their highest opportunities, enjoy life to the full, they must surround themselves with the beautiful, and what is even more important, must assist in creating beauty.

## Social Survey

Surveys have been made of two large districts in Saskatchewan showing the nationality, church relationship and educational opportunities of the people. Colored charts attempt to set forth the information in a manner that will appeal to the eyes. Any one who studies these charts will see how impossible it is for existing institutions to do all that is necessary to develop the people and bind them together in a friendly way. A new idea of church and a new type of school are called for. It is to be hoped that the researches of the new organization which is now attempting to make a comprehensive survey of the three provinces, will gather together such information as will enable people to take wise action in all matters that affect community life. We cannot remain satisfied until we have made provision for educating the minds and bodies of all who have settled here; and unless we are assured all are fast learning to become true Canadian citizens, with Canadian ideals and Canadian ambitions.