

CANADA'S DUTY AND OPPORTUNITY

Ideas Which Have Been Emphasized by the War

By THE EDITOR

CANADA is at war and every Canadian is affected by that fact. There are certain new duties laid upon us and certain new opportunities offered us. Every man and every woman should realize these clearly, otherwise the total sum of the nation's obligations will not be reached.

Up to the present time, Canada has done well. The men have recognized their obligation to serve the Empire in its great and just struggle, and the women have risen magnificently to their opportunities in this respect. There is not a class in the community from capitalist to unskilled labourer, from the men of sixty to the boy scouts, which has failed to perceive that this is the day of national and imperial sacrifice. The unanimity in this respect has been wonderful. The national spirit has been exhibited in a unified manner which few could have anticipated.

IN regard to volunteering for service, there has been no undue delay on the part of British-born, Canadian-born, or French-Canadian. It was natural that the British-born should have formed a considerable percentage of the first contingent. The British-born have come more closely into touch with military and naval services than the Canadian-born, who are the products of a century of peace. The young Britisher who came to this country recently understood better what the call meant, and had no family ties on this side to hold him back. He could volunteer with only slight business consideration.

The second contingent now being prepared will contain a much larger percentage of native-born. The duty is now much clearer, the realization of that duty much stronger. The Canadian-born is now showing his mettle. His business and family relations have been arranged and he is freer to go. A third contingent will be almost wholly Canadian-born.

As for the French-Canadians, they were like the other Canadian-born. A century of peace had eliminated almost all military traditions. Even the grandfathers could not remember war, therefore the grandchildren could not be expected to realize the new conditions without an effort. But once the situation was made clear, their patriotism gave them the cue. Their duty was clear, and they met it magnificently. Everything considered, the French-Canadians have done all that could be expected of them. Their public men, with the single exception of Bourassa the outlaw, have exercised their influence to the full in helping the people to a realization of their duty to the Union Jack, to the cause of the Allies, and to the needs of the unfortunate Belgians.

THERE is no need to describe or dilate upon the many activities of Canadians in Red Cross work, Blue Cross funds, Patriotic Contributions, Comforts for the Canadian troops, hospitals and nursing. But there are other duties and obligations which may not be quite so apparent and hence are demanding more consideration at the moment.

The most important at the moment is the question of mutual help. This is a problem which concerns every man, woman and child in the country. No complete national system of self-help is possible without the co-operation of every citizen, great and small. If British and Canadian Christmas cards are to be given the preference over foreign Christmas cards, the women and children must be taught to make the distinction. It is the same with every other kind of product made by British and Canadian workmen, the people must know the distinguishing marks, and they must have clear ideas as to why they are to give these a preference. This means a campaign of education which will reach to the very limits of our population.

Much buying is a matter of habit, and it takes great stirring of individual spirit to eradicate the habits of a lifetime, even though the lifetime be scarcely begun. The children should know the basis of the "Made in Canada" and the "Made in the Empire" campaigns. Teachers should explain why these are not selfish and why they are necessary. It is not selfish to protect one's own in the hour of adversity, if one may do so with honour. This is the case in a nutshell, but it needs enlargement and explanation and driving home.

FROM such considerations as these, it will be clear that what is needed most is a development of intense British and Canadian feeling. The school lessons, the reading rooms, the lecture hall, the newspapers and magazines should all be active in creating this atmosphere.

One man shouts: "I am a thorough Britisher," and goes down town and buys a half-dozen Austrian collars, a German pen-knife, and a foreign magazine

containing the advertisements of foreign manufacturers only. Is he as British as he thinks he is?

Take the Canadian clubs for example. Have they risen to the height of their professions? Have they preferred Canadian history, Canadian art, Canadian literature and the study of Canadian institutions? Does any one think that ten per cent. of the members of the Canadian clubs have a volume of Canadian history in their libraries, except, perhaps, the primer they or their children had at school? Did you ever hear of a Canadian club going in a body to an exhibition of Canadian art, or encouraging a Canadian dramatic venture?

This is not to cast a stone in the direction of Canadian clubs. They are no better and no worse than the Canadians who are members of Empire clubs, Navy Leagues, Imperial Orders of Daughters and other so-called British organizations. The members of Canadian clubs are as good as the average citizen in respect of their practical patriotism. The trouble is that Canadians have been lacking in patriotism. They had so little self-esteem that anything produced outside of Canada was better than a similar article, picture, book, magazine, ornament, garment or machine produced at home.

This is now being changed in order that industrial and commercial activity be maintained. Canada has great financial obligations to meet, and trade must be kept at its highest pitch in order to enable us to pay our share of the war. Every time a man sends a dollar out of the country, directly or indirectly, he evades his supreme duty to the flag to which he owes allegiance. This may sound extreme, but it is absolutely necessary under war conditions.

A CANADIAN visitor from New York stated last week that Toronto had suffered less than New York from the war, and one reason he gave was that the creditors and lenders in New York demanded their pound of flesh, while in Toronto, as in London, men were given time to meet their obligations. Whether this is true or not, it ought to be true. Every Canadian should help every other Canadian when opportunity offers. All the help should not go to the soldiers and the unemployed. There must be sympathy for the man who owes us money, for the man to whom we pay wages, for the tenant who pays us rent, to the man who finds it difficult to meet his interest or his taxes. There must be a great Canadian brotherhood, the big brother sharing with the little brother for the sake of the common citizenship.

It has been said in days that are gone that Canadians were a race of knockers. They knocked the reputations of their fellow-men, knocked their own institutions, and knocked every worthy national movement. If this war stops that tendency it will have done the nation at least one bit of good. If it creates a spirit of brotherliness and neighbourliness, a spirit of mutual trust and admiration, an atmosphere of civic and national responsibility, the war may be a blessing in disguise.

Even this would be good policy, if there were no higher motive. Every time we help a fellow-citizen we increase the prosperity of the country as a whole and thus add to our own prosperity. No nation is prosperous, unless all its citizens are happy, well-fed and properly employed. National happiness and national prosperity are but the sum total of individual happiness and individual prosperity.

NOT long ago, a prominent Canadian preacher remarked that "God has not sent this sword across the face of Christendom without some good purpose." Perhaps the sword was "permitted," not "sent," but the purpose is the important matter. The world had grown material and pleasure-loving. It was a world of self-seeking; a world of frivolity. Selfishness seemed to be at its height. And German selfishness was the greatest of all. The Germans cared for nothing, respected nothing, regarded nothing except to prove their military efficiency. The treaty obligation, the brotherhood of man, the sanctity of women, the divine right of the helpless child to be respected, the sacredness of libraries, universities and cathedrals, the rights of non-combatants—all these they have disregarded because of their national selfishness and their military ambitions.

We see these faults clearly, and we are prepared for the greatest sacrifices in order that this selfish nation shall be taught a lesson. But let us not forget that we, too, have had faults. Let us therefore be learners as well as teachers. The pettiness of politics, the frivolities of a tangoing age, the foolishness of fashion and society-climbing should be eliminated—so that the serious matters of life will be able to claim a certain amount of our time and our attention. We should learn to distinguish the true from the false, the essential from the non-essential, the

noble from the base. If there is a divine purpose, it should be sought for and recognized.

A Splendid Spirit

THOUGH Canada has completed a hundred years of peace, the military spirit has been kept alive by generations of public-spirited citizens. The response to the call for recruits during the past two months has been splendid. The spirit of the people of Canada compares favourably with that of any other portion of the Empire. The only limit to recruiting is the number of rifles available for those who desire to practise rifle shooting and the number of uniforms that can be secured for those enrolling as militiamen.

Imperial Trade

HAS the cutting of the Pacific cable put the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Australia out of business? Reports from the Pacific Coast state that New South Wales is in the market for a large quantity of lumber for the new parliament buildings. Requests for bids have been received in British Columbia, but these have come through a commission in San Francisco and Aberdeen, Wash., to whom bids must be submitted. There's surely something amiss in that method of promoting Imperial trade.

War Calendar

DURING the week ending on Monday last there had been little to report in France and Belgium, except that the Allies were holding the Germans firmly. Yet, though no battle of importance was fought, the losses of the combatants would total as big as the losses in the Battle of Waterloo. So fierce and so extended is this struggle, and so huge the armies, that a Waterloo loss in a week is scarcely considered. Around Ypres, Bixchoote and Dixmude, the German losses were appalling.

In the Eastern area, the Russians continued their advances. The Germans tried a counter offensive between the Warthe and the Vistula rivers, heading south-east, and apparently were trapped. The Russians retired to let the German columns lengthen out, and then fell on them in force at strategic points. The Russians are satisfying all the expectations of the experts, and within a fortnight should be in possession of East Prussia to the Vistula and the whole of Galicia.

On the whole, the situation is most encouraging. Nov. 7—Russians drive Germans from Wirballen on frontier. Germans aggressive around Ypres.

Nov. 8—Russian cavalry enter German territory near Pleschen, 50 miles from Posen. Italy sends troops to Tripoli.

Nov. 9—Russians occupy Goldap. One thousand Austrians captured south of Przemyśl. Ypres in flames.

First Canadian unit, Hospital Corps and nurses leave Salisbury for France. Asquith and Kitchener speak at Lord Mayor's banquet. De Wet active.

Nov. 10—Australian warship Sydney sinks German cruiser Emden in Indian Ocean; cruiser Königsberg ashore in river Rufiji, East Africa.

Nov. 11—British ship Niger sunk by a submarine. Germans take Dixmude. Allies capture village of Lombaertzyde. Riots in Constantinople. British Parliament meets. British casualties to date, 57,000, including missing.

Nov. 12—Turkish force repulsed in the Caucasus. Boer rebels defeated, 120 killed.

Nov. 13—Kaiser issues letter to troops to defend their homes. Enemy's attacks about Ypres less strong. British Parliament asked to vote £225,000,000.

Nov. 14—Lord Roberts died in France. Report circulated of sinking, on Oct. 27th, of H. M. S. Audacious off Irish coast, struck by mine.

Nov. 15—Germans driven back from the Yser. British seize Turkish forts at Sheikh Said and Turba, in Aden protectorate. Russians advance in East Prussia. Officially announced that one Austrian light cruiser, five German gun-boats, one destroyer and one mine-layer were found sunk in Tsing-Tau harbor.

Nov. 16—Italy votes \$80,000,000 for war expenses. Khedive of Egypt announces his enmity to Britain. Cracow reported afire.

Nov. 17—Britain doubles income tax, and announces loan of \$1,125,000,000. Great battle in West Poland. Germans again taking offensive.

Nov. 18—German attack in Poland fails. More activity in Eastern France. South African rebel leader Beyers routed.

Nov. 19—Russians win small naval action in Black Sea. British defeat Turks on the Shat-el-Arab River.

Nov. 20—Russians capture German guns near Lodz.

Nov. 21—Petrograd reports further check to Germans in Poland.

Nov. 23—Turkish troops are reported to have reached the Suez Canal zone and a small battle at El Kantara. Two sons of De Wet surrendered in South Africa, with other prominent leaders. British airmen attacked Friedrichshafen, the Zeppelin factory near Swiss border. Great cannonading at Ypres, Soissons and Rheims.