

The Herald

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Christmas Greetings

We return our grateful thanks to our subscribers for their patience and forbearance with the very imperfect paper we have been sending them during the past few weeks. A great deal of the confusion, disorder and inconvenience caused by the fire has been overcome and we hope to be able, from now on to send out a clean respectable paper. In the mean time we wish all our friends, in the most acceptable sense, A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

A Years Accomplishment.

Hon. Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance and at present acting Prime Minister of Canada, while in Toronto a few days ago, handed a statement to the press of the Dominion, calling attention to what the Union Government has accomplished since its formation, and since it received its mandate from the people on December 17th, 1917. Since then the Union Government has vigorously prosecuted the war and carried out the policies for which it was formed.

The statement refers to the national registration of last June as having proved of use in providing valuable information for the work of reconstruction; the maintenance of the munitions industry at a high degree of efficiency by extensive credits, increased agricultural production through the Government's campaign; the additional taxation on war profits, and incomes, and the expanding revenues of the Dominion, and the evidence of prosperity of the people in the big success of the vast Victory Loan campaign; the \$25,000,000 made available by the Government for loans to the provinces to provide better housing conditions; the successful operations of the Food Board, and the authorization by the Government of the investigation by local municipalities of the high cost of living with a view to regulating excessive profits, and the adjustment of labor disputes among railway men by a Canadian Board of Adjustment.

With reference to the Military Service Act, and some other matters in connection with which Sir Thomas takes credit on behalf of the Government, the acting Premier's statement follows: "The Government has vigorously and impartially enforced the Military Service Act. As a result there were obtained over 80,000 men as re-inforcements for our forces overseas. There were also called up but released upon compassionate grounds or for other adequate reasons 25,000 men. The Military Police under the Department of the Militia, have vigorously pressed the apprehension and prosecution of deserters. Since the armistice men are no longer required for military service, but the Government is continuing proceedings against those in default under the Military Service Act with a view to their being brought to justice, and punished for their offenses. "Serious difficulties in the enforcement of the law have been encountered in certain situations by reason of trafficking in exemptions and leave certificates. These cases are being fully in-

vestigated in order that all who have been found guilty of wrong doing may be brought to trial without delay. "In the critical days of last spring, when the destiny of the Empire and of the world was hanging in the balance and a most urgent appeal was made for further man power to assist in stemming the tide of German advance the Government, with the assent of Parliament, took prompt and effectual measures to obtain the necessary re-inforcements. "The Government has maintained our fighting forces at the front up to full strength and over strength during the whole of present year and in this the fourth and last year of the war, we have maintained our largest and most efficient fighting force and the Canadian Corps has achieved its greatest victories. "The breaking of the Hindenburg line and the final taking of Mons are dramatic features in the great and decisive part taken by the forces of Canada, in all the victorious fighting which has brought peace to the world through the overthrow of the German armies in the field.

"During the year, Canada has supplied a great number of trained airmen for the Royal Air Service than in any previous year, and in this respect has, it is believed, excelled any other part of the Empire. Canada has also organized and provided tank battalions, and has increased the strength and efficiency of our railway, forestry and other services in France. We have, in addition, organized and despatched to Siberia a small but highly efficient expeditionary force to co-operate with the Allied forces there. "While our casualties have been unavoidably heavy they have been relatively smaller, having regard to the results achieved, than in any previous year, owing to the increased strength of our forces and the superior equipment. "There have been no troops in France more strongly maintained or more highly equipped in every arm and service than those of Canada. This fact had undoubtedly an important bearing upon the brilliant results which they were able to achieve in the field.

"An outstanding feature of the Government's policy during the year has been the establishment of a great shipbuilding industry. More than 40 steel vessels for Government account are now under order, the total estimated programme for this and the coming year aggregating over 60,000,000 dollars. The activities of all Canadian shipyards are being maintained at their highest capacity, furnishing employment for an army of workmen and sustaining many subsidiary enterprises of an important national character.

"Pensions for our soldiers and their dependents have been substantially increased and extended. Separation allowances to the wives and dependents of those serving overseas has been increased. A Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment has been established, and plans and policies have been elaborated for re-establishing the soldier in civil life. A Soldier's Land Settlement Board has been appointed, and great progress made in developing a policy under which suitable land will be acquired for settlement by soldiers and under which they will be aided in establishing themselves upon the land. "The Department of Militia and Defence and the Overseas Ministry of Military Forces have worked out, during the year, plans for demobilization, so that as soon as the troops are released from their duties and transportation facilities are available, the men will be returned to Canada and restored to their homes and civil occupations. "During the year a War Trade

composed of representative business men was established. Through its agency very valuable service has been rendered to Canadian trade, commerce and industry. "A Canadian War Mission was established at Washington through whose efforts Canadian manufacturing industry and Canadian labor have been largely benefited by orders secured from and the facilitation of business with departments of the United States Government at Washington.

"An economic mission has been sent to Siberia to study conditions and open the way for the extension of Canadian trade. Work of a most important and far-reaching character has been accomplished by the Reconstruction and Development Committee of the Cabinet, looking to the promotion of industry in Canada and the extension of our export trade after the war. "In this connection, and in order that Canada may secure her full share of the business growing out of the rehabilitation of the devastated sections of Europe, as well as meeting the needs of Great Britain and her Allies, a Canadian Trade Mission has been established in London, transferred from Washington, and a Canadian Trade Commission at Ottawa, an important block of international business is already assured. "In the early part of the present year co-operative relations were established between Labor and the Government in working out war problems. "A special committee on which both employers and employees are represented was appointed to consider and recommend measures to improve the relations of labor and capital, and labor has been given representation on the labor sub-committee of the Cabinet and on other boards and committees since appointed by the Government. "Legislation has been passed providing for the development of a system of labor exchanges throughout the provinces and of labor clearing houses under federal jurisdiction. A war labor policy has been formulated and a Labor Appeal Board constituted, on which employers and employees are represented. "In its war work and reconstruction activity the Government has sought the co-operation of the women of Canada whose patriotic unselfish and devoted services played so notable a part in Canada's conduct of the war. On the various boards and committees to which they have been appointed, Canadian women have served with ability and distinction. The extension of the federal franchise to women was one of the most noteworthy features of the last session of Parliament. "The Government has placed the purchasing of all supplies for all the departments of the Government in the hands of the War Purchasing Commission, a body of business men, thus eliminating all political preference in the purchase of goods for the Government.

"During the year the Prime Minister and three of his colleagues attended the meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet and of the Imperial War Conference in London where matters of great importance are affecting the conduct of the war and the problems of reconstruction following the war were considered by representatives of the Dominions and the mother country. "The Prime Minister and three of his colleagues are now in London in conference with the Imperial authorities and the representatives of the other Dominions and of the Allies, in connection with the work of the peace conference which will re-cast the map of Europe and reach determinations of the most momentous and far-reaching consequences to all man-

kind. In the deliberations of the conference Canada, with the rest of the Empire, is immediately and vitally concerned. "The Government fully appreciates the magnitude and complexity of the problems to be dealt with during the period of reconstruction, and particularly those connected with industrial readjustment, demobilization and repatriation of our soldiers and the reorganization of our social system in harmony with the new spirit born of the war. "To these great tasks the Government is bringing the same united and wholehearted resolution and determination which have characterized the efforts in the prosecution of the war, and confidently relies upon our Canadian people for its undivided support of the constructive measures necessary to the accomplishment of the end in view."

Mr. R. V. Oulahan (New York Times).—What the British fleet has meant in winning the victory now in sight has been emphasized to us during our visit, and our own Admiral Sims has made known to us in a very illuminating way how deep a debt of gratitude we owe to the magnificent British navy, which has furnished the foundation for this final triumph about to be realized by the allied armies.

Mr. Mark Sullivan (Collier's Weekly).—What Great Britain alone was to the world before the war, Great Britain and the United States together must be to the world of the future. Certain resources which Great Britain had before the war, and which she spent most generously in order to preserve civilization, have passed to the United States. They passed to us, not because we wanted them, or tried to get them, but merely through the natural working out of the mechanism which you built up to carry on the war and preserve civilization. That we should take a selfish advantage of the situation is unthinkable.

Mr. L. W. Nieman (Milwaukee Journal).—We have seen England and we know the truth. I must say that to me it has been a revelation. I knew England was not decadent, but I was not prepared for the virility which marked the conduct of your people everywhere. You kept the Kaiser's horses off with little more than your bare hands to fight with and the more the truth is known, the more will other nations wonder and the greater will be the tribute to your country.

Mr. C. H. Towne (McClure's Magazine).—If there is one impression deeper than all others that I am taking back to the United States, it is a profound sense of the courage of the English people. And I, who came as a humble pilgrim to a land that I have always loved, cannot express in words what I felt when I first saw London in darkness. Yet London has never been so light—spiritually. And it is so all over England, and in Scotland where I was also privileged to go. A nation that has held the fort so long and so bravely—how can one fear for her? We can only take some of her courage for our own, if we need it, and feel that we have not robbed her.

Mr. Alfred Holman (San Francisco Argonaut).—Many times in the course of our tour I have been led to wonder if anybody not privileged to see Britain at war—in England and Scotland—will ever be able adequately to conceive the energy and sacrifice of your people. The spectacle is that of a country which has subordinated every interest, put aside every motive and purpose, not connected with the essential and immediate business of carrying on the war. It is a spectacle of infinite dignity—even of majesty—one that must challenge the admiration and the gratitude of ages to come.

Mr. James M. Thompson (New Orleans Item).—Of one thing this trip has left me confident, that is that the British Empire stands today at the pinnacle of her glorious record of material, political and intellectual achievement. Mr. Edward Wheeler (Current Opinion).—God bless you all for a nation of "dead game sports," who take punishment with cheerful facts and stand up to perils and soul-racking duty with a pluck of persistence never before in the world history, as I believe, exceeded or equal on a large scale.

Mr. Edward W. Bok (Ladies Home Journal).—In common with many thousands of Americans I had no adequate conception of the British part in this war; in fact I am free to confess that I had some distinct misconceptions. But remember, when I say this, how little we have been told of Great Britain's share in these weeks, however, of mingling with your people here in England, and with your officers and men in France, it has been forcibly borne upon me what a tremendous part has been played by the British people and those of her colonies.

My impressions of this life-long-to-be remembered trip are many, and they must first be clarified to give them cohesion. But above all there will remain with me a new conception of the British character, of your shy and reticent but determined men, and of your glorious women. The part that these latter have played and are playing in the successful prosecution of the war behind the lines and at home will alone make a wonderful chapter in the history of Great Britain.

Dr. Albert Shaw (Review of Reviews).—We were enormously impressed by the efficiency of your war industry, and even more were we delighted with the human side of what you are doing in bringing the mechanical and industrial effort of the nation to a war focus. The young women of England are in no manner less feminine, and in all respects they are the more valuable to themselves and the country, for the part they have taken in war work.

Mr. Ellery Sedwick (Atlantic Monthly).—If you ask me what are the deepest memories I carry away with me, I answer unhesitatingly the quiet naturalness of men and women under this tremendous strain. The absence of mourning is extraordinary, the cheerfulness deeply moving. My second picture, which crowns the first, is of the women workers in my country factory women are sallow and listless. Here, in your great workers at Glasgow and Carlisle and Manchester, they are ruddy as if they had come in from the fields, and they work with a will which the men would find it hard to equal.

Mr. F. W. Kellogg (San Francisco Call).—Our trip to the Great Fleet and the information from our own Admiral Sims about the British and American navies enabled us to understand

the one great bulwark of liberty that saved the world from Hun slavery and German degradation. We could not help but realize that the English fleet belongs not only to Great Britain but to all the world; and it may not be a miss to remark here that the world will not feel safe to diminish the navy of Great Britain until the German fleet, that is too cautious to fight, and the piratical submarines of the Prussian regime, are dismantled and cease to be a menace to the world. I hope to see the day that a great allied fleet of the English-speaking nations of the world will cooperate through the good offices of a League of Nations to police and protect the world.

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