

Let Us Thank God and Take Courage

It is good to feel joyful. It is good to have reason to feel joyful. At this particular time every British subject and particularly every Canadian has abundant reason. The cause of rejoicing is not merely that we are "over the watershed" and on the way down stream; not merely that we are assured of victory; but because in the long struggle leading up to victory the Empire has conducted itself in a most wonderful and becoming manner and especially because our Canadian forces have behaved so gloriously on the field of battle. It is not necessary for us to say kind things about ourselves. Others say them for us. The following expressions of opinion are typical.

Here is what an American journal—the Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York, the best authority of its kind—has to say about Britain's achievement in the field of finance.

"The nature of the task confronting the Entente Powers can be judged from the fact that for the month of May, according to the foreign trade statement made public, the exports of merchandise from the United States aggregated roughly \$472,000,000, being at the rate of over 5½ billion dollars a year. Prior to the war our merchandise exports in any period of twelve months had never even reached 2½ billions. The increase is chiefly in the purchases of the Entente countries, since the Teutonic allies are blockaded and can get nothing from us.

"Great Britain's position in them attests of its war financing—in the raising of money with which to conduct the war and prosecute it relentlessly and vigorously—is equally unique. Her expenses are £5,000,000 a day (\$25,000,000) which is at the rate of \$750,000,000 a month and \$9,000,000,000 a year. Nevertheless, it is fully twelve months since she has attempted any permanent war financing and, as a matter of fact, only two large loans have been brought out since the beginning of the war, the second one in June of last year, payments for which extended over July to October. In the interval since June, 1915, the British Government has been able to get from week to week and from month to month all the additional money needed through the sale of Treasury Bills and the issue of short term obligations."

"At the end of last month both the 'The Economist' and 'The Statist,' of London published some interesting statistics, comparing the condition of the banks of the United Kingdom at the end of 1915 with that at the end of 1913. These tabulations throw an interesting light on the banking situation in Great Britain, and also enable us to see how it has redounded to the advantage of the British Government. In the two years the resources of the banks of the United Kingdom (not including the Bank of England) have increased over a thousand million dollars—in exact figures £212,741,000. In the item of deposit and current accounts £201,000,000 of the increase is found, while notes in circulation have increased by £11,792,000, the remaining changes being in other items.

"If we look at the other side of the account we find that besides the £212,741,000 of additional resources there has also been a release of money through a decrease in the employment of funds in some of the ordinary channels. For instance, the total of bills discounted is smaller by £40,995,000 and advances smaller by £7,495,000, both indicating diminished trade needs. Furthermore, the banks at the end of 1915 had £44,122,000

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less out in money at call and at short notice.

"All this has served to place a vastly increased body of funds at the disposal of the Government and accordingly we find that 'investments' at the end of 1915 aggregated no less than £441,052,000, against £210,934,000 at the end of 1913, being an increase of £230,118,000, or \$1,150,000,000."

As a financial undertaking Britain's work in this war is unique. But that is not the only way in which she has displayed her great power. She is shown it in the willingness of rich and poor to pay the price for the sake of honor and defence of right. Read this tribute from the Nation of New York.

"It is not only in the role of her navy that Britain plays a unique part among the nations in the great war. The story of her finances, and especially of the taxation policy which has gone along with her immense expenditure, is one of the most remarkable developments of the great conflict. The way in which successive increases in taxation have been received by the country bears the most eloquent possible testimony to the unflinching loyalty of the nation. It gives the lie to a thousand easy-going generalizations as to the willingness of the rich and the well-to-do to have the country plunged into war, out of which they reap profit while the poor bear the burden and the suffering. In money, no less than in life, the wealthy classes in England have borne their full share and more, and borne it without a murmur. At each successive raising of the income-tax rate the Government has been cordially sustained, and indeed has been criticized rather for not going far enough than for going too far."

This opinion of the Nation is buttressed by the opinion of Mr. Marriott writing in the Nineteenth Century.

"Mr. McKenna has not hesitated to impose upon a self-governing people additional taxation amounting to over £300,000,000 a year. Dr. Helfferich makes a virtue of a necessity in asking for no more than a beggarly £24,000,000. The demands made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer are indeed colossal. The unruffled imperturbability with which they have been conceded is a remarkable testimony alike to the financial confidence and to the ardent patriotism of this country."

Another tribute to Britain's power of an entirely different kind and from an entirely different source is that of Sir E. Goschen in the 'Neue Zürcher Zeitung.'

"If by some miracle every Entente gun and every Entente soldier were swept out of existence to-morrow, it would still be for the Entente Fleets at their good pleasure to determine whether a single German merchant vessel should issue from the Heligoland Bight. They could wither the whole growth of German overseas trade at the root, and put the clock back for Germany to the days more than half a century ago when Germany was a purely agricultural country."

Tributes of this kind to Britain, the mother, might be continued forever. Let us read a tribute now to the boys from Canada. It is from a source that friend and enemy must respect—The British Headquarters Report.

"At twenty minutes to nine o'clock without any warning hell broke loose. The detonation was overwhelming. It did not come from one part, but from the whole length of the opposing line opposite the Canadian Division. It only deafened the ear and paralyzed the nerves; but instantly the firmament became

blackened. For the next few minutes men groped about in the darkness, unable to hear any word of command from their officers, clutching their rifles, and waiting for what was to happen. Two generals, attempting to reach the communication trench, found their retreat cut off. For the first minute or two appears that no shells, or very few, fell into the front trenches, and the machine-gunners and trench mortar-men held to their posts. But behind our front line a high wall of descending shells, screaming, crashing, exploding, emitting clouds of noxious smoke, seemed to shut off chance of escape.

"At ten minutes to one—after four hours' steady bombardment—the storm of shell ceased as suddenly as it had begun. Then from the opposite trenches sprang a swarm of grey-coated Huns. Fully accoutred, with overcoats and full packs, they advanced on the run, yelling wildly. They must have been firmly convinced that amid those battered mounds and ditches not one single human soul had escaped. Of those advancing hordes certainly few were in proper fighting trim. They came forward gaily, light-heartedly, as victors after a victory.

"It was then the most wonderful thing happened. Out of the earth there sprang up a handful of soldiers, two officers among them, and, running forward with rifles and pistols, they bade defiance to the foe. On they ran, and, having discharged their weapons, flung them in the very faces of the Huns. Death was inevitable for these—the only remaining occupants of the British front line—and it was better to die thus than be shot in a ditch or finished off with a Hun bayonet."

After such evidence as this why should any Britisher, or any Canadian be other than joyful. The joy is all the greater because it is coupled with the great sorrow, the undying sorrow for those who have given their lives, and those who suffer the loss of loved ones.

The Movies

There is a form of entertainment that has achieved great and one might add deserving popularity. In the moving picture there are great possibilities for both good and evil. For this reason supervision or censorship is imperative. Were the shows open to older people alone it would not be so necessary to exercise vigilance, but when children and young people comprise more than half the spectators, it is a different matter.

Now the censors in Western Canada have done good work, perhaps better work than the general public recognize, for the general public have not been permitted to see the discarded films. It is needless to say they are more objectionable than the very worst that are permitted to be shown. Yet many of the pictures young people are permitted to look upon are faulty in two ways. They are either ultra-sensational or coarsely comic. Their effect upon young minds cannot fail to be debasing. There is just as much danger in a vulgar picture as in an immoral one. Indeed the vulgar is immoral. Nobody will object to a good laugh, but coarseness is not necessary in order to create a smile.

In a positive way the movies can yet be greatly improved. They can be highly educative. The Pathe pictures for schools are a suggestion. If one or two public spirited citizens in every community will meet with the managers of the local theatres, it will in nearly every case be possible to get very much better productions than those furnished by the syndicates. Managers are only too glad to get the endorsement of reputable citizens.