

on the part of the English more desire than there has been to acquire the French language. Such knowledge is not only part of a liberal education, much to be desired, but it is often found of much service in business relations with the portion of our country in which the English language has not hitherto been widely studied. At all events, far from endeavoring to prevent the use of the French language, the English-speaking people of all the Provinces should honor the French for their love of their mother tongue, and seek for school arrangements in which the two languages can be used in the good work of public education which all must desire to promote.

To a certain extent the Ontario Government have recognized the desirability of both languages being so used, for they have made a regulation that provides that a part of the school work, in what may be called the French sections, shall be conducted in the French language. The real question is whether this regulation makes adequate provision for the use of French as a language of instruction. The French people say it does not. That difference of opinion ought not to be an occasion for heated controversy or bitter quarrels in Ottawa, much less in other parts of Canada which are being drawn into the battle. Surely there must be, on both sides of the dispute, men who have a common desire to promote the cause of education and to maintain the proper authority of those who are chosen to manage public school affairs—men who are willing to think not so much about their abstract legal and constitutional rights as about the desirability of the friendly adjustment of any differences that may arise from time to time between different sections of a community. It should be possible to find such men on both sides of the conflict, who could meet in the right spirit and find a means of reconciling the legitimate authority of the Ontario Education Department with the justifiable desire of French Canadians to have their children taught their mother tongue as well as the language of the majority of the Canadian people.

No Conference Nonsense

IT is gratifying to have from the capitals of several of the Dominions the information that their Governments have no knowledge of any arrangements for the holding of an Imperial Conference this year, and no expectation that such a meeting will be held. There has never been any apparent desire on the part of responsible men in any part of the Empire for the holding of such a Conference in the midst of the war. The call for the Conference has emanated from the Northcliffe press, which, in its desire to embarrass the British Coalition Cabinet, has endeavored to use alleged Colonial opinion for that purpose. By representing or suggesting that the Dominions were dissatisfied with the course of the Imperial authorities and anxious to have a voice in the direction of the war, a measure of sympathy was obtained from some well-meaning people whose only knowledge of Dominion affairs was that which the Northcliffe press supplied.

That the Coalition Cabinet in London can carry on the war without some errors of judgment is not to be expected. But if Asquith, Lansdowne, Kitchener, Balfour, Grey, Bonar Law, Lloyd George and their associates, the recognized leaders of the two great political parties in the mother country, are not capable of directing the affairs of the Empire in this crisis, where are we to find men who are

better qualified by ability and experience for the discharge of high public duties? Certainly not in the small group of trouble makers which Lord Northcliffe leads, or in any Imperial Conference that might be assembled to worry the Government at this time. By-and-by there will be need of Conferences to discuss many matters concerning the Empire. These will come in due course. Just now the thing of paramount importance is to concentrate all the forces of the Empire on the winning of the great conflict that is in progress.

A Danger Point

IT is much to be desired that the inquiry by the Military authorities into the recent disorders at Calgary, Alberta, and Berlin, Ontario, shall be very thorough, and that adequate punishment shall be promptly administered to the men who are found responsible for them. Too much emphasis has in some quarters been laid on the provocation said to have existed in the way of pro-German sympathies of the occupants of the properties that were damaged. That side of the question is important in its proper place, but it should not serve as any excuse for the disorder. By all means let steps be taken to call to account anybody who can properly be treated as an alien enemy. Those who are of German birth or German blood and fail to adequately appreciate the hospitality that Canada has extended to them may be warned, disciplined, and, if need be, punished. But whatever procedure is appropriate to their conduct must be taken in due course of law, by the civil authorities, or by the Military authorities by virtue of the powers lawfully granted to them. It will never do to allow a mob of soldiers to constitute themselves the agents of justice or the protectors of patriotism. Before Canada undertakes to maintain law and order in France and Flanders, she should take care that she is able to do so at home. The soldiers who engaged in the riots at Calgary and Berlin should be severely punished. Their folly and its consequences should be clearly placed before the thousands of soldiers who are in the service in Canada, so that further disorders of the kind may be prevented. In many parts of Canada to-day there are large bodies of men in training for overseas service. The occasions when there has been disorder for which the soldiers are responsible have been few and far between. But unless the authorities are careful to instruct the soldiers as to their duty in this respect, and to promptly and severely punish those who have created disorder, the presence of these bodies of men will be a source of weakness rather than of strength to the community.

Let it be clearly understood that the soldier who is faithfully discharging his duties is entitled to all respect and honor. No less clear should it be that the soldier who breaks away from authority and becomes a rioter will be promptly dealt with as such, and punished severely. The management and control of the men in these matters is one of the tests of the fitness of the commanding officers for their responsible positions.

Live Stock Loans

THE Minister of Finance has procured an amendment of the Bank Act to authorize banks to make loans on live stock, as well as on grain, which is already covered by the law. It is stated that many farmers desired this provision, and the Minister wished to meet

their views. The object of the move is a good one, but one may well doubt if as much will come from it as some of the farmers expect. It is one thing to authorize a bank to lend money on a certain class of security, and quite another thing to induce the bank to hand out the coin. Securities of this class are not usually regarded as very desirable by the banks. If the applicant for the loan is a man of substantial means and character he will probably get his loan on the strength of his general reputation and credit, and the offer of security on live stock or grain on his farm may not add much to his chances. The bank, of course, requires no new law to allow it to lend the money. The meaning of the amendment is that a bank may take a secret lien on the live stock, as it may on certain other merchandise, while a private lender would be obliged to register his lien. The law, like many other things, may work both ways. It will give the bank the secret lien if the bank wants it. But it may weaken the farmer's general credit with the merchant and others with whom he has dealings. At present the farmer who is known to have a substantial bunch of live stock has in the animals an asset that helps his credit generally. Hereafter his position in that respect will be somewhat weakened by the knowledge that every one of the animals may have been privately pledged to the bank. However, increased facilities for financing the farmer are much to be desired, and the experiment is worth trying.

Uncle Sam's Shells

DESPITE the fact that the United States is daily sending two million dollars worth of war materials across the Atlantic, that country's contribution to the munition supplies of the Allies is but "a drop in the bucket." Some of our good friends in the United States have been holding to the view that they practically supplied the Allies with shells and other war materials. Some time ago a semi-official statement was made to the effect that the United States furnished less than 2 per cent. Since then other estimates have been made which place the figure at nearly 5 per cent. Even accepting the latter figure as the correct one, it is evident that the contributions made by the United States are a very, very small proportion of the total number of shells being shipped to the front.

We have generally been led to believe that the Krupp factory at Essen was the largest munition plant in the world. To-day the steel works alone of Sheffield are infinitely greater than the whole of the Krupp plant. Already upwards of twenty-five million dollars have been spent in new munition plants in Sheffield, and with the additions now under way, fifty million dollars worth of new plants will shortly be turning out explosives from this one city. Upwards of 12,000 men are employed in shell making in that city, while a number equally large are engaged in the manufacture of cannon.

To-day Lloyd-George has nearly 3,000 plants engaged in the manufacture of munitions, employing nearly 1,000,000 men and women. In addition to these plants, under direct Government supervision, there are many other private factories engaged in the manufacture of shells and other war materials.

Canada has hundreds of factories doing their bit, while Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and even India are all shipping shells to the Huns via France and Flanders.

France is probably more thoroughly organized than is Great Britain and is turning out millions of shells; Russia has taken over plants