

WAR ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT FOR YEAR REVIEWED BY SIR T. WHITE

Minister Tells of Policy of Reconstruction Now Following Measures Which Kept Canadian Army in the Field up to Strength and Won Dominion a Place in the Munition World.

Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance and Acting Prime Minister, has issued a statement of the tasks accomplished by the Government during the last year.

The statement refers to the national registration of last June as having proved of use in providing valuable information for the work of reconstruction; the maintenance of the munitions industry at a high degree of efficiency by extensive credits; increased agricultural production through the Government's campaign; the additional taxation on war profits, and incomes, and the expanding revenues of the Dominion, and the evidence of prosperity of the people in the big success of the last Victory Loan campaign; the \$25,000,000 made available by the Government for loans to the provinces to provide better housing conditions; the successful operations of the Food Board, and the authorization by the Government of the investigation by local municipalities of the high cost of living, with a view to regulating excessive profits, and the adjustment of labor disputes among railway men by a Canadian board of adjustment.

The Acting Premier's statement follows: "The Government has vigorously and impartially forced the Military Service Act. As a result there were obtained over 80,000 men as reinforcements for our forces overseas. There were also called up, but released upon compassionate grounds or for other adequate reasons, 25,000 men. The Military Police, under the Department of the Militia, have vigorously pressed the apprehension and prosecution of deserters. Since the armistice men are no longer required for military service, but the Government is continuing proceedings against those in default under the Military Service Act with a view to their being brought to justice and punished for their offences.

"Serious difficulties in the enforcement of the law have been encountered in certain instances by reason of trafficking in exemptions and leave certificates. These cases are being fully investigated in order that all who have been found guilty of wrong-doing may be brought to trial without delay.

"The Department of Militia and Defence and the Overseas Ministry of Military Forces have worked out during the year plans for demobilization, so that as soon as the troops are released from their duties and transportation facilities are available the men will be returned to Canada and restored to their homes and civil occupations.

"During the year a War Trade Board composed of representative business men was established. Through its agency very valuable service has been rendered to Canadian trade, commerce and industry.

"A Canadian War Mission was established at Washington through whose efforts Canadian manufacturing industry and Canadian labor have been largely benefited by orders secured from the and the facilitation of business with departments of the United States Government at Washington.

"Trade Mission to Siberia. "An economic mission has been sent to Siberia to study conditions and open the way for the extension of Canadian trade. Work of a most important and far-reaching character has been accomplished by the Reconstruction and Development Committee of the Cabinet looking to the promotion of industry in Canada and the extension of our export trade after the war.

"In this connection and in order that Canada may secure her full share of the business growing out of the rehabilitation of the devastated sections of Europe, as well as meeting the needs of Great Britain

and her Allies, a Canadian Trade Mission has been established in London, transferred from Washington, and a Canadian Trade Commission at Ottawa, an important block of international business is already assured.

"In the early part of the present year co-operative relations were established between Labor and the Government in working out war problems.

"A special committee on which both employers and employees are represented was appointed to consider and recommend measures to improve the relations of labor and capital, and labor has been given representation on the labor sub-committee of the cabinet and on other boards and committees since appointed by the Government.

"Legislation has been passed providing for the development of a system of labor exchanges throughout the provinces and of labor clearing houses under federal jurisdiction. A war labor policy has been formulated and a Labor Appeal Board constituted, on which employers and employees are represented.

"In its war work and reconstruction activity the Government has sought the co-operation of the women of Canada whose patriotic, unselfish and devoted services played so notable a part in Canada's conduct of the war. On the various boards and committees to which they have been appointed, Canadian women have served with ability and distinction. The extension of the federal franchise to women was one of the most noteworthy features of the last session of Parliament.

"A comprehensive immigration and land settlement policy has been worked out by the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and the co-operation of the Government of the provinces has been secured. The necessary legislation will be introduced at the approaching session of Parliament to carry into effect this policy.

"The Government has placed the purchasing of all supplies for the departments of the Government in the hands of the War Purchasing Commission, a body of business men, thus eliminating all political preferences in the purchase of goods for the Government.

"During the year the Prime Minister and three of his colleagues attended the meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet and of the Imperial War Conference in London, where matters of great importance affecting the conduct of the war and the problems of reconstruction following the war were considered by the representatives of the Dominions and the mother country.

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"The Government fully appreciates the magnitude and complexity of the problems to be dealt with during the period of reconstruction, and particularly those connected with industrial readjustment, demobilization and repatriation of our soldiers and the reorganization of our social system in harmony with the new spirit born of the war.

"To these great tasks the Government is bringing the same united and wholehearted resolution and determination which have characterized the efforts in the prosecution of the war, and confidently relies upon our Canadian people for their undivided support of the constructive measures necessary to the establishment of the end in view.

BOMB IN THEATRE.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Harbin, Monday, Dec. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—General Semenovici wounded slightly, and ten other persons were injured when a man wearing a uniform, threw a bomb in a theatre in Chita recently, according to advices from that city.

NO WORD RECEIVED.
HALIFAX, Dec. 26.—Up to a late hour this morning no word had been received from Ottawa with reference to the Northland in quarantine here with upwards of one thousand returning troops and the ship is still lying in the harbor awaiting a decision as to whether or not she is to dock.

ZEPPEL'S AERIAL MERCHANTMEN.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Paris, Dec. 26.—(Havas Agency.)—Disarmed German Zeppelins will be converted into aerial merchantmen to ply between New York and Hamburg, according to The Echo de Paris, which says it has received this information from reliable sources.

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ABDICATIONS OF HISTORY.
Number Has Increased Greatly in Recent Years.

There have been more abdications than is generally supposed. More than forty since the beginning of the Christian era are chronicled by the historians, three of them being of popes. They were not all strictly abdications, but in all there was a yielding of power, either voluntarily or under pressure—mostly the latter.

Two English kings—Richard II and James II—are in the list. In France abdications have been quite the fashion. The great Napoleon abdicated twice, and he was followed by Charles X and Louis Philippe. Napoleon III was forced from power. Four monarchs of Spain have abdicated—Philip V, Charles IV, Isabella I, and Amadeus I. Most of the other abdications were monarchs of kingdoms that have long since ceased to exist, such as Brandenburg, Poland, Scotland, the Eastern Empire, Sardinia, Naples, and Tuscany. Two American emperors have abdicated, both of Brazil. Portugal lost a Miguel in this way in 1834, and another one as a result of a revolution a few years ago. The most noted abdication next to that of Napoleon was that of Charles V, the emperor, which was wholly voluntary. The most noted abdications in Roman history are those of Sulla the Dictator and the Emperor Diocletian.

Thrones have fallen in the great wars never before. The Czar of Russia, two Czar of Bulgaria, the King of Greece, and the German Kaiser have disappeared, and the Emperor of Austria-Hungary has been deposed to follow them. Rumania and Serbia have lost their kings, but only temporarily. In this remarkable record must be included King Ludwig of Bavaria. In one of Browning's poems is this:

There's meaning in the fact
That whose conquests, triumphs, enter
Rome, Climbing the Capitoline, soaring thus
To glory's height—Publius, do you
mark—
Ever, the same attendant who,
behind,
Above the conqueror's head support
the crown—
All too demonstrative for human
pride,
—One hand's employment all the
while reserves
Its fellow, backward flung, to point
how close
Appended from the car, beneath the
foot
Of the up-borne, exulting conqueror,
Frown—half desecrated—the instru-
ments of shame,
The mallefactor's due. Crown now—
Cross, when?
Who stands secure? Are even gods
so safe?

Certainly no man is safe who could even dream of using such words as these, which are from a proclamation of the Kaiser in 1914, addressed to his army of the east: "The spirit of the Lord has descended upon me because I am the Emperor of the Germans. I am the instrument of the Almighty. I am His sword, His agent, His will, His voice, His power. I am the one to whom all those who oppose me will bow and death to those who do not believe in my mission. We are death to the coward! Let them perish, all the enemies of the German people! God demands their destruction. God who, by my mouth, bids you to do His will!"

Now this man is skulking in Holland, and his mission—which plainly is not the mission of God—quite other than he supposed.

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12:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	10:15 p.m.

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