

Since 1914 the influence of the United States in Canada has enormously increased. We share the closest of commercial relations, we listen to the same radio programmes, watch the same movies and read the same literature, and hundreds of thousands of tourists feel equally at home on either side of the border. In many respects we are one nation; the fact that half that nation should be free from the losses and sacrifices of this war is incongruous and deeply disturbing.

Since 1914 we have become far more aware of deep-lying divisions within Canada, of the fact that some classes profit by wars, of questions as to our place within the Empire and our status as an independent nation. The outbreak of war put these questions out of mind, but five weeks of inactivity is steadily bringing them near the surface again.

Such changes as these have much to do with the widely observed fact that there is little enthusiasm evident for the war. Enthusiasm may be unnecessary and in some respects undesirable; but we need an attitude of relentless determination, and this will not appear unless we take steps now to secure it.

3. The Canadian people are confused about this war

Canada came into the war in an atmosphere so favourable to a united war effort that most observers were frankly astonished. The brilliant success of the Prime Minister and of Mr. Lapointe in the House gave us a better start than the most optimistic of us ever anticipated.

But it has not been followed up. Military and industrial preparations are going forward energetically, but nothing has been said or done from Ottawa to keep alive the conviction with which we entered the war, to clear away doubts or to build up morale. And during this month of silence we have heard of disaffection in Quebec, of isolation in the United States, and of a horde of would-be profiteers in Ottawa.

The most casual survey of public opinion would show that people's minds are now full of questions:

"Just why are we in this war?"

"Exactly what are we fighting against?"

"What aims have we besides beating the Germans?"

"Is war the best way of attaining these aims?"

"Have we really any chance of a decisive victory with Russia in?"

"Was Chamberlain's policy actually the wisest one?"

"Has England's diplomacy failed?"

"Have the Americans really got the right idea?"

"Are the French Canadians cowards or are the rest of us suckers?"

"Does the Ottawa government know what it is doing?"

The answering of such questions is being left to the well-meaning but unco-ordinated efforts of hundreds of editorial writers, speakers and preachers; it is not surprising that much confusion exists.

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