

to a million and a half, three times the amount of 1916. In the great German advance of March, 1918, the British lost a vast number of guns but, by the time the German offensive ended in July, the British had in France 700 more guns than they had when the offensive began. They had to reduce their transport at home by sending across the Channel 12,000 railway wagons with the needed locomotives. They were forced to take 54,000 men from the railways, and 80,000 from the mines for military purposes. Yet production increased, and during the year the British people paid in taxes the vast sum of about \$4,500,000,000.

All this shows that the War Cabinet directed British energies with effect. There were, however, special difficulties in ruling through this small body. Its members had to summon experts in every branch of effort and these consultations involved sometimes more advisers than those in the old Cabinet. The men wholly detached from executive duties could not always determine the lines of policy as well as could those actually at the head of departments and, since these were not deliberating together, coördination in effort was sometimes lost. The War Cabinet worked effectively during the strain of war and it ceased to exist soon after the war was over. The Imperial War Cabinet also did well in a great crisis. Its chief virtue was in its quality as a gathering of Prime Ministers who could speak with authority for their governments. No one as well as a Prime Minister could make a quick and authoritative decision. In time of peace, however, for Prime Ministers to meet even annually in London would involve possibly fatal neglect of their tasks at home. The Imperial War Conference of 1917 agreed that a Conference to deal specially with the whole question should meet after the war; and this body will probably assemble during the year 1920 or 1921.

The future will, without doubt, bring changes startling to minds bound by precedent. It has long been held in the official world that foreign affairs, at least, must be in the control of one central government. Yet the Canadian government has announced its intention of creating the germ of a diplomatic service, and the near future is likely to see in the American capital a representative of Canada negotiating with the government in regard to business with Canada as the British Ambassador negotiates in regard to business with Great Britain. The two envoys will act together in matters common to both and Canada will assuredly have an increased weight because of her ties with Britain. The world will only slowly understand the meaning