

sistent moods of classes and factions. Democracy has rightly claimed the privileges of independence, but has failed to recognize the responsibilities involved in true democracy. The result is that party and sectional activity has been our weakness and may yet defeat our aims. Russia, once great in the field of action, is now a helpless mass, the outcome of individual liberty without the sense of individual responsibility. Ireland since the beginning of the war has so pressed her individual claims that a standing army has been necessary to prevent open disruption with the Empire. Quebec has so pressed her individual view point in Canadian ideals and methods that the situation today is decidedly critical from the standpoint of unity within the Dominion. The same tendency is rampant in all the Allied lands, and each aspect of it is a festering sore exhausting energy and hope which are so vital in an undertaking the success of which means the birth of a new world order.

THE TRAGEDY OF DEMOCRACY.

We in Canada are facing a critical situation on account of the same tendency to achieve individual success at the expense of national efficiency. This is seen in the fact that many have taken advantage of the Empire's agony to amass great fortunes. That our men should defend the Empire and lay down their lives for the financial consideration of one dollar and ten cents a day with the added compensations for special classes, while men at home who supply these with food and munitions should become millionaires seems to me the tragedy of democracy. The same tendency is seen in the fact that some corporate interests have taken a similar advantage to press successfully their claim. Labor in some cases has been a source of weakness. That the sources of supply should be imperilled and our men left unsupported is a tragedy which will long stain the annals of a devoted army of self-sacrificing toilers. Capital in some cases has also been guilty. To control food prices, thereby denying to many the necessities of efficient service, is not only lacking in humanitarian instincts, but breathes the ideal of the highway robber. That the lives of many have been made bitter by such extortion and that the germs of social revolution should not only be planted but appear above the ground is but the universal operation of fundamental principles in society. The same tendency is seen in the fact that some party interests are taking advantage of the war to achieve individual successes. This is most disastrous. Today Canada is convulsed by party issues. If the chief thing in Canadian life today were the adjustment of party politics this election campaign might well be fought out by the people along the lines of their respective convictions. If, however, the chief business of Canada is to support the Empire in its fight for the rights of humanity, or to make the world safe for democracy, then in Henry Drummond's phrase, there is a moral obligation to keep first things first. It is not a question of either party scoring a victory, but it is a question of how the people of Canada as a people can best accomplish the one task to which we have pledged our honor and our existence. When we have shattered the military tyranny which threatens the world we can adjust our internal affairs. If Germany should win we shall have no Canada to govern. If there should be a compromise so that Germany's military system still lives, then it is idle to imagine we can develop our free institutions. Our policy will be determined by the military aims of Germany.