

Editorial

Winning the War

IN this business of beginning, carrying on and continuing the war, there are a few things that stand out with striking clearness.

1. When the war was declared we had to act with promptitude and decision. The temper of the Canadian people justified the action of the parliament in calling for volunteers and in assuming the financial obligations necessary at the time.

2. It is regrettable that the leadership in the call for volunteers and the control of the finances were in such poor hands. It is especially regrettable that so many of the chief officers in the army should have been appointed as they were.

3. It is nothing short of scandalous that advantage should have been taken of war conditions by producers and manufacturers of certain materials. This is something that could and should have been remedied by a government with backbone. It is most scandalous of all that a few of those who have stood most surely in the way of gain have had the ear of the government in all vital matters.

4. It is a matter of common knowledge that the high cost of living could have been lessened by governmental action three years ago. Belated attempts to remedy conditions are the surest confession and proof of this.

5. It is recognized that in the matter of voluntary enlistment three great forces have been more or less apathetic. These are: Quebec, the aliens and a section of the labor unions. The last named differ from the others in this respect that they object to conscription of men alone, wanting conscription of all resources or nothing. There are many sympathizers all over Canada with this view. Now it is clear that Quebec might have been educated, though not through the agency of party government. If such education were impossible this should have been known and recognized from the beginning. It is a poor time to be finding it out now. So also the aliens should have been disfranchised the moment war was declared, unless they came forward as other Canadians to do their part in the struggle. As for the labor unions and their sympathizers, they should have been appealed or at least challenged by legislation providing for full conscription. This dilly-dallying with full conscription, this trembling fear of the moneyed interests has been the most pitiable weakness of Canadian politicians during the last fifty years.

6. When, because of mismanagement or otherwise, voluntary enlistment, under party government, reached its limits, recourse had to be made either to conscription or to non-party government or to both. The party government decided to try conscription first and then add the idea of coalition. A more rational procedure would have been a conference as to programme and then a coalition if things were possible. This failing there could have been the formation of a government on non-party lines, with all the great interests in the country represented; the central planks being win-the-war and conscription to the limit. That is where we are heading now, and the new policy cannot come into effect too soon. It goes without saying that this government should not be selected by any one man, but nominated by the parties and interests concerned. A general election with the two historic parties lined up against each other would mean either one of two things—the dominance in the new parliament of anti-conscriptionists, or the immediate organization at the eleventh hour of a conscriptionist party, without political leanings, which would in some districts, at least, carry the polls.

7. It will be said that it would be undemocratic to form a government of conscriptionists and place them in power without an appeal to the people. Theoretically this is so. Practically it is the only open course if we are to remain in the war. And it is the only just and wise course, for we must remain in the war till the finish, no matter what occurs. We must remain in it if for no other reason than self-defence. Suppose for a moment, that we were not in the war, but in the position of the United States four months ago, we should find as they did that it would be immediately necessary for us to raise and equip an army to enter the field, for nothing is more certain than that Germany has her eyes on this Dominion. Her denial of this is the most certain evidence of the fact. As a matter of fact we should have had full-orbed conscription—men and resources—from the beginning, but as a people we were prejudiced against man-conscription because of our rational dislike of militarism. There is no escape from going into the struggle to the limit. Nothing else just now signifies.

8. It will be urged that such a course would be arbitrary and unfair to the elements mentioned, that in a matter of this kind our Canadian citizen has equal rights with his neighbor. This brings us to the heart of the question. The only ground to take in a matter where the fate of the Empire is at stake is that any citizen who is not as British as the king himself is not a good enough Canadian at this time. If any man claims any superior allegiance, political or otherwise, he should be ignored. Clearly we have made a mistake in failing to emphasize our British connection. We have been too careless in this matter. We have accepted into full citizenship those who at heart were disloyal to British connection, who indeed

were and are now out of sympathy with our ideals and traditions. Our immigration policy has been nothing short of a huge blunder. Groups of men, notoriously anti-British, are settled in scores of constituencies in Western Canada, and they hold the balance of power. These men have turned our elections, in other words they are dictating our policies. It must be understood from coast to coast that no one is worthy of enfranchisement who is not British in sympathy. If we do not find sufficient justification for continuing the war to a successful issue, on the ground that civilization requires it, we can find the justification in the fact that we are out to preserve the good name and honor of the Empire. Frankly, one must confess that if there is a general election with conscription as an issue, there is danger because of the mixed character of our population, that the result in many quarters will be most discouraging.

9. There are then two great duties for Canadians, the first to organize for prosecuting the war to a finish, the second to organize our life so that while we welcome every man to citizenship it is on the understanding that he will get a fair deal and in return grant us his unquestioned loyalty, which means not only loyalty to all that is Canadian, but to all the projects of the Empire.

The Liberal Convention

THERE has been held in Winnipeg what was termed a Liberal Convention. The title seems to have been unfortunate, for the resolutions passed did not seem to smack of Liberalism, and the discussions lacked the freedom that is usually coupled with the name. One can pass over the minor resolutions which were good of the kind and quite in order. The interest centres in the two main expressions regarding the winning of the war and the leadership of the party.

In the former there was a brave attempt to show earnestness, but when the veneer was removed by the proposed amendment, the barrenness of the thing stood revealed. The knowledge that the succeeding resolution was to endorse the present Liberal leader, who has avowed himself in opposition to conscription, made it impossible for the members to accept the amendment. The result was the resolution as drawn in committee, a resolution that may mean anything.

The Western Home Monthly feels that just now we do not want resolutions that are the offspring of compromise or the children of political hopes. What we need in Canada is a non-party government organized to win the war. The line up into parties after the war is over must look after itself.

It might be possible for the Liberals to swing into line all the non-conscriptionists of the West (and considering the number of alien voters, non-conscriptionists are quite numerous); it might also be possible for them to command a solid Quebec—but what then? What if victory under such conditions were won?

We have boys at the front. We have an Empire to support. We have a world to save. That is enough.

National Morality

ANY one who goes up and down the land looking at people and reviewing their actions must be convinced that the one great outstanding need for present and future is good old-fashioned morality. In some cases what is demanded is personal purity, in others commercial honesty, in others political uprightness, in others social righteousness. The great need is always the same, a sense of right, a passion for goodness.

Now it is clear that righteousness must begin with the individual. It must reach out from the individual to the group.

Individual righteousness depends in part upon heredity. Moral degenerates are born rather than made. The state can easily prevent the increase of the feeble-minded and morally depraved. In the next place individual morality depends upon environment. Under certain conditions people easily fall into sin and when conditions are favorable they find it easy to follow the path of virtue. It is easy for any community, through wise regulation of all that surrounds young life to make right-doing the course most easily followed. In the third place individual behavior depends upon education, especially upon the education of home, school and the social assemblage. It is difficult to say which of these exerts the greatest influence. The behavior of children at school is notoriously better than their behavior at home, and the lessons of both home and school often give way to the cruder and grosser ethics of the market place and the political forum.

So the remedy for the ills we have does not lie with any one power or agency. In particular the way of salvation is not by introducing into the schools formal religious instruction, as if the recognition of God would appease Him and work a miracle among the people. The school has many ways of directing young life and so has the home, and it would be foolishness for either to depend upon a formal exercise, when a living method may be employed. Among the living methods are personal example, the use of good literature

and history, formal instruction, and above all insistence upon good behavior. But even though the two fundamental institutions, aided by religious organizations do all that is possible, they cannot alone ensure national morality. The period when life ideals are most surely fixed is during adolescence. Then life is at a white heat. Then it is open to all appeals whether for good or evil. In one month in a wrong business house a young man may learn more of evil than in a whole life at school, in one week of a political campaign he may forswear all that he ever learned regarding civic righteousness. So strong is the power of custom upon growing boys and girls.

It is necessary then that every man regard himself as a teacher of morals, a teacher by example. The only hope for a nation is that the mass may approach the level of the highest. Temperance, personal purity and godliness in high places are infectious. Cupidity, dishonesty and bestiality are equally infectious. There is nothing so potent for righteousness in a community as a man or woman who lives the simple, pure and unselfish life. It was no accident that the Master of men used as a recruiting speech the simple phrase: "Follow Me."

Signs of the Times

ONE of the most cheering signs of the times is the passing of the resolution by the Liberal Convention in Winnipeg on the question of nationwide prohibition. The resolution was brief but to the point:

"That the federal government prohibit the manufacture, importation, exportation, storage or sale of intoxicating liquors within the Dominion of Canada for the purpose of utilizing the food values to the fullest extent."

The reason given was perhaps not all that an out-and-out prohibitionist would like. Liquor is bad because of its effect on the mental, moral and social life of the community. Indeed there is nothing to be said in its favor apart from the fact that it has a use as a medicine or tonic. Yet it is a great thing to get a pronouncement from such an influential body even on the grounds set forth in the resolution.

Be Not Discouraged

WE need not get too discouraged because of the Russian retreat. The more territory taken by the enemy the more there is to protect. As one of their own number said: "There is little to be gained by advancing three or four hundred miles into Russia." Napoleon, in the same way, once said: "I have thought out four or five ways of invading England, but I have never found a way of getting out again." The war is going well. It may be one year or two years or ten years till the finish, but the finish is coming in the form of a victory for democracy. Only let us be worthy and in due time we shall have a glorious peace.

An Opportunity

KIND Providence has blessed us with a bounteous harvest. We may look upon it merely as a personal gift or we may regard it as a solemn trust to be used for our fellow men and for our Allies in the war. This latter thought should surely be in our minds. In these days no man can live unto himself. No matter how much any of us may give in time and money we cannot measure up to those young men who gave their lives in the great heroic cause. Therefore, as the fields begin to return their wealth, let the thought of wasting nothing and of giving away all we can afford be in our minds. And may this be more than a pious wish.

The Coming Day of Deliverance

NEVER before has there been such a turning point in human history. Never before has there been such a colossal struggle as is now being waged. Millions of men have died, millions of women and children have been driven from their homes. Human suffering and misery such as the world has never known before have replaced peace, happiness and orderly life in great areas of the old world. Wherever German armies have passed there has been a harvest of dishonor for women, of cruel death for children and old men, and of unprecedented ravaging and destruction. All that violence, deceit, ruthlessness and "terribleness" could accomplish has been accomplished over no inconsiderable portion of the European continent. For forty years Germany worked at her preparations to seize world dominion. But all her vaunted "efficiency," her savage ruthlessness in action, have failed. Those who will live in the years to come will have a better measure than we can have now of the grandeur and the horror of this present time, and of how much has been won for mankind by the defeat of the German assault upon civilization and freedom. For the defeat is already becoming manifest. The day of deliverance from the German menace to the principles upon which all free countries are built is coming. To hasten the day is the supreme duty of every Canadian.