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EDITORIAL

April, 1918

The "Mothers of Consolidation"

Are You Going to Join in the Work They Have Planned?
The Government Invites You—Will You Answer the Call?

LAST month EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD came forth editorially under the heading: "Mobilization of Canadian Women," wherein Mrs. Nellie L. McClung agitated for unity to meet the problems that are to-day facing us. In another section of the March issue, this magazine championed the amalgamation of women's clubs and organizations in a "Call to Arms,"—an invitation to every Canadian woman to enlist in a league named, temporarily and for convenience, "The Canadian Woman's War League," to be organized for the purpose of meeting issues contingent upon the war and having a direct and vital bearing upon our home life.

Within a few days after the publication of the March issue, the Government called, at Ottawa, a conference of women for the express purpose of working along the very lines suggested in our "Call to Arms." The Dominion has never known so unique a gathering. Women from all walks of life were there. From every province in the Dominion they came—representative of every woman's organization and woman's interest. The assembly was significant, inspiring.

Mrs. Adelaide Plumptre, who presided, expressed the situation aptly when, in her final message to the Cabinet and to the women she said: "Fifty years ago a certain group of men earned for themselves the title of 'Fathers of Confederation.' In future we may be called the 'Mothers of Consolidation.'"

It is to be wondered if the storm of applause that followed the remark carried with it understanding of the true significance of the statement, "Mothers of Consolidation!" Do the women of Canada realize that the time has come when they must sink all differences—differences of class, creed, politics and nationality? Has the fact been borne in upon them that Consolidation rests with each of them individually? To quote Mrs. McClung, from one of her addresses at the Conference:—

"We need waste no time in declaring our loyalty OR IN DOUBTING THAT OF OUR NEIGHBOR."

There's the rub—"Doubting that of our neighbor." If the time many of us spend in doubting the good faith of our neighbors were devoted to food production, what a harvest would there be!

"THE problems of Canada," declared Mrs. McClung, "are the women's problems. This is the first time in our history, and in fact, the first time in British history, when women have been called into council by the Government, and I do hope that the women gathered here will help the conference by human interest. All the world is now divided into two opposing factors—the people who represent the money interests, and the people who are fighting for human rights. We want the enemy, whether at home or abroad TO KNOW THAT CANADIAN WOMEN HAVE DRAWN THE SWORD. WE ARE AT WAR WITH EVERY AGENCY AT HOME OR ABROAD THAT WOULD WEAKEN BRITAIN."

As the conference progressed, no doubt remained as to the intention of the women. They had buckled on their armor and were out to win. For the past several years, through the press and on the public platform, women have been assured that their "day has come." The proverbial grains of salt became more numerous as they accepted the statements and bided their time.

"Home Thoughts from Abroad"

April in England—daffodils are growing
By every wayside, golden, tall and fair;
April—and all the little winds are blowing
The scents of Springtime through the sunny air.
April in England—God! that we were there!

April in England—and her sons are lying
On those red fields and dreaming of her shore;
April—we hear the thrushes' songs replying
Each unto each, above the cannons' roar.
April in England—shall we see it more?

April in England—there's the cuckoo calling
Down in her meadows, where the cowslip gleams;
April—and little showers are softly falling,
Dimpling the surface of her babbling streams.
April in England—how the shrapnel screams!

April in England—blood, and dust, and smother,
Screaming of horses, men in agony:
April—full many of thy sons, O Mother,
Never again those dewy dawns shall see.
April in England—God, keep England free!

NORAH M. HOLLAND.

But this act on the part of the Government—this invitation to lend advice and co-operation—was different. It exemplified emancipation—no, that is not the word; Canadian women have never found the need of emancipation—let us say, rather, exaltation.

They answered the Government's invitation with enthusiasm. They arrived laden down with statistics and a plenitude of common sense. A mischievous thought struck one of the listeners: "Did the gentlemen of the Government anticipate it? Did they realize that with all the love of detail of their feminine nature, their energetic sisters had been col-

lecting this data for years? Did they foresee that they (the Cabinet) were committing themselves to an irrevocable pledge, though yet unspoken?" A mischievous thought indeed, was this, prompted by a certain sense of humor absolutely uncontrollable when a veritable machine-gun fire of questions was directed first at one and then at another member of the Cabinet. Sir George Foster thrilled every woman present with his exhortation to "Save, Save!" But, had he wanted to evade the question whether or not Daylight Saving would be adopted, he could not well have done so in the face of one persistent questioner whose determination it was to ascertain that one point. His oratory was marvellous and appreciated. But his answer was desired! And so, it went! Mr. Henry B. Thomson, Chairman of the Food Board, answered questions as to compulsory rationing, fixing of prices and other matters that have been worrying housekeepers. Hon. N. W. Rowell, Maj.-Gen. Mewburn, and the others, were allotted their shares.

Agriculture and Production, Thrift and Economy, Public Health and Child Welfare, Industrial Activities and National Registration—all these subjects were dealt with.

THE last subject mentioned deserves wider treatment, since upon its success will depend, to a large extent, the success of the other problems. It brings us back to EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD's "Call to Arms." As a result of the Conference, a league such as we suggested, modeled, probably, after the American "League of National Defence," may be organized by the Government.

Further, registration of woman power as well as of man power is to be a reality. A "Canada Registration Board" has been formed, including among its members Mrs. Plumptre. In order that only a moderate amount of machinery be used to carry out the idea, it is necessary that every Canadian woman consider herself a cog in the wheel.

Would you be willing to operate a street car so that its present operator may be placed at work wherein he might be more useful but wherein you are not physically fit? Then register!

Would you sell dressgoods in a departmental store so that the male clerk may be placed at farm labor too heavy for you but both healthier for and more required of him? Register!

EVERYWOMAN'S WORLD is open to you at all times for guidance. If you do not know with whom you should communicate in order to become employed to the best patriotic advantage, write us.

The Government needs your co-operation. When the Government is right, we support the Government. In the present instance we "stand at attention"—stand as well, by you and with you and for you.

This national magazine has placed itself on record with the "Mothers of Consolidation" as one of the pioneers in the immense task of organization—for unity and for strength.

Women of Canada! We ask you—Are you with us? Are you going to help us to "CARRY ON"?