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Special Articles

Canada's Economic Expansion
By W. W. SWANSON.

Demobilization
By J. W. MACMILLAN.

Book Reviews
By HOWARD S. ROSS.

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Peace

PEACE has come, for the moment at all events, and we may reasonably hope that the terms of the armistice which has been signed will make it impossible for the Germans to resume hostilities. For this blessing there will be throughout the world a song of thanksgiving to Heaven.

The valor and sacrifices of the armies of the Allies and the splendid leadership of Marshal Foch have, of course, been the chief instruments in bringing about the present situation, but in the end it was the uprising of the German people that drove the Emperor William from his throne. Students of the German situation have long seen that the time must come when the German masses could no longer be hoodwinked by their military rulers, and that once the German people fully understood the real condition of affairs, revolution would follow. That expectation has been realized. Somebody has said that a bad government is much better than no government. Germany has got rid of a bad government. What she is to have in place of it remains to be seen. There is danger that what has happened in Russia may now occur in Germany—that the forces of disorder, no longer held in subjection, may take control of the country and that the chaos and horrors of the Russian revolution may be repeated. The Germans, however, are a more educated people than the masses of the Russians, and therefore should, after their severe discipline at the hands of the Allies, be better able to respond to an appeal to reason.

What shall be the fate of the deposed Emperor and his son is now one of the most interesting problems of the day. Their flight into Holland has for the moment saved them from the fate which probably would have been like that of the Russian Emperor, if they had remained among the people whom they so long ruled and deceived. Pray Heaven that some means may be found for administering to the deposed Kaiser some measure of the personal punishment that his infamies deserve.

The Bill to be Paid

THE war, let us hope and believe, is ended. But Canada's bill for a large part of it has yet to be paid. Therefore the efforts of all who are interested in the Victory Loan should not be slackened. The Government called for at least three hundred million dollars, and for five hundred millions if possible. The minimum amount has been reached. Now the effort should be to obtain the other two hundred millions. For the payment of obligations already incurred, for the maintenance

of the Canadian soldiers until they can be returned to civil employment, and for the many services which at this time will demand large expenditures, the money is needed. In beginning the work of reconstruction, let there be no embarrassment in our national finance.

An Election in Great Britain

UNLESS the negotiations for peace cause a change of policy, it seems almost certain that there will be a general election in the United Kingdom next month. Some reasons can be given in support of such a movement. The Parliament has become old and stale. The House of Commons was elected under a law which fixed the term of the House at seven years. In the first year of the new House, a law was passed providing that in future the House would be elected for a period of not more than five years. The war upset all the plans for this change. Parliament has been extended several times. It has already exceeded the full term of the old law. Important changes have been made in the franchise. Millions of women have received the right to vote. Parliament, it can be truly said, does not represent the present electorate. These are reasons having some force in favor of a new election.

But there is another side to the question. A war-time election will produce something like political chaos. Parliament and the country are cordially behind the Government in desiring that the war shall be prosecuted to a successful end. A new Parliament could do no better in that respect than the present one. There can be no war issue between the present Government and the Liberal Opposition under Mr. Asquith. An election that tends to create such an issue will be unfortunate. A further extension of the present term, for a time sufficient to close up the war business, has much to recommend it. Mr. Lloyd George's colleagues seem to be leaving the question of an election entirely in his hands. Several weeks ago a number of Unionist election agents endeavoured to get definite information from the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Walter Long, but without success. Mr. Long was thus reported:

"If we were to have a general election (cries of 'Why') he did not know why. He did not know more about it than his hearers. The members of the Government had never discussed the question. It was a subject for the Prime Minister alone, but Mr. Long was sure that Mr. Lloyd George would not decide for a general election unless he was quite sure that it was altogether in the interest of prosecuting the war. . . . If there was to be a General Election various parties would no doubt have their candidates and there would be fights in some places and arrangements in others. Personally he would rather regret the necessity for