

## After the War Problems

### The Wider Study of National Problems Desirable -- The Scheme of the Canadian Problems Club

Some months ago a small group of men, convinced that the great problems of our country, present and to come, require the earnest consideration of all men and women who are in touch with some one or more of them, addressed to a number of representative citizens all over Canada a proposal for the establishment of a National Problems Club. The reception of this proposal was such as to place beyond question its practicability. The need for investigation is admitted, the value, as an educative influence and as a preparation for reconstruction, of groups constituted and co-ordinated to fill this need, is equally clear. We have been assured of the co-operation of many active-minded citizens, representative of the leading activities of the country. Branches have already been established or are in process of establishment in various cities and towns, including many of the important centres of the Dominion. It is now possible, therefore, to put forward, as a result of experience already gained and in the light of suggestions received, a more definite statement of the scheme, as well as to appeal with surer confidence for a widened support.

Certain of the details of organization which follow are not to be regarded as essential in every case, but are inserted at the request of branches which desired a specific scheme on which to work. It is desirable that the plan of organization should not be rigidly determined in advance, but should be developed as the movement grows.

The title of Canadian Problems Club (instead of National Problems Club) has been judged the most appropriate for the new organization. Besides the individual clubs (hereafter called Branch Clubs) some central organization is necessary, as will be obvious from what follows. The plan which appears most workable is that there should be a Central Committee for each province, to co-ordinate the work of the club within that province. In addition there is needed a general executive committee of the club as a whole. When the Provincial Central Committees are fully organized they will become responsible for the character and composition of the General Executive Committee. In the interim its work will be carried on by the group responsible for the inception of the scheme, with such additions to their numbers as may seem desirable.

It was pointed out in the original statement that the club has for its purpose the disinterested investigation of our national problems, in the spirit of that real citizenship whose first concern is the welfare of the whole, and that therefore, it knows no barrier of party, class, or limited interest of any kind. The object of the Central Committees, which ought to be as representative of different interests as possible, is simply to aid the branch clubs by their service of co-ordination. Through them the branch clubs of each province can be provided with information, questionnaires, lists of books, pamphlets, government reports, etc., bearing on the subjects with which they are concerned. Through them the branch clubs of each province can be kept in touch with one another, especially where different clubs are investigating the same problem. Each provincial committee will be in regular communication with the General Executive Committee and through it, or directly, with the other Provincial Committees, thus assuring a Dominion-wide co-ordination. By means of the Provincial Committees the General Executive Committee will be enabled to discover and disseminate any important contributions submitted by the branch clubs.

The General Executive Committee will, in co-operation with the Provincial Committees, issue a regular annual report, containing a summary of the work done by the clubs and an account of the growth of the movement. It will, in other ways, also give publicity to the conclusions arrived at by branch clubs as the result of investigation, and, where there is general agreement on any problem, will take steps to present the conclusion in question to such authorities as might be able to carry it into effect. It will also issue as bulletins, for distribution to members of branch clubs, such contributions to the solution of national problems, whether contributed by branch clubs or otherwise, as it judges to be of sufficient importance. It will establish a central office, if possible, under the charge of a qualified permanent secretary, where records of the club will be kept,

bibliographies, lists and resumes of reports, questionnaires, etc., will be prepared, and in general the material assembled and filed which may prove of service to the branch clubs in their work.

The following excerpts from the original statement will explain further the character of the branch clubs and the final aims of the club as a whole.

The branch clubs should be small in size, say about ten or twelve members. They are meant to foster active thinking and enquiry, in which each member has a part to play. A large club tends to degenerate into a passive body which meets merely to hear addresses by prominent speakers. Too often opinions are expressed which, being based on inaccurate or misleading information, are detrimental rather than helpful. The branch club is meant to discover facts and examine them as a basis for reasoned action. On the other hand there need be no limit to the number of separate branch clubs which may be formed.

Branch clubs may be formed either from the members of particular associations, Boards of Trade, Trade Unions, Universities, Churches, etc., or by any group of persons acting independently. Application for admission as a Canadian Problems Club should be submitted to the Provincial Central Committee. The club has no platform or creed. Any group composed of people who are genuinely interested in the problems of the country and willing to give thought and energy to the study of these and to co-operate with the Provincial Central Committee in this work will be gladly welcomed as a branch. A small affiliation fee is payable annually to the Provincial Central Committee, to aid it in furthering the work of the branches themselves. The Provincial Committee in turn will contribute to the expenses of the General Executive Committee. A list of national problems has also been prepared, and will be sent on request. Each club should choose one of these for its special investigation.

The opportunities of service open to a nation-wide chain of clubs so constituted and organized are very great. In the first place they will help the country to understand the magnitude and urgency of the immediate problems of reconstruction after the war, and so stimulate the sense of responsibility and the spirit of earnest reflection and resolve in which alone they can be met. More generally, they will be valuable aids towards the formation of a broader and deeper public opinion, which alone can save public effort and enterprise from misdirection, waste, and inefficiency. Finally, a system of clubs animated by this spirit and working to this end, whatever problems they solve or fail to solve, should at least lead to a better mutual understanding where interests are found to conflict. Where each understands the viewpoint of the other, the bitterness at least is taken out of conflict. In a country such as ours one of the greatest dangers is that of cleavage, economic and racial. If we can aid in bringing East and West, French-speaking and English-speaking Canada, agricultural Canada and industrial Canada, to the understanding of each other's problems, we shall be helping in the great work of the welding of a nation, which is the foundation of all true national life. This, in the strictest sense, is national service, and should enlist the sympathy, and, where possible, the co-operation, of all who have at heart the welfare of the nation.

NOTE.—The Provincial Committees are at present in process of formation. In the meantime all communications and suggestions, applications for membership, etc., should be addressed to Professor R. M. MacIver, The University, Toronto. While it may not in many cases be possible to initiate a branch club during the summer, yet preparations may be made by bringing possible members together, selecting a subject, etc., so that the club may begin operation in the fall without unnecessary delay.

#### RESCUE PALESTINE. (Buffalo News).

A British army is rapidly making headway in Palestine. It is said to be within easy distance of Jerusalem. The whole world will wish it success.

The Holy Land should be wrested from the blood-stained hands of the unspeakable Turk—not merely because of the Turk's religion, but as a matter of decency.

The cradle of two great faiths should not be allowed to remain in the hands of this monstrous power.

## News of the Week

### TUESDAY, JULY 17.

Germany admits Russian advance toward Carpathians and says Russian raiding detachments have been repeatedly repulsed.

Several German attacks repulsed on French front between the Somme and the Aisne Rivers.

Skirmishing is proceeding on the Macedonian front.

The Austrians are reported to be in full flight on the southern front in the Carpathians.

A despatch from Rome says that Dolina, fifteen miles southwest of Kalusz, a key to Lemberg, has been taken by the Russians.

Italians are showing renewed activity on the Carso front.

Gas cylinders were hurled into the German positions at Lens.

The American steamer Grace was sunk and three men were killed.

The republican agitation was strongly condemned by South Africans.

Quiet has again been restored in the Chinese capital. Russian officials discovered a German plot to assassinate Kerensky and other leaders.

France celebrated the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille with imposing ceremonies.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18.

There has been very heavy fighting on the French front with the French troops making good gains.

British position around Monchy-le-Preux have been improved and splendid work has been carried on by British aviators behind the lines.

Kalusz has been evacuated by the Russians.

British naval patrols have captured four German steamers.

A new revolt is said to have broken out in China.

Count von Bernstorff was reported to have been made German Minister to Copenhagen.

Hon. George P. Graham's amendment to the resolution of Sir Robert Borden for extension of the life of Parliament, calling first for conscription of wealth, organization of resources, and reduction of the cost of living, was defeated by 78 to 61.

### THURSDAY, JULY 19.

On Verdun front French have repulsed a number of attempts by the Germans to retake positions they lost on Tuesday.

British have made further slight gains around Monchy-le-Preux.

Russian forces are very hotly engaged with reinforced German forces in Galicia.

Serious disorders occur at Petrograd arising out of the disbanding of several regiments at the front for disobedience to orders.

A British steamer was saved from a submarine by an American destroyer.

The American Government believes its transports were betrayed to the enemy through Mexico.

Premier Borden withdrew his resolution for extension of Parliament, as it had not been carried with unanimity or practical unanimity.

### FRIDAY, JULY 20.

German troops are reported to have penetrated Russian positions near Ziochoff in Galicia, about 40 miles northeast of Lemberg.

Conditions in Petrograd still very serious.

British forces in Mesopotamia have advanced 12 miles on the Euphrates river in the last ten days.

Germans make sharp attack on a 800 yard front south of St. Quentin.

Germans and French have desperate battle on a wide front from a point northeast of Craonne to Hurtebise, an area between Soissons and Rheims.

British troops have reoccupied the advance post east of Monchy-le-Preux from which they were compelled to retire on July 11.

### SATURDAY, JULY 21.

French defeat Germans on a wide front along the plateau before Craonne and Vauclerc, north of the Aisne, in a very fierce battle.

Petrograd admits reverse on Galician front.

Attempt is made to assassinate Russian ministers. Five French ships were sunk last week by the plungers.

Prince Lvoff resigns and Kerensky becomes premier of Russia.

Fire is sweeping a large section of green forest in Shuswap Valley, B.C.

### MONDAY, JULY 23.

Local successes were gained by the British at several points in France.

Violent fighting between French and Germans continues on the Aisne front.

Raiders drop bombs on east coast towns.

Siam declares war on Germany.

Cabinet crisis partly solved at Petrograd.