

# AND NOW, A NATION TO BUSINESS

By THE EDITOR

**C**ANADA has made up her mind about what is left of the thing we used to call politics. The long tension is over. We know now that Union Government will control the affairs of this country, probably for the duration of the war, perhaps longer. We have said before, and more than once, that the Cabinet which Sir Robert Borden selected to help him in this great work are an organization of high efficiency and of men whose patriotic enthusiasm is beyond cavil. Most of the people of Canada think so. With that conviction goes the principle that the Military Service Act is preferable to anything else which the Opposition would have substituted for the purpose of carrying on the war.

And the war remains. Let us bury our politics. Let us concentrate upon the war. A people who fight among themselves cannot fight a common enemy. Russia is fighting herself. And Russia is not fighting Germany. Ireland is fighting herself. And Ireland is not concentrated on the business of fighting Germany. Canada is a united country. All the disunionists in the nine provinces can't break that unity when the people as a whole decide that we should hang together.

The victory or defeat in the election, much as it may be made to mean to the cause of the Allies one way or the other, is a mere drop in the bucket compared with the terrific programme with which the whole wide world is still wrestling in a Gethsemane of agony. The whole world? Perhaps some of us don't feel that way about it. Our experiences of the war, our part in the war, may not qualify some of us to talk about suffering. Heaven knows a lot of us have done a deal of talking about service; enough to make us all want to do something

more than tell other people how many of our relations are at the war, more than eating a little war bread, or buying Victory Bonds, or knitting socks for the soldiers.

Let us not begin to forget it—and if we have begun, let us quit forgetting, that the war is daily and hourly searching into every cranny of the world. The war is not a mere war. It is a struggle of the ages. No man, woman or child can escape its awful clutch. None of us but must think differently of life itself, of ambition, of home, of patriotism, of our fellow-men, even of religion, because of this war. And the fact that we have won or lost an election in Canada makes no difference to this great conversion of humanity. We are all under the iron necessity of becoming bigger and better men and women in even the smallest things of life. We are all face up with the glorious privilege of self-discovery. We can all do more than ever we have done. We can all suffer more than we think. And half the things we call suffering are nothing. Heavens! Can we read even the tamest war book and not realize that Canada as yet has not suffered, except through bereavement of our glorious dead?

No, let us abandon all our mere politics. Let us forget the little struggle we have had in the contemplation, in the actual share, in the great struggle abroad. And let the new Parliament of Canada, when it assembles, present to the people of Canada and to the world at large, the spectacle of a united Canadian people. To all of which good patriots, lovers of Canada, will say Amen! So let us all act as though we believed in our Amens. And until a lot of us begin to do something that can really be called war, let us all abstain from hallelujahs.

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**I**N appealing to the primal law of evolution the supremacy of might, the German philosophers only show how far behind her enemies their country is in the scale of development, and that she forfeits her right to a place in the family of civilized nations, declares the famous nationalist, John Burroughs, in the New York Times. They

put her on a level with the German of the old Stone Age, twenty-five or more thousand years ago, with whom, no doubt, the moral distinctions upon which we build were very obscure.

In view of the foregoing considerations I cannot agree with Dr. Crile that the German philosophy will prove to be sound if she should win this war. It

will still be only a victory of might over right, of the brute over the man, which has happened many times in the jungle. German supremacy might be established for the time being, but German final fitness to survive at the expense of other nationalities would be far from being established. There would still remain in full force the newer biological law which came in with man's development and which makes the peoples in whom it is most developed the fittest for survival. It may suffer temporary eclipse at the hands of the German, scientific barbarism and organized brutal strength, but it would still remain, even in their midst, to trouble them, and in the end would defeat them.

As an empire the British is far better fitted to survive than the German, for the reason that the British people, through their humanitarian, political, and sociological endowments, in other words, their Magna Charta of individual rights, have the gift of empire. They are natural empire builders; they respect the natural rights of their colonists; they give the Canadian and the Australian individual play room; they do not seek to standardize the people subject to their rule. While the failure of Germany as an empire builder is that she seeks to Germanize everybody, she imposes her own standards everywhere; she is so infatuated with her own "Kultur" that she will tolerate no other, and she would Germanize the whole world, from top to bottom, if she had the chance. Her swelled head prevents her from seeing that the great movement of the modern world is the democratic movement, and that the divine right of kings and emperors, and the tyranny of States, have had their day. Or, did she begin to feel the pressure of this movement in the world, and begin to find it intolerable? Did it fill her with alarm and force her into making a strike against it before it overwhelmed her? Did her ruling classes begin to realize, under the threat of socialism in their own midst, that a change of political climate was close at hand, that the great clock of the ages was about to strike a new hour even in the heart of militarism, and that now or never its hands must be set back?

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### THE PORKLESS MENU



Congress: "Oh, well, a change of diet will do me good."

—Marcus, in N. Y. Times.