

The Awful Price of War

On another page we give an extract from a recent despatch which is a terrible illustration of the price of war. The writer describes the ancient nation of Poland as it is after 7 months of terror, and when we read that 200 towns and cities and 9000 villages have been devastated — which if the same had happened in Canada would have wiped out the whole of our urban life — we cannot help but appreciate our privileges as belonging to an Empire which can look so well after its own, that not one citizen need lose a moment's sleep over the safety of himself and family. Canada is so far from the seat of war that it is only the rape of Belgium and the spoilation of Poland that can bring to our minds its hellishness. Its magnitude we can hardly conceive and its full effect we will never know because it will not touch us in our homes—at least directly. Indirectly the war will touch many Canadian homes whose sons have gone out, though not so many as one might wish. But there is a reason, the stupidity of the military authorities. Many bright Canadians who have given up their jobs and enlisted and even passed the doctor have after a week or so in the King's uniform been dismissed; the usual reason given

being "medically unfit." This system of recruiting is not conducive to recruiting for what young fellow, however patriotic, is going to risk the chance of being seen one day in uniform and the next day branded a "misfit". Recently comparisons have been drawn of the scarcity of native born Canadians in the Canadian contingents. Such comparisons are always odious and never fair for in not one instance, where they have been made, have the conditions or reasons been mentioned. We believe that the spirit of patriotism is just as strong in the native born as amongst those who come from the homeland, but it just wants touching in the right way and by the right people. We would suggest the military authorities copying some of Lord Kitchener's methods of recruiting, one of which, that of giving local names, would be more effective than numbering the battalions. The Montreals, the Torontos, the Winnipegs, the Saskatoons, the Victorias, the Sydneys, would create more local patriotism and pride than the 2st, the 22nd, or 23rd battalions, and would get better results. Of course a partial tribute to the principle is such names as The Westmount Rifles, Victoria Rifles, the Royal Canadians, and others.

One Hundred Million Dollar Unemployment Scheme

Controller McDonald of Montreal recently sent a remarkable letter to the Prime Minister and principal cities of the country, which to say the least gives food for thought, not only because of its scope, no less than the borrowing of one hundred million dollars on the combined credit of the Dominion, Provinces and Municipalities, for the benefit of the unemployed, but its bringing home of the fact that so many men in Canada are out of work. The figures given by Mr. McDonald (approximately 100,000) being if anything less than over the mark.

The proposal is that the Federal, Provincial and Municipal authorities vote a credit of \$100,000,000 to be applied to works specified, as follows:—

Construction of permanent roads, subways, bridges, thoroughfares and all municipal, suburban and public works of the nature in and around large cities, so as to offer work when it is needed without compelling workmen to displacement of their actual domicile. The Dominion, the Provinces and Cities concerned to share equally one-third of this indebtedness of \$100,000,000 or \$33,000,000 for each of those categories. To ensure a higher bid for the forty year loan to be made by the three borrowers, it should be agreed that all three be individually and severally responsible for the full amount.

The Controller suggests the division of the \$100,000,000 as follows:—

Montreal	\$25,000,000
Toronto	20,000,000
Winnipeg	10,000,000
Vancouver	8,000,000
St. John	5,000,000
Halifax	5,000,000
Regina	5,000,000

Edmonton	5,000,000
Quebec	5,000,000
Ottawa	5,000,000
Other miscellaneous cities	7,000,000
Total	\$100,000,000

The proportionate amount that each city should be responsible for is given as follows:—

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Montreal	25	\$8,250,000
Toronto	20	6,600,000
Winnipeg	10	3,300,000
Vancouver	8	2,640,000
St. John	5	1,650,000
Halifax	5	1,650,000
Regina	5	1,650,000
Edmonton	5	1,650,000
Quebec	5	1,650,000
Ottawa	5	1,650,000
Miscellaneous	7	2,310,000
Total		\$33,000,000

Whatever might be the merits of the scheme, and there are many, it is hardly likely to succeed, though it deserves to, for the obstacles to overcome are so many — too many even for big brained Duncan McDonald, but it is not fair that the burden of the big army of unemployed and their families should rest entirely on the municipalities as it does at present. It is the duty of the Federal and the Provincial authorities to take up their share and it is "up" to the parliamentary representatives of the urban centres to see that they do it. To act through the Union of Canadian Municipalities would be the best way, and doubtless the Union is open to a suggestion to that effect.