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Special Articles

Canada's War Financing.
By H. M. P. Eckardt.

The Larger Issues of the War.
By J. W. Macmillan.

Book Reviews.
By H. S. Ross.

Conditions in the West.
By E. Cora Hind.

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The Halifax Commission

THE noble sympathy and liberality with which the people of the British Empire and the United States responded to the call of distress after the explosion at Halifax gave early assurance that there would be no lack of money to meet the need of the occasion. Already a great fund has been raised, and nobody can doubt that if more is required to meet legitimate calls it will be forthcoming. The chief need now is an efficient organization to receive and administer the moneys so generously given.

The Halifax people have acquitted themselves with much honor in the trying ordeal through which they have passed. All that could be done by voluntary efforts hastily organized has been well done. Many of the citizens, both men and women, have made large sacrifices in their efforts to provide relief for the sufferers. But the time has come for passing from these temporary relief movements to a more permanent organization. That a commission for this purpose would be appointed by the Dominion Government was taken for granted. Probably Provincial legislation, more than Dominion, will be found necessary in the carrying on of the work, for the matters to be dealt with fall chiefly within the constitutional authority of the Province. But the formation of a commission under Dominion authority is a proper step in a matter of such world-wide interest. We may safely assume that there has been consultation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments and that the two authorities will cordially co-operate in the good work.

The gentlemen chosen by the Dominion Government to compose the commission will command the confidence of the public generally. —Mr. T. S. Rogers, K.C., is an eminent lawyer of Halifax, having an excellent reputation in both legal and business circles. Judge W. B. Wallace, of the Halifax County Court, though he has fifteen years of efficient judicial work to his credit, is still in the prime of life, and is universally esteemed. These two gentlemen should give an adequate representation to the local interests that naturally desire consideration. The wider general interest is represented by Mr. F. L. Fowke, of Oshawa, Ontario, who has had long experience in political and municipal affairs, having done service as Mayor of his city, and as a member of the Canadian Parliament. The Commissioners are undertaking a work of much responsibility and considerable difficulty, in which they should have the cordial support of all who are interested in the Halifax situation.

The Australian Crisis

THE political affairs of our sister Commonwealth, interesting at all times, are particularly so just now because Australia, like

Canada, has been much disturbed by the question of military conscription. Labor interests have been much more prominent in Australia than here. The Labor party has had a large voice, and usually a prevailing voice, in the Commonwealth for some years. Mr. Hughes was a Labor leader, who became Premier after Mr. Andrew Fisher retired to the ease of the High Commissionership in London. Mr. Hughes' support of conscription led to a break with the Labor organization, but he received enough support from other groups to enable him to form a kind of Union Government, and to retain office. Twice Australia has been asked to decide the question of conscription by a referendum, and twice the people have rejected the conscription proposals. The electors, apparently, made distinctions in their own minds between men and things. They had condemned conscription, yet they had supported the Hughes Government, which was responsible for the conscription law. In the case of the recent referendum contest Mr. Hughes, in supporting conscription, said that if the law were not approved he would deem it his duty to resign, and leave to his opponents the responsibility of carrying on the affairs of government. Conscription having been defeated on the referendum, Mr. Hughes thereupon resigned, and the Governor called on Mr. Tudor, the leader of the Opposition, to form a Government. The despatches are not very clear as to what part Mr. Tudor has played. It would seem, however, that when faced by the responsibilities of office he shrank from them. He had claimed that Australia would, by further efforts under the voluntary system, be able to raise all the men needed, but apparently he was not willing to put his theory to the test. With some ground he might have asked the Governor to grant him a dissolution of Parliament. Whether he made such a request is not stated. It appears, however, that Mr. Tudor has failed to form a Cabinet, that Mr. Hughes and his colleagues have been asked by the Governor to resume office, and that Parliament has again voted confidence in the Hughes Cabinet. The situation is an embarrassing one for Mr. Hughes. He has no faith in the raising of any considerable number of additional men by the voluntary system. But conscription having been twice distinctly condemned by the popular vote, the Premier can hardly be expected to proceed to enact a new conscription law. The development of events will be watched with much interest.

Pulpit Politics

REV. DR. CARSON, editor of the Halifax Presbyterian Witness, has been visiting Ontario and has sent home some notes of his observations. In an Ontario town, the name of which he does not mention, some exciting