

## ASSOCIATION "BUSINESS AS USUAL."

At the present time a large majority of members of industrial organizations are asking themselves and others, "Should an association suspend activities during the war?" Apparently some of the members of our own organization have already answered this question, to their own satisfaction, in the affirmative and, in consequence, closed down tight as far as association work is concerned. It will, in most cases, be found that those already alluded to as having satisfied themselves that our activities should completely cease, are those who have looked only on the surface, thought once, and settled the point. A second and deeper thought will reveal a different side of the matter altogether. First and foremost, while this awful carnage is going on, everybody, everything, every organization must give way before the organization of military necessity. Everyone should be more than ready to help on this state of affairs and if there are any that are not willing they must be made. Every one of us grants this and, consequently, our association is looking and will continue to look at everything from that viewpoint.

Now, we have something like 30 per cent of our members away on military duty and, if the necessity should arise, there is no doubt that we would have 100 per cent away. The Postal Clerks are keeping and will continue to keep well represented in Canada's great and glorious army. When it has become necessary for 100 per cent of our members to face the foe, it will be a good time to talk about closing down all our association activities. It is earnestly hoped that such a time will never come.

If the place of one of our members who dons the khaki is filled in the office, it is filled by a temporary man whom, at present at any rate, it is usually deemed inadvisable to organize. Therefore, our member's place in the association is left blank and it becomes the duty of one of the stay-at-homes to see that he makes himself so active in association matters that his absent brother's place is missed as little as possible. Many points that have and will come up during this war, are matters which will affect us after the war is over and, consequently, will affect our boys away, on their return. Other matters affect, directly, those who are or who may go away to the war. Therefore we, who stay behind for some good reason or another, must consider ourselves bound to look after the interests of those away from home. It is a duty that those on active service can legitimately expect from us. SEE THAT THEY ARE NOT DISAPPOINTED.

## FROM OTHER SOURCES.

## The Stay-at-Homes.

"The stay-at-home element is the greatest drag to trade union effort." The trade union is the most important society with which the wage-earner is affiliated. It is his bread and butter organization. Under our present wage system it fixes the conditions under which he works and the money return for his labour. . . . Remember that you are responsible for your union and its welfare. You cannot shirk that responsibility. The union is what you and your colleagues make it. It can and should be a powerful engine for justice for the wage-earner. The wage-earner's future is in his own hands. He must work out his own destiny. He has an instrument ready at hand in his trade union, for his elevation to a higher and better sphere. He must use that instrument with care and discretion. Do your duty to yourself and to those dependent on you. Attend the meetings of your union. We want intelligent criticism, and we want suggestions that are based on knowledge and experience. This criticism and these suggestions will come in greater proportion of wisdom if the members first learn of their local union and their international organization from attendance at local union meetings."—Union Postal Clerk.

"The patronage system is at the root of all the evil. It not only destroys honesty in public life, but it wrecks the party which has the responsibility of administering it. They say that it is difficult for a party to get along without it. The country would be much better administered without the party system."—The Albertan.

"At the risk of being wearisome we would repeat—it cannot be repeated too often—that the responsibility for the existence of non-members rests with the members. It cannot be too often repeated, also, that the non-member 'on principle' is very rare compared to the large number who are non-members simply because no one has taken sufficient trouble to win them. Every member should regard it as the most important part of his membership to know who are the non-members in his office, and to endeavour himself earnestly and perseveringly to win them—not by sarcasm, not by unfriendliness, nor by 'playing them up.' Non-members will regard these as advertisements. No! Patience, tact, perseverance, and steadfast refusal to give up hope—these are our trusty tools." — Postal and Telegraph Record.