

# The Toronto World

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MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 29.

## A War Government Needed.

Canada, along with the British Empire and her allies, is engaged in the greatest war struggle ever known to history. The fight is for free institutions, liberty, democracy against Prussian militarism, autocracy (government by a few), a dynasty (the Hohenzollerns) that claims to rule by divine right; against the German people, who would subjugate if they could all other nations and peoples. That war has been waged for over two years and may last for a long while yet. We have no certainty of victory. We are risking our all in it, our very future as a nation on this continent, the very fortunes and lives of all our people. It is a life and death struggle.

In such a supreme situation it is absolutely necessary that the government of Canada should be efficient and effective up to the highest possible point. It should be united and have behind it a united parliament and a united people. There should be no faction, no partyism, no partisanship. There should be an end put to any and every consideration by our public men and our electors for the concern of party politics, party advantage, election strategy, the benefit of leaders, the promotion of the affairs of party workers, the aggrandizement of financial, industrial or transportation interests, who are willing to recognize such service by contribution to party funds, by supplying huge election funds to be used more or less corruptly.

We have been carrying on this stupendous war, this struggle for our very existence, for over two years; and at the same time our public men have been carrying on their political work, involving all the things above set out, as more than a distraction; and as a consequence their entire and best energy has largely been diverted from the pursuit of the war. Their minds, their energies, are bent on politics as well as on war.

The two parties, while they have cried a truce, have been marching and counter-marching, organizing for an election, making moves in parliament for exposures and counter-exposures to be used in elections; some of our newspapers are hot-beds of faction of the lowest kind; meetings more or less secret are being held all over with party advantage in view; the two parties have lined up in parliament with politics more than war in their eye. The bitterest appeal to race prejudice as between English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians is under way, and may be fanned into a sudden flame.

Both parties are sparring over conscription; both parties are watching the labor vote; both parties would outvote the soldier vote; both parties created a soldier franchise and associated in passing legislation for "rewarding the soldiers' vote abroad in a new election; both parties would play on the question of nationalizing our railways as they saw party advantage in it.

The government and supporters are full of politics at this moment; so the leaders and followers of the opposition. And all this factional dispute and prospective discord is growing day by day.

If we are not neglecting we are more or less side-stepping great issues like enlistment and possible conscription; we are afraid to intern men who should be interned; we have fed disloyal communities with munitions contracts to keep them quiet; the more they get the hungrier they become; a long procession of politicians and individuals have swooped down on Ottawa for war contracts in order, so they said, that constituencies could be kept or made friendly; thousands of requests for military preference have been based on political consideration; discontent under this head has found its way into the English newspapers. All these things have gone largely in the political consciousness of Canada than the crucial vital question of winning the war. Yet if the war be not won all these things are but as chaff before the tempest.

Great Britain saw this, and fortunate in the possession of a public opinion which is still latent or unorganized in Canada, the nation voiced an imperative demand that politics be laid aside and the war receive the supreme and united attention of all parties. A coalition was formed, and still the sparring for position went on until, provoked beyond endurance, the democracy of Britain, in the person of Lloyd George, refused any longer to be a pawn in the hands of the politicians.

Ottawa politicians appear to think, judging from their actions, that the democracy of Canada desires no such self-sacrifice on the part of the political parties or of the political leaders. We believe from the temper of the people of Canada, west, centre, and east, that there is nothing they would so cordially respond to as the summons of a Canadian Lloyd George to abandon the hesitating, shuffling, inefficient war policy of the government and, calling together the wisest and

most unselfish of all the men in politics or in public political life, to form a government which would drive the military program of the government forward as it requires to be driven, in a war in which all we have and all we are is at stake.

In the whole situation nothing is so disheartening and discouraging as the fact that all proposals for reform or suggestions for improvement are regarded by the politicians as attacks on their own preserves, perfectly unwarrantable as they seem to think, as leveled against an unimpeachable and flawless administration. This blindness to the possibilities of improvement, with its consequent doubt of the good faith of critics, and suspicion of all who do not bring flattery and approval, is the most fatal weakness in all political organizations, but in a war government it is deadly indeed, and its lethal influence is evident in the stagnation of Canadian military preparations.

Canada is not without thinking men and women, and these are making the needs of the situation known, and impressing it on the minds of the less thoughtful. A public opinion is growing, however slowly, and if action in the desired direction be not taken speedily, election or no election, the new spirit will find a way to give Canada as active and effective a war administration as the obligations of the country require.

## Thrift After Charity

Now that the people of Toronto and the surrounding district have done so nobly by the Patriotic and Red Cross Funds, an opportunity is afforded them to assist the cause of the nation and the empire in supporting the war and at the same time doing themselves a good turn. Some time ago the minister of finance called attention to the issue of war savings certificates in small denominations to suit those whose incomes necessarily limit their savings. Every little helps so far as the government is concerned, for in the aggregate the purchase of these savings certificates will add a considerable sum to the amount needed for war purposes, and the enormous demands of the war require that every resource should be available.

One of the remarkable things of the recent record collection for the Patriotic and Red Cross Funds was the fact that the heaviest proportionate contributions came from those with limited means, and the munition workers in this respect beat all other records proportionately. After charity comes thrift, and the appeal of the government in issuing these war certificates should reach the same class of workers with successful results.

The small amounts in which the certificates are issued; their accessibility at the postoffices; and the high rate of interest on savings which they secure should make thrift a popular virtue. Not only is it a personal virtue, but it is also a national virtue, for the thrift of the individual adds to the credit of the nation, and becomes, as the minister suggests, a permanent national advantage.

Those who find work abundant and remunerative at present should take thought of the time to come when other conditions may supervene. The habit of thrift, the possession of these war certificates, the confidence which comes of a certain amount of financial independence, all add to the public and national mood and make for the prosperity of the country.

## Generosity by Agency

One of the interesting facts of the war has been the lavish generosity of Great Britain and France to tortured and desolated Belgium. The nine millions of the Belgian nation have suffered every horror that a barbarian enemy could inflict. Unable to assist Belgium directly, France and England welcomed the assistance of the neutral United States in distributing their bounty and for more than two years it has flowed unceasingly. A strange result has occurred as far as the Belgians and the Americans are concerned. As the fund is dispensed by the United States Relief Commission under the Stars and Stripes, the Belgians have been giving all the credit of the assistance rendered them to the people of the United States. This is one of the rewards of neutrality. Of the money so far contributed, amounting to over \$200,000,000, more than \$191,000,000 has been given by France and Britain, and less than \$9,000,000 by the United States.

The United population of France and Britain is not 80,000,000. The United States claims 100,000,000. That is to say France and Britain have given at the rate of \$2.50 per head, and the United States at the rate of nine cents a head. It is to be considered also that the United States has no war expenses to meet, and is making money at an unparalleled rate out of the war, while both Britain and France are spending gigantic sums to defeat Germany as well as to relieve the Kaiser's victim.

## FARMERS' WASTE PAPER.

Editor World: For some time I have been wondering if it would be possible, when spring opens up, for someone in the city to send out motor trucks to the country to gather the waste paper. If the daily papers would ask the farmers to save it all up till spring they would be able to get tons of it, as nearly every farmer takes two or three papers. We have been saving ours for some time. Hoping this suggestion may help out a little.

A. R. Mills.  
Caledon East.

## MISJUDGING THE SITUATION



ELDERLY GENTLEMAN (quite deaf and rather short-sighted): Tut, Tut! Let there be no violence. Shake hands, and let us have PEACE.

## UNION STATION FATALITIES.

Editor World: Re accident at Union Station. The justice of the British Empire and the apparent injustice to the workman in some parts of it. We have now three men in jail who were performing their duties right and honestly, namely, Engineer Ross, Fireman Turner and Signaller Hickey. There have been several deaths in the city thru automobile accidents, and an auto can be turned to either side within a few yards. The railway company has been trying to run on rails. If this accident had happened in the station it would be quite different, but it happened on the freight track, where the public had no business to be. Evidently Col. Macdonald, as some of the others thought he was on a platform. The engineer and fireman had come from Samia to Toronto, about 170 miles, in that terrible storm, and if these people that were making merry could see a huge engine with its lights, how could they expect the engineer to see a few men in the dark and storm. The railway company has been trying for years, with a staff of constables and the assistance of the courts, to keep the people off its right of way. It is apparently the fault of the old station, for allowing the public in where they have no right or cause. I have known them to purchase tickets to Parkdale just to get in the station. And have seen people running across the tracks, in front of incoming trains, as if they were stepping as easily as a baby carriage. There is a great call for justice for our country from the young and workingman. This engine and fireman did not break any rule or law, but the other men walked right into the accident. And to punish innocent men and the families who are something like the justice we read about being handed out in Germany.

A Canadian Workingman.

## COLLECTIVISM.

Editor World: Collectivism boasts of a greater number of adherents today than ever it did before. The war has brought to light its hidden merits, of what hidden merits, from the scorching crucible of war it has emerged pure as gold. Has not Britain, in order to win this war, been forced to adopt this method?

It is clear, therefore, that what is needed among the newspapers is a national and sane journal that will fearlessly proclaim this altruism. Your paper, fortunately, is to hand, in this direction it has done well. I am doing admirable work. I trust that it may be sustained to continue.

The great crisis, through which we are passing, has forced many lessons upon us, and the most striking is that our present social and economic system is ill fitted to bear the strain of war. One of our great difficulties has been to get recruits for the army, owing chiefly to the unsatisfactory provision we are making for their dependents and their own future. Had we been a nation organized on real national lines we would have faced the war much better. The state, producing everything and owning all the means of transport and distribution, import and export, would have had no problem of enlistment or payment of dependents. The fate of dependents would deter no man from going out to fight, for he would know that they would be provided for by the commonwealth, whatever happened to him. For with the national control of industry we would not be exploited for the enrichment of the few. There would be no contractors or middlemen to grow fat out of the people's needs, and our huge, wasteful charitable funds would be unnecessary.

The cost of the war would come out of the national profits, and so reduce the income of every one equally. Everyone would thus bear an equal share of the cost of the war. Would it be better than the chaos in which we are living today. Here we are, asking men to die for us for less than they are getting for their daily work, and are doling out such miserable pittances to their dependents that they have to be supplemented by the charity of the state. Our newspapers contain whole page advertisements asking for a square deal for our fighters. Meanwhile, how much are these advertisements costing? And how much is being spent in collecting and administering this fund? Why this waste? Simply because the government will not do its duty.

These advertisements tell us in large, bold type that the soldiers' wives and mothers are living from hand to mouth, and that their children are insufficiently clothed. If this is true, it is a public scandal. If this is a scandalous ill-treatment exists today, what will it be at the end of the war? If we do not force the government to put this matter on a right basis now, we ought never to look a soldier or a soldier's widow in the face again. All cadging appeals to spasmodic charity ought to be completely wiped out of our national records. We must not allow that our soldiers, who are giving their lives while their mothers, wives and children are offered—the shameful alternative of charity or starvation. It will not be long before a shameful thing if the wealthiest empire that the world has ever seen, called upon her sons to risk their lives for her, while she begrudged the sale of the wealth to the women and children who are dependent on the men who have to fight. These men are prepared to give their lives. All they ask is that out of the abundance of the wealth of this country, their dependents should be spared enough to keep them from want and charity.

Oh! for a real national government.

Merton P. O. Fair Play.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN.

To Editor World: With your kind permission, I should like to make a statement regarding the woman suffrage movement as I find it in Ontario. Coming as I have from British Columbia, where we have so recently conducted a very successful campaign for woman suffrage, and having acted in the capacity of secretary for the W. S. A. in that province, I feel keenly interested in the campaign being carried on here.

In British Columbia, both the civilian and the soldier are strongly in favor of the woman suffrage referendum. The soldier evidently realized that in this time of preparedness it was necessary for his wife, mother, daughter or sister to have a voice in the affairs of the nation.

Since coming to Toronto, I have heard a rumor to the effect that this is a most inopportune time to carry on a campaign for woman suffrage. I can only say that in British Columbia I found the suffragettes all earnest Red Cross workers and very patriotic women. As the president of a branch of the Red Cross Society, I have reason to know that in working for the Red Cross the women were by no means neglected, the workers feeling that a greater expenditure of energy during the campaign was well worth while. From a standpoint of true patriotism, the suffragettes felt they were indeed working for a movement which would be of vital assistance to the women who have given their all for the cause of the empire, and who will find the power of the ballot not only a help, but a real necessity.

When the time for reconstruction comes surely there is no one who is more worthy or deserving of having a voice in the affairs of the government than the wife and mother of the Canadian soldier.

I am delighted to find so much enthusiasm shown in the campaign here, and I believe the women for the most part in the movement are anything but unpatriotic, as among them are leaders in the most patriotic work being done by women. That the women of Canada will have to take her share of the responsibility of the reconstruction of our nation is evident to all, and it stands to reason that she must be armed with all power possible. Intelligently do her duty as a true citizen. Thanking you for this valuable space, I am,

Anna M. McIntyre.

## CO-OPERATION AND COAL.

Editor World: Being a reader of The World, I notice that, something new for a newspaper, you are advocating co-operation. Being a disciple of Owens, I am interested to the extent of wishing you luck. Peg away. Start something. You have a hard row to hoe. First, you will need a new government. Being a native of Lancashire, where co-operative stores were first made successful, when a boy in the early 80's my people were in business, and when a co-operative store opened up close to, father soon felt the effect of its competition, gave up and bought shares in it. It is the only system that will make a true democracy of this country. There is all the more reason why we should give it a try. Take over the mineral wealth of the country and exploit it for the benefit of the people as a whole. It is their birthright. Don't give it to a few to exploit the people to their own ends. Also the land and railroads and shipping. I wish it were possible for my pen to be equal to this subject. Regarding the municipal coal yard, if the people have not learnt their lesson this winter they never will, any more than a green hand do not realize they are at war. In a city like this, that is dependent upon the United States for its heat in winter, the Welland Canal is finished, where up-to-date steamboats could discharge their 10,000 tons of coal in three or four hours. In the course of time, when the Welland Canal is finished, the coal ports of the U.S. will be at your door. Again, when in a few years the city takes over the street railroad system, it has a means of distributing coal to district yards and to large consumers directly in their own cars. There are great possibilities in co-operation. Do something, start something, now.

Capt. J. C. Smith.

13 Balfour avenue.

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## CANADIAN FILMS HERE NEXT MONTH

Toronto Will Soon Have Opportunity of Seeing Our Men in Action.

## SUCCESS IN LONDON

Pictures Were Shown There and Acclaimed as Most Vivid Yet Taken.

The recent cabled announcements that the Canadian Courcellette films have been released in England followed now by the announcement of their release in Canada. The films will be presented early next month simultaneously in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa and later throughout the Dominion by Messrs. Jule and J. Allen of the Famous Players Film Service, Limited, the Monarch Film Company and other well known theatrical enterprises under the auspices of the leading newspapers of the country from coast to coast. This was the plan followed in the case of "Britain Prepared," which was the first of the series of official war films produced by direction of the British Government, showing the progressive stages of Britain's share in the struggle. It was the plan followed in the case of "The Battle of the Somme," the wonderful pictures which showed the army actually in action. This plan was described as "the greatest moving picture in the world," and it made new records for attendance everywhere it was shown.

Better Than Somme Pictures. The new Canadian film is said to be a greater piece of war photography than the Somme picture taken in July. Its exposures were made in September last by Lieut. G. H. Mains, the same fearless operator of the topical committee's staff who made the Somme pictures, and who works greater risk than those of the soldiers themselves. The film deals principally with the action at Courcellette, Sept. 16th last, when the Canadians made their victorious advance in conjunction with the first appearance of the now celebrated "battleships on land," which the soldiers have dubbed "the tanks."

A Canadian Associated Press cable, referring to these pictures as the most vivid war pictures yet secured, reads: "The Canadian war memorials fund stands to benefit appreciably through the sale of the latest moving pictures of Canadian soldiers at the front. Taken for Sir Max Aitken's staff. These will be shown in Canada almost immediately, and are claimed to be the first movies of Canadians actually taken in France."

"They comprise depictions of almost all the most vivid parts of what the men of the empire have achieved and endured. Canadians are seen fixing bayonets, nonchalantly 'chewing' meanwhile or taking last puffs at cigarettes, then scrambling up ready to take over the top and racing at the German lines. Big guns belch their terrible missiles in the Somme direction. The wonderful tanks go forward, crawling over rock, stone, ditch and shell fissures, seemingly with the ease of a lawn mower over a tennis court."

"Some pictures are almost poignant to realism, notably the burial of a Canadian officer, and Germans lying still just where they were covered by a rain of explosives."

## A METHOD FOR RECRUITING.

Editor World: Last June you very kindly published a letter from the writer with some suggestions regarding methods of recruiting. At that time a number of military men and other experienced military approval of the methods proposed.

As the matter is again under discussion, and as I believe the method suggested would be practicable and effective, I venture to ask you to republish the suggestions made in that letter, as follows:

I call up immediately for training all men of military age and Canadian citizenship. This can be done under the Militia Act. Call them up in three batches for one month each. The healthful life in the tented field, the initiation to the mysteries of drill, the formation of new comradeships and the whole influence of life in a military camp would prepare for the second step.

2. Call for volunteers from time to time to form a complete battalion.

## MORE ABOUT THE H. C. OF L.

With all commodities soaring in price, it behooves the buyer to look for full value in every article.

## WHEN BUYING MATCHES SPECIFY

## EDDY'S

Their quality is beyond question, but besides this every box is a generously filled box. Look out for short-count matches; there are many on the market. Avoid imposition by always, everywhere, asking for EDDY'S.

## Safeguard your Health with

## D. J. Collis Brown's CHLORODYNE

Used with unvarying success by Doctors and the public for remedies of 60 years.

THE BEST REMEDY KNOWN FOR COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, ACTS LIKE A CHARM IN DIARRHOEA, CHOLERA and DYSENTERY.

A true palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, TOOTHACHE, CHECKS AND ARRESTS FEVER, GROUP, AGUE.

Of all Chemists. Prices in England: 1s. 3d. 2s. 6d. Always ask for a "Dr. Collis Brown's."

LYMAN BROS. & CO., LIMITED, TORONTO.

The response would probably fill a new battalion in a few days. If not, the recruiters working among the men in training would soon bring it up to strength, and it could proceed to work without the present deplorable loss of time.

There would be one million men of military age in Canada the two hundred thousand needed—only one-fifth of the number available—could be secured by this method in three months.

R. M. Dickey.

## HOTEL ASSESSMENT IS AGAIN REDUCED

But Board Decides It and Other Hotels Liable for Business Tax.

According to the decision of the Ontario Railway Board, the King Edward and other hotels of Toronto that appealed against business assessment for the year 1917 are not exempt. The appeal of the King Edward in this case was dismissed, but the assessment reduction on the building, made by the court of revision, was confirmed. The court of revision reduced the assessment from \$1,000,000 to \$800,000, and the county judge increased this to \$150,000. The board now reduces it to \$600,000 again.

The decision of the board is based on that rendered in the case of Clark v. Town of Leamington, in which it was held that a hotel not holding a liquor license was liable to a business assessment. This was a standard hotel in a municipality under local option. In the judgment the board holds that this fact does not differentiate the case from the case of a hotel without a liquor license since the Ontario Temperance Act came into force.

Regarding the assumption that the Ontario Temperance Act exempted the hotel from business assessment for 1917, the board holds that this exemption was for 1916 and not for 1917.

## PTE. ROXTON RETURNS

Special to The Toronto World. St. Catharines, Ont., Jan. 25.—Port Dalhousie turned out with a band and tendered a reception at the town hall to Pte. John Paxton who returned yesterday night from the front. A brother of the returned soldier paid the supreme sacrifice.