



Changing the Gear

BANK presidents' addresses remind us of what is going to happen after the war. They do not go into details, but they point out that one of these days our munitions industries will close down. About the same time we shall be under the necessity of changing over nearly half our industrial plants from war to peace conditions. Normally before the war in a boom year we turned out of Canadian factories about \$1,200,000,000 worth of goods. Some of this was exported. Most of it was consumed at home. We are now credited with the opportunity of getting \$500,000,000 worth of munition orders in a year if we can handle them. Besides this we are manufacturing a large amount of war supplies that are not munitions. It would be a conservative estimate to say that at least half our normal industry machine is engaged on war orders. When war orders quit, these quit also. That five or six hundred millions of industry per year will automatically cease. The people now engaged in turning it out will be in the market for other labour. But the demand for their labour will not begin at once. It will not begin in full until it comes for the rehabilitation of Europe. At the same time we shall begin to bring back the soldiers. Many of these will go back to their old jobs whether the demand for their labour exists in the same measure as before or not. There will be a good deal of unemployment. The wages of labour will go down. The efficiency of labour will go up. The cost of living will somewhat decline. But the means of living will not be so evenly distributed. There will be an increase in the production from the land because labour will crowd back on the land where it is sadly needed.

Then and Now

IT may be some use to us then to compare ourselves with what we were doing in the boom years. Then we made a practice of importing more than 400,000 people every year from other countries, many of them without visible means of support. Many of these went on the land, of which we had plenty. They became producers. Many of them went building railways, of which we were then doing thousands of miles in a year. Many got work in towns and cities where building up on borrowed capital was the order of the day.

At that time we never had any fear of a glut of labour. There was so much going on that it absorbed all the labour we could bring to it. After the war we shall not immediately have that condition. It will take some time for our industries to work back to their normal activity. But we have at least a fair chance to absorb our unemployed labour in a reasonable time. Many people will have saved money earned in war time. Money for public works will be easy to get at low rates from the United States. There will be a quick revival of building up public utilities. And if we get ourselves ready now we should have less trouble adjusting ourselves to post-war conditions than we had getting ourselves in shape to take care of the war itself. It will be a radical conversion, almost a revolution. But if we use our economic sense and profit by our experience we should be able to recover from post-war effects more rapidly than any of the countries now at war.

Austria and the Bagdad Policy

WE are considering peace as it never has been discussed since the war began. None of the warring nations is less anxious for peace than the neutral countries. The world is weary of war. But it is to be remembered that the clamour for peace and the overtures to peace have come from the country which started the war and in 1914 turned a deaf ear to all forms and suggestions of peace. We were forced into war in 1914 by Germany who would have

no peace. We cannot be forced into peace by Germany just because she is weary of war in 1917. There is no gain to anybody in ignoring the consequences. Germany is able to fight a long while yet. But she is seeking for peace on the strength of her eastern successes where success is easy and in spite of her defeats on the western front where she never can hope to succeed at all. In order to use her eastern successes to advantage it is necessary that she get the greatest concessions in the area where she has had most of her success. If she gets concessions there it will be for the sake of extending her influence after the war in the direction of Bagdad and the eastern outlet. But in order to make that effective Austria must remain part of the German scheme. Expansion from Berlin to Bagdad is not possible except by means of Austria. But we make a bad surmise if we do not guess that Austria under the new Emperor and the new Chancellor is not averse to being dragooned into any peace programme that makes her the tool of Germany as she was bludgeoned into the war because the pan-Germanic idea and German hegemony in Europe was the big stick. Austria is more weary of the war than is Germany because even if Germany should win Austria must continue to play second fiddle to Berlin. Emperor Charles Frederic knows all about that second fiddle business. It is said that at the funeral of the late Emperor Franz Josef, when the Kaiser was reported to be weeping at the bier, he spent the day quarrelling with the new Emperor. Long may they continue to quarrel. The war lords who accomplished the assassination of Ferdinand in order to start a world war may find the new Emperor just as much of an obstacle to the pan-Germanic idea with Berlin as the overlord to Vienna as ever Ferdinand was expected to be—and it is no secret that Ferdinand was an obstacle in the path of Potsdam.

Use Our Colonels

LET us hope that most of the Canadian officers commanding now given the choice of going to France in lieutenant's rank or of returning to Canada will be made use of in the business of raising the rest of our army. Whether we continue at the expensive game of indiscriminate recruiting or use the national register to get the men, surely the men who have had experience already in raising and drilling battalions will be of most use in the work of building up our army. These men should be put to work immediately, not raising new battalions, but working the national register to get the men. We have a large number of senior men in age as well as in rank whose experience is more valuable rounding out our army than in actual fighting at the front. Unless we employ these men of experience in national service we are not likely to make much use of the unenlisted man except by conscription—which nobody should wish to see resorted to in this country.

Make National Register a Census

THREE years hence the Dominion census commissioners will again be leaning against our front door bells. Four years hence they will report their finding. This is too long to wait. A complete census of Canada should be taken within the next year or fifteen months. It should be part of the work of the National Service Commission. We should know not only how many people we have lost, but also the facts regarding our industrial situation: how many factories are closed down or are no longer working on their old lines (having turned to munitions instead). How many people are engaged in the munitions trade? How many of them are women? How much in arrears (approximately) do manufacturers consider the peace-time stocks of the country to be? What is the labouring-absorbing capacity of the country?

The census of 1920—published in 1921—will tell

us all these things. But that is very likely to be too late. We need these facts NOW in order that readjustment and reconstruction after the war may be intelligently set about.

Violent Language

ONE trifling German characteristic alone helps embarrass them. It is their habit of speaking with cynical brutality, the habit of using always the strongest word available—always talking in superlatives. They were going to walk right into Paris. The Kaiser was going to wither with one glance whoever dared oppose him. His armies would "crush" France and "punish" England—and so on. But now, when Germany has failed in offensive warfare, when she has been forced to place all her hopes on a defensive policy, her ringing brutality does not serve her so well. On the other hand, the Entente allies have at least not made the blunder of using melodrama language. They have been content with quite plain words couched in the simple form of sincerity. They have thus won a great advantage over the adversary in the minds of all intelligent men in neutral countries. They have held their superlatives in reserve. When they DO require them, men will listen. As it is, the German is all superlatives.

Lobsters Crescendo

A TRIFLING five million pounds of lobster is said to have been added to the usual lobster sales of the Maritime Provinces in the year just closed. While the lobster fishermen have reason to feel pleased with themselves, they nevertheless had a nerve-racking time of it. Great Britain talked about banning the gentle beast from the tables of chorus ladies and dukes. France actually placed an embargo against them—and then let it up again just in time to save the frayed nerves of the Canadian producers. The United States has, however, remained a loyal and hungry customer and the revels of American war-profiters in Broadway hostilities have a very sober counterpart among the menders and setters of lobster traps. Somebody's stupidity at Ottawa allowed the oyster beds of Prince Edward Island to be all but wiped out. A better watch is apparently being kept over the lobster.

Keep One Lord Here

LORD SHAUGHNESSY cannot be spared from this country—otherwise there is nothing so ridiculous in the suggestion that he be made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and certainly nothing that need lead his Lordship to repudiate the rumour with such promptness and vigour. His business experience and his detachment from the present politicians dealing with Ireland would be valuable. Shaughnessy, unlike those who live close to the cause of Home Rule, would have, we suspect, little difficulty in judging clearly, fairly and practically, between the interests of Westminster and those of Dublin.

Opportunity Knocks

REPORTS of the market for agricultural machinery in Siberia lead us to hope that British Columbia will continue to increase her shipping interests. It is not at all unlikely that we shall develop a good trans-Pacific trade. China, Japan and Russia present great possibilities to Canadian exporters, and especially to Canadian manufacturers of certain classes of goods. Now if British Columbia knows her own interests—as the Bowser Government makes us suspect she does—she will be prepared not merely to handle this trans-Pacific traffic in her ports, but to take advantage of the general lack of shipping to supply British Columbian bottoms to carry Canadian goods.