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London's Freedom on Canada's Premier

The great City of London in conferring its freedom on Canada's Premier honored itself equally with Sir Robert Borden—though on the freemen's roll of the Empire's capital are inscribed the names of her greatest sons. Sir Robert in London was truly Canada's representatives, just as Sir Wilfrid Laurier was when Premier. These two sons of Canada, though of totally different temperaments, of separate race and of opposite political camps, when on the Dominion's business abroad have—each in his time—risen splendidly to their position as responsible statesmen of the Empire. Both men in each of their visits to the motherland have helped in the cementing of the ties of broad Imperialism by the dignity of their utterances and the sound logic of their reasoning. The City of London, which knows no politics in its recognition of the great men it has honored, struck the right note in the address to Sir Robert Borden, and in doing so set a great example to the municipalities of the Empire. But we in this "daughter country" hardly needed such an inspiration in patriotism, for during the last twelve months there is not one municipality in these broad domains but what has done splendidly in convincing the world of its practical loyalty—in subscriptions to war funds, caring for the dependents of those who have gone to the firing line, and taking up cheerfully the burden of unemployment (a direct consequence of the war), so that when the works of the units come to be measured the civic corporate bodies of Canada will have much to be proud of—works which might be termed a genuine backing up of our Premier representative's assertions.

This practical loyalty is expressed in the continuous rising to the occasion whenever the opportunity presents—in giving the lead to the many schemes to mitigate the too natural consequences of the war and in helping to bring it to a successful termination.

From the council of big Toronto to the council of little Greenfield Park—which has just presented two machine guns, though only a population of 1,000—the same spirit of sane patriotism prevails. This reiteration on our part is in answer to those of our contemporaries who are prone to offer cheap criticism to the part taken by the civic councils of Canada in the defence of the Empire, and consequently their own country. We even repeat that the mayors and aldermen have set the pace in giving, which has been so favorably commented upon by the English press.

THE BRITISH MISSION AND CANADIAN LABOR.

The special mission sent to Canada by the Imperial Government to secure skilled mechanics for the manufacture of munitions in the Old Country—the members of which met the Mayors at their meeting at Ottawa and whose public announcement appeared in the June issue of the Journal—has now completed its work, though not altogether satisfactorily as far as securing the requisite numbers of skilled artisans; the reason being that this very class of labor is now wanted for the manufacture of munitions in Canada. Mr. G. N. Barnes, the labor M.P., who headed the mission states that some 17,000 applications were received, but such was the special nature of the work that only about 1,800 were engaged. "There is a vast amount of unemployment in Canada," he said, "and we had a most difficult task to discriminate." We were pleased to know that our publication of the object of the mission with a suggestion to the municipalities to take the matter up, has had the effect of some hundreds securing employment, and thus relieving somewhat the unemployment situation.