

FRANCE HAS UNDERGONE A MOST TERRIBLE ORDEAL

Country Has All Elements Needed for Her Restoration After War, But First and Foremost She Must Have Population — Her Fallen Sons Must be Replaced.

Canadian Headquarters in France (by mail), from Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent, Canadian Press: "C'est la Guerre." If a battery, on the way up to the front, is stalled in an apparently bottomless road that is marked "open", if a shell drops into a village behind the lines and makes a ruin of someone's home; if an infantry battalion on the march finds itself detained overnight in some village where no arrangements have been made for billets, and folk who are asked to divide, among a thousand men, the accommodation meant for two hundred; the people in the British zone of occupation drag their shoulders, elevate their eyebrows and with convincing finality, announce: "C'est la Guerre."

"C'est la Guerre" And, of course, it is war. As Bismarck put it, "You can't make omelette without breaking eggs." One cannot look at the devastated villages at the worn-out roads, at the many military cemeteries, where lie, in long lines, each with his little wooden cross above him, the soldiers of France "Mort pour la Patrie," or contemplate the decrease of industrial activity in the large area of Northern France in which military operations are being conducted, without giving thought to what will come after the war ends.

Restoration for France as for all the great nations engaged in the war, with the possible exception of Russia, involves the growth of population. Instead of emerging from the conflict, as her too confident foe anticipated, shorn of her colonies and the industrial departments of the north, France will still remain the mistress of overseas dominions greater than those of any other power of the first class, except Great Britain. To hold her place in the sun France must have population—a growing population, to carry on the splendid traditions of the Frenchmen who, in the past centuries, have fought for empire in every corner of the earth, and who now battle for the national life in full assurance of final victory.

France Needs Men

To make her position secure in the days to come, France must make good the admittedly serious loss of manpower sustained in defeating the invader—a loss which is brought continually before the people by the many military burial grounds behind the battlefront.

The future of France is in the home. The victory of French manhood in the field must be followed up by the victory of motherhood in the home. The notion that the French are no longer a virile race is an absurd fiction. The women of Northern France are of precisely the same Franco-Norman stock which in Canada remains today one of the most prolific in the world. The French-Canadian women accept the duty of motherhood, largely as a matter of good morals and obedience to the teaching of the church. If, as a result of the terrible ordeal through which she is passing, France has a spiritual rebirth—and of that there are many indications—the home might again become what it still remains in French Canada, the centre of the national life. Physically, the women of Northern France are a fine race. At the present time they are carrying on practically all the work of the farms and villages, assisted by old men and boys, in such things as road-mending and transportation. They work from early morning till sunset with a tireless patience that is wholly admirable. It is difficult to believe that were they confronted with the alternative of caring for larger families or seeing France depopulated from her honorable position as one of the world's great nations, they would refuse to turn, with renewed interest, to the duties of the home. The present family ambition is to bring to maturity a son who will inherit the business or the farm, and accumulate a handsome dot for the daughter of the house, so that she may make an advantageous marriage. If parents were content to give their children a good education and let them go out from the home to make their own way in the world, some of the more acute problems of family life among the cultivators and in the small towns would be in a fair way toward solution.

France Rich Land

France has all the elements needed for her restoration after the war—rich land, everywhere well cultivated; a thrifty, tireless and tenacious background for the inspiration of her statesmen, and a high standard of intelligence among her skilled workmen. The tax burdens resulting from the war will be tremendous, but France will probably carry them more easily even than the Great Britain, unless there is a drastic reform of the British system of land cultivation, and a great increase in the proportion of the lands of the United Kingdom devoted to tillage.

The devastation wrought by the enemy will be made good in a relatively short time, unless it is decided to leave cities like Arras and Verdun in their wrecked and ruined condition as object lessons of the German brand of culture. For many a year Northern France and Belgium will be the Mecca of the tourist, and particularly of the British tripper and his trans-Atlantic cousin. Even now the trades people are making a great deal of money by supplying the British troops with "extras" not provided under regulations. It is a good apprenticeship for the business that will be done at the end of the war, and charging "all the time" is a little less adept than his little brother of Belgium.

But what would you have? "C'est la Guerre." Everyone can make munitions and the shopkeeper must live. The tourist, when he comes, will find the way prepared for him, in some degree, by the soldiers who have had to combat the tendency toward charging excessive prices that was shown in the early days of the war. "The Idiot's Chronicle," one of the numerous papers published for the amusement of the men at the front, thus describes the bargaining between Tommy and a shopkeeper over a small wooden pail: "Comblez pour votre pail, Miasus." "Six sous, M'sier," replied the dame. "Awa and chaw yersel," was the answer. "Je donnez vous tuppence pour il."

"Non, M'sier, six sous." "Aye, but ye'll no get six sous. Je donnez vous tuppence, an poo." "Bh bien, M'sier, two pennies, quatre sous." "Righ ye are, Auld Yin. Voici yer quatre sous." France has lost much by the war, yet if she will continue to cultivate habits of thrift—except in the matter of filling the cradle—she will emerge from the struggle without vital hurt. But the cradle must be filled.

MAIN VEIN OF GOLD FOUND AT KIRKLAND.

Special to The Standard. Kirkland, Ont., May 1.—The main vein of the Kirkland Lake Gold has been encountered in the crosscut at the six hundred foot level. Drill runners tapped the vein on Saturday and up to the present two rounds have been taken out with the face still in ore. The average gold content has not yet been ascertained, but the ore bears similar characteristics to that obtaining at the four hundred and five hundred foot levels.

KING GEORGE TO URG ECONOMY HOULTON BOYS GUARDING C. P.

London, May 1.—King George will shortly issue a proclamation urging the people to economise to the extent of twenty-five per cent. in the consumption of food, owing to the gravity of the situation. The proclamation will be read publicly from the steps of the royal exchange in London and all town halls throughout the country. On Sunday it will be read in all churches.

Woodstock, May 1.—Company L of the Second Maine Regiment, of Houlton and vicinity, has gone to join other companies for patrol duty along the line of the Canadian Pacific railroad in this State. The boys from Houlton number one hundred. They were given a rousing send off, by the town people. A detachment has been sent to Presque Isle for patrol duty.

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"In order that 50,000 troops of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at present serving in Canada may be released for active warfare an appeal is now made to the manhood of Canada to volunteer for home defence."

RIGHT HON. ANDREW BONAR LAW, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

SIR EDWARD KEMP, Minister of Militia and Defence.

GET INTO KHAKI

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Men are still needed to provide adequately for home defence, and to release for the Front—to back up our troops who have won such signal success on Vimy Ridge—the overseas units held here.

CANADIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Enlistment in the Canadian Defence Force is for one year—or for the period of the war and six months after if required. Clothing, equipment and rations provided as in the C. E. F. Pay the same as that for Militia on active service, with separation allowance for married men. To you—men between 18 and 45 and physically fit—the call comes.

For full particulars enquire at Armories of the Regiments listed below. Men Still Required for Overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. More men are required for reinforcements at the Front. Those who desire to volunteer for Overseas service may enlist through one of the regiments ordered to mobilize for Home Defence.

Military District No. 6.—Headquarters, Halifax, N. S.

Halifax, 63rd Regiment (Halifax Rifles) St. John, N. B., 62nd Regiment (St. John Fusiliers) 66th Regiment (Princess Louise Fusiliers)

Recruits are now being sought for by the 62nd Regiment, St. John Fusiliers, Lieut. Col. J. L. McAvity, O. C. For full particulars apply at the Central Recruiting Office, 97 Prince Wm. Street, or at the Battalion Headquarters, Exhibition Building.

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