

of the land, should be unhesitatingly obeyed; the same leader who has promised, if returned to power, to prosecute the war to the end with all the resources and energy of which the Dominion is capable. This is the man who is accused of leading a disloyal faction, and accused by men who gained power and hope to retain power by the Nationalist element in Quebec, who boast even now that the election will be decided against the Liberals by the Nationalist vote in Quebec, who depend upon outspoken and disloyal elements in our population to keep them in office!

Electors of Canada, whom do you prefer—the men who were tried and found wanting and now come to you with a pretence of reform and union for another term of office, allied to the money barons and the profiteers; or the safe, sane and practical statesman who leads a united and determined and patriotic party? Are we to have a real win-the-war government or another orgy of profiteering, grafting and maladministration while our boys suffer and die in the trenches?

### THE INTERESTS AT WORK.

“LET us win the war first. Then we can look after the tariff and other matters” is the clever way in which the average Tory speaker and the Tory press reply to questions as to the fiscal policy and other principles of the new administration.

Now, this sounds well. It bears out the impression, intended to be conveyed, that the union policy is solely one of winning the war and that all other issues are to be subordinated to this one. But it will not bear analysis. The history of every European country during the present war is that reforms demand precedence over the war and that unless there is equality of responsibility and equality of taxation there is no possibility of employing the full strength of the nation. At the beginning of the war Germany threw her tariff overboard; then France followed suit; then Italy then Greece and Rumania and Russia. After the war had been in progress a year every protectionist belligerent had abandoned its tariff on foodstuffs and on many other articles. There was no attempt to postpone this reform until

after the war, as our alleged win-the-war government would have it. The nations abolished the tariff for two reasons; one was to secure more food and the other to equalize taxation. All appreciated that under the protectionist system the consumer was the victim of the trusts and big interests.

But the big interests behind the Canadian government will not listen to any proposal to lower or abolish the tariff at this time. “Tell them we’ll do it after the war” is the answer the big interests make, with their tongues in their cheeks, when the demand for lower priced foodstuffs goes up. “Tell them that winning the war is the main thing—wave the flag!” is what the tariff barons and the food barons tell the statesmen representing the new government. But the people of European countries could not be put off with that sort of sophistry.

The same demand for internal reform as characterized the European peoples in the case of the tariff was evinced in many other ways. British workers were given concessions for which their representatives in parliament had fought in vain for years. The vote was given to women. The Irish home rule question was taken up. The taxation of incomes was inaugurated. Social and political barriers were broken down. **THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO POSTPONE ANY OF THESE REFORMS UNTIL AFTER THE WAR. ALL WERE ESSENTIAL TO WINNING THE WAR.**

What is true of Britain is true of every one of the belligerent countries with one exception. That exception is Germany. In this respect the government of the Kaiser and the so-called union government of Canada are alike. **THE BORDEN GOVERNMENT PROMISES REFORMS AFTER THE WAR, AND THE KAISER PROMISES THE GERMAN PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WHEN HOSTILITIES CEASE!**

Let the Western voters and true Liberals throughout the Dominion ask themselves why the tariff burden bearers of this country should be asked to continue to carry the load **during** the war when the profiteers are growing fat? Is there any chance of the big interests taking up their fair share of the burden **AFTER THE WAR, WHEN THEY SHRINK FROM DOING IT DURING THE WAR?**

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