

In National Union Let There Be Unity

By THE EDITOR

OF all times in the history of a world that seems to be swayed by opinion as much as by gravitation or chemistry, now is the time when we are in need of absolute sanity and fair-mindedness. For three years and more the world has been torn with insanity—in the form of war. For many years or centuries—heaven alone knows how many—the world was swung by insanity in other forms. We believe that war which in most of its manifestations is the most obvious form of insanity ever known, cannot continue much longer along right lines unless as much of the world as possible keeps its head. This is not to say that the war will be over soon, or that it will be of much longer duration. That no one can forecast.

But whether long or short the war, it is time we all allowed ourselves to see through the fogs of camouflage and to be able to judge the significance of what happens. The things that happen are violently unusual. The minds of people who are not engaged in actual fighting, should be sane. We need sanity both at home and abroad. It is because Russia has thrown overboard most of what sanity she had and has temporarily gone over to the Bolsheviki form of insanity, that Russia is in such a parlous condition. We do not expect a normal world for a long while to come. When the war is over, the world will be far from normal. In fact the day that hostilities cease will seem to most of us such an unbelievable day that we shall need to pinch ourselves to make sure we are not all dreaming.

War and hate, and violence and truth warped all ways, have been the rule so long that we are in a state of war nerves. We shall have difficulty in shaping our minds to a peace world. All that now is, in business, in Government, in politics, in industry, in finance, in social life, in education, in matters of the home, will be suddenly changed. It will need a world of sanity to adjust ourselves to the change. Suddenly as the war was when it sprang upon the world, much as it flung all the machinery of civilization into a chaos, the stoppage of war will be a process much more violent. We have accustomed ourselves to

think in terms of war. We shall have great difficulty in pulling ourselves together to think in terms of peace. It will be like a blow on the head to look in the newspapers every morning and see that the leading brains of the world are engaged in the business of making terms of peace instead of the business of ruining the whole world by war. Living as we are now by the momentum of war, we shall find ourselves bewildered when we have to depend upon what we used to consider the normal condition of peace.

For there is in this war no appeal to the gallery. There is no gallery. Practically the whole world has made a supreme business of war. The only appeal to decision or reason left is the inherent sanity of mankind. And we need all of that in constant use for the business of estimating even the war. In a sense there is nothing new about the war. There are no revelations to make comparable to those we have already experienced. We are looking for peace, not knowing how we should be able to live by peace when it comes.

That is true nationally, as well as universally. Canada is on the verge of a new era of nationhood. In a few weeks the first Parliament assembled under the banner of a Union Government, since Confederation, will be in session at Ottawa. Let us hope that unity will be the keynote of that assemblage of Union. Union without Unity will be a farce. Unity can be disrupted from any quarter. Of all times and places when national sanity is in evidence, let it be in this Union-Government Parliament of Canada, assembled for the business of carrying on the war to a righteous conclusion. Let us see to it that having put our house politically in order we do not allow it to go nationally into confusion. Canada is a nation. Let us have the sanity and the unity of a nation. And let us not forget that the war which divides the world, should also unite nations. Let us not admit that Germany is the best-united country in the world, or that Germany is able to bolster up her own unity by creating dissension and discord in the countries governed by what we call democracy.

OPINIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE

Be Fair to Quebec

Windsor, Ont., Dec. 27, 1917.

Editor Canadian Courier:

"'Taint no difference if he is a houn'—
You got to quit kicking my dawg aroun'."

That's precisely how I view the Quebec situation, and since I am neither French nor Catholic, no one can accuse me of being predisposed in sympathy with the Quebecois. But I think it's time to let up on the altogether overdone and carried-too-far French-baiting that a certain class of Ontario newspapers have indulged during the last three years and more of war.

And so, when M'sieu Francoeur politely gives notice of motion in the Quebec Legislature that he will bring in at a certain date a resolution delicately intimating that if the English-speaking Provinces of Canada regard Quebec as a thorn in their side, Quebec is perfectly willing to refrain from longer obtruding her unwelcome presence in their midst, it makes me think hard and then some to see an editorial in the Government's favorite party organ, the London Free Press, conclude thusly:

"Quebec should realize as the result of the Dominion election that the people of Canada are not in any mood to be trifled with."

And this from blue-stockinged, culturist little London, which calls itself the Boston of Canada! I gasp to think what the editorial writers of the Toronto Telegram and the Orange Sentinel are writing.

Maybe the French-Canadians are slackers, traitors, degenerate sons of degenerate Frenchmen and Indian squaws—I've read all this in Ontario and American newspapers, and it's startling interest, I'm not well enough up on history to take issue with—but aren't we ever goin to give Quebec a rest? Isn't there anybody else's dog we can kick around for a change?

"La Presse" in its issue for December 24, in a symposium of different views on the question raised by M. Francoeur's motion, generously gives a place of prominence to Mr. P. B. Mignault, C.R., who frankly declares himself opposed to the proposal, as unfeasible and inadvisable.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed in this Department.

The Montreal Star, after slurring M. Francoeur for his "impertinent resolution" as "a member from a rural county," says it "ought not to be taken more seriously than the declarations of a politician of the same type in Ontario."

There's just the trouble. Not reflecting at all upon M. Francoeur, but having in mind the Ontario type of politician with whom The Star would compare him, fairly or unfairly, isn't it rather true that the narrow, least-cultured and small-seeing of the politicians, demagogues, preachers, editors and busy-bodies have had altogether too much space and attention in the English press of Canada?

The Quebecois, judging by the careful and balanced wording of M. Francoeur's resolution, have at least a sense of delicacy or finesse, something that the French-Baiters in Ontario are entirely lacking in.

The first demands for conscription in Canada were made by women's organizations of the ultra-imperialistic type, clergymen exempt by their profession from fighting, and retired colonels who had enjoyed comfortable livings in times of peace, and were too safely past the age limit to be expected to fight now. Alack, for a sense of the simple fitness or unfitness of things!

It's a dead worm that never turns under repeated trampling, and the French race in Canada has got about all that's coming to it at the hands of the Orange fire-eaters and political make-shift opportunists. There were straight Laurier votes in many Ontario constituencies that would have carried the day under normal conditions and a normal franchise. In many places the Liberal candidates went down to defeat, although polling larger votes than Liberal candidates ever did before in those ridings. If the Quebecois are traitors to be conscripted or forced in or out of Confederation at the point of the bayonet as some editorial writers and speakers make no

bones about saying, why, then, there are a very great number of traitors in good old Ontario.

VERNE DEWITT ROWELL.

Canadian Piano-Makers

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 20, 1917.

Dear Sir,—As a regular reader of your paper I was deeply interested in an article in the music column regarding the export of Canadian pianos to England. You made the statement that Canada was better equipped for such trade than the United States. Right there I beg to differ with you for various reasons, namely, Canadian makers import all their wire from the United States, and, of course, pay duty on it; also the felt for hammers, felt for the touch; veneer for the cases; castors to stand the piano on, and other materials, too numerous to mention.

It is only in recent years that a first-class action has been manufactured in Canada; and a great part of the material used therein is imported from the U. S. The Canadian maker is very conservative; in other words, he is not satisfied with a big turnover at a small profit, but wants a small turnover at enormous dividends. Let me give you an example.

A Chicago house, known as the Rothschild Co., sell a piano from factory to home for \$190, no payment down, no interest, no extras, on 30 days' free trial. If you like the piano, keep and take three years to pay for it. This piano has a full-iron plate bushed tuning pins, copper-covered bass strings, brass flange action, and is equal to any piano made in Canada at \$325 to \$375. I have seen the piano, also tuned it, and know whereof I speak. Now the average English family has not been in the habit of paying Canadian prices for their pianos; and I think the U. S. would be in a far better position to capture the trade you speak of when the Canadian makers change their system.

CANADIAN PIANO-TUNER OF 17 YEARS' EXPERIENCE.