

slow and the cost is great, yet we must carry on. The British may have to take over a larger portion of the front, and the armies both of Britain and France must be steadily reinforced to make up the wastage and to give the brave boys a chance to rest and from time to time reorganize as the military necessities arise. In this Canada must do her share.

As we pointed out, recruiting in Canada has fallen off steadily month by month until the smallest number was reached in October. Is that the way we are going to reinforce our Canadian forces at the front, who are so heroically doing and dying for our sakes? It is a crying shame that at this critical period, when our recruiting should be at its highest, it should be at the lowest. Yet both parties at Ottawa have seemed to be thinking more of politics than recruiting. It is not for The Standard to enter into a discussion as to whether the Conservative party or the Liberal party are mostly to blame for the lamentable condition of things. It would be most unprofitable. What we have to deal with is the existing conditions and how to improve them.

No person will question that too much politics is the bane of this country, and it has been the cause of bringing about the present critical period. Very few will doubt that if our leaders could really have put party considerations aside in the early stages of the war, and could have united in a coalition cabinet as was done in Britain, things would have been better today. Fear is now expressed that it is too late to unite the political parties in a coalition, but The Standard cannot view it in that light. It has looked as if no possible contingency could arise to prevent a war election, but it is not too late to avert that.

There has unquestionably been growing up a strong feeling that we must have no war election, and that we must have, as the only alternative, a coalition government. So far as we know, none of the great party journals has expressed itself on this question, but that is not necessarily discouraging. They cannot speak without danger of being regarded as inspired. The big party papers have had no words to say in favor of a coalition, but at the same time it is significant that not a line scarcely has been written against it, as was the case a twelve month ago, when The Standard as strongly urged the formation of a coalition government. Some of the other newspapers of the country, in the smaller centres, are strongly supporting the idea of unity at Ottawa, even if it be by means of a coalition government.

The agitation for this utmost degree of unity among our political leaders cannot be allowed to rest. The interests at stake are too enormous. The raising of the other 150,000 men and the successful and single-minded prosecution of the war are the great objects. To bring about such a desirable, such a vitally necessary result, it is our duty and the duty of those like-minded, to use every means in their power to arouse public opinion in Canada.

Who are the persons most interested in this question, of those who are staying at home? Beyond any doubt it is the kith and kin of those who have gone to risk wounds, imprisonment and death.

Everything we have and enjoy at the present month is bought with a high price—it is the price of blood. It is the women of Canada who are paying the price. They are the proper persons who have a right to say