



Economic Bunkum

WE are indulging in considerable bunkum about production. All our economists agree that it is our business as a new country to produce more and still more for the needs of the belligerents. In munitions we are doing it. Second-hand munition plants are marching across the border from places like Dayton, O., and being set up in Canada. We aim to produce munitions as near \$500,000,000 a year as possible. To do so we shall have to call up all possible resources of women because in most parts of Canada we are combing the country for soldiers. We are less particular about soldiers than we used to be. The battalion is not so interesting as it was. The call continues to go up from recruiting agencies—More Men. The call insistently goes up from the economists—More Production. These are all very well as street cries. But as organized common sense they can't continue to be sung as a duet in this country. We have reached a point now in fighting and production where every available man counts. All the belligerent countries have reached this point. We believe that Germany and Austria reached it sooner than any of the others. The war is now a struggle of reserves; and in all cases the reserves are slowly being depleted. Canada can't possibly enlist or conscript two and a half additional armies for service abroad if Canada is to organize production at home on a bigger scale than ever. It is all very well to get eloquent over our expanding exports. But the expansion comes from munitions, every dollar of it for merchandise which is production of nothing but death, destruction—and victory. We are not increasing our exports of general manufactures. We are not increasing our exports from farm, forest and fisheries. Every extra munition plant we start going is so much more taken from legitimate productive industry, either in factory or farm. Every extra battalion organized or reinforcing draft sent out is another subtraction from that productive industry. As a matter of national stock-taking we have now come to the point where we must choose which of these things we intend to push the hardest. Does the war need most now—our men, our munitions or our foodstuffs? We are ready with what we have of all. It is for the Government of Canada—or some wiser agency if possible—to decide which we are going to emphasize in a national call. But we can't go on tooting up the three on an equal basis. To do so is economic bunkum.

Find the Man

THE Winnipeg Canadian Club has passed a resolution favouring a form of government. After setting forth the reasons why any such change is necessary the resolution urges Sir Robert Borden to re-organize the Administration along national lines, by including men of recognized organizing capacity wherever they may be found, irrespective of party affiliations or parliamentary experience; to give adequate representation to such re-organization to all classes of the nation who are contributing to the desired result; following the example of Great Britain, to concentrate the executive authority in a War Council of a few members.

There is very little to criticize in this. The Winnipeg Canadian Club do not ask Sir Robert Borden to resign. They ask him to include in his Government "men of recognized organizing capacity, irrespective of party affiliations or parliamentary experience." Coalition as such is not mentioned. Such a reorganization of Government machinery would not be coalition. "Following the example of Great Britain" is stated in another clause. But as we pointed out last week, Great Britain got her new men from politics. There is nothing to hinder Sir Robert Borden from temporarily retiring a few of his Ministers to make room for better men. The men chosen to fill the vacancies so created need not be

parliamentarians. We have already one recent precedent for this. Sir Thomas White, when he became Minister of Finance, had never spent a day in Parliament. There are big men in Canada quite as capable of adapting themselves to the needs of the hour as Sir Thomas White. By all means let Sir Robert Borden nationalize these men.

This Man Found Himself

AMONG the big men of Canada who have not waited for any Government to nationalize him for service, Hon. Sir William Mulock stands out in a lustre largely his own. Last week Toronto and York County, of which it is the capital, beat the national drum to the tune of \$3,500,000 for Patriotic Fund and Red Cross. It was an organized benevolence the like of which on a basis of population was never known before anywhere in America. In awarding the credit for this remarkable service and stimulus to Canada and the cause, we do not ignore the great value of a tremendous advertising campaign which prepared the public mind, heart and conscience. We do not forget the splendid services of Major W. C. Dinnick, chief detail organizer of the campaign, nor of the collectors, men and women, who teamed for the result, nor of the municipal authorities and financial institutions which set so inspiring an example in large subscriptions. Neither do we fail to pay our respects to Sir Herbert Ames, chairman of the general fund, nor to the Duke of Devonshire, its president.

But we continue to pay our profound respects to Sir William Mulock, chairman of the Toronto and York County Fund, who for three campaigns has been a dynamo of patriotic impulse and organization in a cause where he saw he could do his bit. Sir William has made the Patriotic Fund a part of his personal being. No other man has so ably personalized this benefaction. At the meeting on Monday of last week starting off the campaign he made a stimulating speech. Sir William's speeches are always stimulating. In their homely uplift they resemble the sermons of the late D. L. Moody. His Parliamentary and Cabinet experience make his speeches and national services more effective than they could be if he were merely a big-business private citizen. And when Sir William Mulock repeated from memory, with one thumb in his vest pocket, every dollar and cent of all the statement and receipts and expenditures affecting totals in any department, he made an impression on the crowd that was more eloquent than a peroration. He might have read those figures. A man of past seventy is entitled to be perfunctory if he feels like it. Sir William is never perfunctory. He is too much alive for mere ritual. And the Patriotic Fund has found in him a national service man of great big dimensions. Question—is there any bigger work that Sir William might do even better?

A Great Campaign

EVEN the most violent of Nationalists in the Province of Quebec must be touched by the sincerity of Toronto's devotion to the allied cause as signified by a contribution of over six dollars per head of men, women and children to the Toronto and York County Patriotic Fund and the Canadian Red Cross. The two organizations united last month to collect two and a half million dollars. Instead of that sum they obtained three and a quarter million! Excellent organization, extraordinary zeal on the part of the workers, and a lively advertising campaign no doubt contributed to the success of the endeavour, but the main deduction to be made is that Toronto is more than lip-loyal. Women collectors in the outskirts of the city were surprised to receive ten dollar bills from poorly clad women who answered the front door bells of cheap little houses. At least one collector ventured to say: "Are you sure

you wish to give so much?" To which the woman replied: "I have been saving for this." It was not only the rich that gave, but the poor also. The result is indeed creditable.

The Enervating Trolley

THE trolley-car is a worse foe to the human race than the 42 c.m. gun. The big gun may compel millions of men to make themselves physically fit to live in order to have stamina enough to get killed in action. But the trolley day by day does its worst to make people physically unfit to live by depriving them of oxygen and exercise. No man is fit to consider himself a mental fact capable of thinking hard enough to be called anything but a mechanic who doesn't get at least two hours' open air every day. By the trolley system most men get about twenty-five minutes in the open. In winter they live in houses crammed with vitiated air from furnace heat. With coal at about \$10.00 a ton it's bad economy to swap any more of the bad warm air for fresh cold air than is absolutely necessary. The office is little or no better. Between house and office going and coming, a man may get about fourteen minutes' walking. Between office and lunch—if he lunches down town—he may get eleven minutes more. All the rest of the time he is cooped up sans good air, sans exercise, in house, office and street car. And of these infinitely the worst is the street car, which in populous centres is becoming the enemy of mankind.

Farmers—Attention

The Agricultural Gazette for January, 1917, says: "For two years and a half, war, red and ruinous, has raged through the world, and still no decision has been reached. There is reason to hope that before 1917 closes the struggle for liberty will have been won, or greatly advanced. Amid the varying phases of this titanic conflict the fact stands out more clearly than ever that agriculture is of supreme importance. Extraordinary measures are being taken by the allied countries to increase and encourage production. It is earnestly hoped that every farmer in Canada will strive to increase the food supply of the Empire. A still powerful and unscrupulous enemy openly avows its intention to try and sink all ships carrying supplies to England during the coming year. In the tremendous strain yet to come a vital factor will be an ample and unfailing flow of food to England and France. No matter what difficulties may face us, the supreme duty of every man on the land is to use every thought and every energy in the direction of producing more, and still more."

Any farmer who doesn't prove the truth of this by action will fail in 1917 to be as patriotically selfish as he may. Production is not merely a matter of patriotism. We don't farm for the good of the State—unless at the same time it is for the good of our own pockets. No farmer would be urged to increase production if he had to do it at a loss. No farmer is being asked to raise more wheat, beef, oats, potatoes and hay in order to give it away. He is asked to do it that he may get bigger prices for more products than ever he did in his life or dreamed that he could. Hence, if the farm hands do not all go to war, we expect the farmers of Canada will rise to the occasion and produce more in 1917 than ever before, health and weather permitting. It is a big contract that can only be tackled by organizing the farmer as other men are the factories, and still others the armies. And if there is any section of our population which is constitutionally averse to fighting, why not nationally organize them for more productive service on the land. One of the questions asked on the National Service card was, "Are you willing to engage in national service work outside your own community or Province?" or words to that effect. Perhaps there are several thousand skilled farmers in Canada who could produce more of what Hon. Martin Burrell wants for the sake of the Empire, by farming outside their own Province.