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## Our Ottawa Letter

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does not consist wholly of the sacrifice of the husband or the brother for the purposes of the battlefield, but such sacrifice is the greatest of all, and I believe the women of Canada generally, will consider it not unfair that such sacrifice should have special recognition. When the war is over, a wider franchise may well be given the women of Canada and it is my earnest hope and belief that the step now taken may lead to such result.

### Two Classes Disfranchised

"So far as legislation can attain the end the obligation to war service and the right to war franchise, should go hand in hand. On this principle, which underlies this act, it is proposed that those who for reasons special to themselves are unavailable for the highest of war service, should not while exempted from such war service, be in the position to exercise a measure of control over those who bear the burden. We have in Canada, broadly speaking, two classes, to exempt. The one class is now exempt by law, and the other has been in effect exempt, and is by this act made exempt by law.

"The first class referred to consists of those entitled under the Military Service Act to be relieved on conscientious grounds from combatant service and the second class is constituted by that portion of our foreign population who have recently come to Canada and are of alien enemy birth or near extraction.

"As to the second class, those born in enemy countries and who have in recent years naturalized in Canada, and thence, who though born in European countries not geographically within the enemies domain, are nevertheless of German, Austrian or Turkish blood kin and language, it has, from the commencement of hostilities been found undesirable to enlist them for combatant service. I am free to admit and indeed proud to say, that in the main, having regard to peaceful pursuits within this country, this portion of our population has, all things considered, conducted itself satisfactorily. Many of them, however, have sons or brothers, their very

nearest of kin fighting against us on the soil of Europe. It would seem unnatural, even were it desirable to compel these men to do battle against their kin and against the country from which they can scarcely wholly as yet, be divorced in sympathy. Great Britain has recognized this principle since the outbreak of war and with very few exceptions has declined to admit to her arms, men of alien enemy birth or near extraction. The Commonwealth of Australia in legislating for a general election held there some months ago, refused to admit to the franchise all of its citizens of alien enemy birth, no matter how long they had been in the country. By this bill, only such as have been naturalized since March 31, 1912 are affected. All others are left untouched. In Australia, an exception was made of Armenians and Assyrians and of those who had sons or brothers enlisted. In Canada we make the same exception and we except also those whose grandsons have joined the forces. Furthermore, the bill specifically states, that wherever there is disfranchisement for this war election, 100c goes with it exemption from combatant service. Under the Military Service Act, no man will be forced to fight who is not under this act allowed to vote. Included among those of enemy birth naturalized within the last fifteen years, are those who though born in other European countries, speak as their mother tongue, the language of an alien enemy. Those may fairly be presumed to be of near enemy extraction and not essentially different from those of enemy birth. To them also is granted exemption from combatant service under the conscription law. Wherever the privilege of voting is withheld, the exemption from military service is granted and extends also to their sons who are underage.

"I may add that as to both these cases there have come from some of the people themselves requests that this step be taken. Plainly it is not fair, either to these men themselves, or that they should be called upon to vote upon an issue which means sending or withholding of troops who will go to do battle against their kin, and on the other hand it certainly is not fair to

the rest of our people, on whose shoulders and on whose hearts is the burden of the war, that its conduct and its vigor should be even in part determined by those who cannot participate and whose sympathies and predisposition of necessity cannot be as those of the rest of Canada.

"Beyond the two features I have mentioned, namely, the addition of women and disqualification of a certain limited class of aliens, the provincial franchise and qualification for voters are adopted throughout every province."

### 1916 CROP FIGURES

With the ending of the grain year on August 31, comparative figures, based on the number of cars of grain inspected by the Dominion government grain inspectors, are now available and enable a comparison to be made between last year's crop and the crop of 1915, along with the proportion handled by each railway. The figures are interesting and are here reproduced:

Railway	Crop 1916		Crop 1915		Decrease		Per cent.
	Cars	Per cent.	Cars	Per cent.	Cars	Per cent.	
C. P. R.	130,907	56.6	199,001	50.2	68,094	34.2	
C. N. R.	73,131	31.7	109,122	29.8	35,991	33.0	
G. T. P.	23,525	10.2	40,668	11.5	17,143	44.2	
G. N. & Duluth	3,519	1.5	5,332	1.5	1,713	32.7	
Totals	231,082	100	354,023	100	122,941	34.7	

From the above it will be noted that each railway carried fewer cars of grain of the crop of 1916 than in the handling of the 1915 crops. There was, of course, substantially less grain to handle. The total decrease, based on inspection returns, amounted to 122,941 cars or 34.7 per cent. The proportion of the total crop carried by the C.P.R. in 1916 was practically the same as in 1915. The Canadian Northern shows an increase of about 1 per cent, while the G.T.P. has a decrease of 1.5 per cent.

The proportions of the Western Canada grain crop carried by each of the three principal railways are as follows: C.P.R., 56.6 per cent., C.N.R., 32 per cent., G.T.P., 10 per cent.

The Great Northern carries about 1 1/2 per cent, over its Manitoba lines. While the total decrease in the number of cars inspected is equal to 34.7 per cent, the decreases on the C.N.R. and G.T.P. are actually less than that figure. On the other hand the G.T.P. decrease is equal to 44.2 per cent.

### Total Inspections

The following figures give the total inspections for the 1916 crop, September 1, 1916, to August 31, 1917:

	1916-17	1915-16
Wheat	192,079,700	338,423,200
Oats	95,149,750	116,134,550
Barley	10,627,500	13,246,200
Flax	7,088,200	5,891,750
Screenings	452,000	339,000
Rye	190,000	160,000

### Receipts at Terminal Elevators

Wheat	146,764,442	283,645,535
Oats	64,731,900	75,772,788
Barley	7,688,160	10,165,417
Flax	6,071,728	5,006,431

### Shipments from Terminals

Wheat	132,024,592	273,314,565
Oats	64,527,519	69,728,693
Barley	5,571,172	9,976,416
Flax	6,324,335	5,083,930

## Current Events

That the full board of Wesley College should consider the action in dismissing Dr. Bland will be insisted upon by Rev. A. E. Smith of Brandon, president of the Manitoba Methodist conference; when the governing body of Wesley College holds its next meeting on September 20. Mr. Smith recently declared that the wishes of the Manitoba conference should be carried out, and that the whole matter should be reconsidered by the full board.

State control of the retail prices in Great Britain is being gradually extended by Lord Rhondda. Maximum prices have already been fixed on bread and meat, oat meal, rolled oats, jam, beans, peas and certain grades of tea, also on bacon, hams and other provisions. It is expected that eventually maximum retail prices will be in operation on all the principle articles of food.

N. W. Rowell, K.C., leader of the liberal opposition in the Ontario legislature declared at a Toronto exhibition luncheon that Britain is giving her orders for munitions to the United States while Canadian factories are threatened with closing down, because Great Britain has come to the point where she cannot possibly pay in gold and must purchase on credit. The United States can sell on these conditions and Canada should be able to do so likewise, declared Mr. Rowell.

As a war time conservation measure, England and Wales plan to use more than 2,000,000 acres of grazing land for the planting of grain. The agricultural program indicates that cattle are to be sacrificed for grain in the present emergency, and that the end of the war will find Great Britain almost entirely dependent upon this continent for the solution of the meat problem.

Dr. Michiel Clark has decided to reconsider his decision not to be a candidate in the next Dominion election, and has agreed if a national government is formed to run as a supporter of such a government. The demand

that Dr. Clark remain in public life is almost unanimous in Alberta.

Sir Thomas White has denied the statement by Lord Shaughnessy who stated that the purchase of the C.N.R. by the Canadian Pacific had been discussed by the representatives of the latter railway and members of the Dominion cabinet.

The Ontario hydro electrical commission is about to demand for the use of municipalities and industrial establishments in Ontario 80,000 h.p. electrical energy which private companies at Niagara have been exporting to the United States.

Hon. Charles A. Dunning, provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan, has made a sale of the bonds of the province to the amount of half a million dollars, for which the province is paying 6 1/2 per cent.

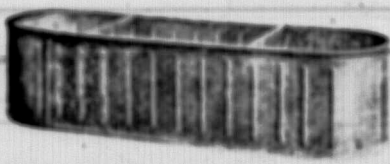
The International Socialist Conference which was to be convened at Stockholm on September 9 has been postponed owing to the difficulties encountered, which included the refusal of passports.

Aime Benard, M.P.P. for Berwick, Man., has been appointed to the senate in place of Hon. A. A. C. Lariviere of St. Boniface, recently resigned.

Enlistments in Canada for the last two weeks of August total 1,570. Total enlistments in the Canadian expeditionary forces are now 431,455.

The Winnipeg dairy companies have increased the price of milk in the city from 11 1/2 cents to 12 cents a quart. A slight milk shortage is anticipated.

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