

that liberty and brotherly love will once more predominate, and that all the evil that Germany stands for will be completely stamped from the face of the earth."

### Prohibition

THE Defence of the Realm Act, passed by the Parliament of Canada soon after the war began, very properly conferred on the Government large powers which, in ordinary circumstances, Parliament would not be willing to delegate to anybody. Among the many orders and regulations passed under this authority none has been so striking as that announced this week concerning the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors. So far as imports are concerned the traffic is now totally prohibited, except as to goods already purchased and in course of conveyance to Canada. The conveyance of liquors from a non-prohibition province to sections where "dry" laws prevail is forbidden. The manufacture of liquor is to be prohibited from a date shortly to be fixed.

The measure seems to be one quite sweeping in its character, and possibly the suddenness of its application may create some trade embarrassments that will call for reconsideration of details. But there can hardly be a doubt that public opinion throughout the Dominion will hail the action of the Government with satisfaction and approval.

Apart from legislative action there has been in recent years great progress in the direction of Temperance Reform. Time was, within the memory of persons not yet old, when drunkenness was not only tolerated, but was even regarded in many quarters as quite respectable. That condition of public opinion has happily passed away. Society has set the seal of its severe displeasure on the excessive use of stimulants and as a consequence there is now comparatively little drunkenness in Canada. Enough, however, has remained to call for further action, especially under our war-time conditions. Most of the provinces have given legislative effect to this better state of public opinion, and where prohibitory laws have been enacted they seem to have met with almost general approval. The present Dominion regulations supplement the legislation of the provinces in a manner which will go far toward making a "dry" Dominion. The regulations are made for the period of the war only, but it is morally certain that if they prove acceptable to the public up to the moment when peace is declared, they will not then be repealed.

### More War Orders

IT HAS been announced that the British Food Purchasing Commission is about to place further orders in Canada for food supplies. American munition companies have also been placing orders in the Dominion. As a result of these orders being placed here our munition plants, clothing factories, and food producers will do as active a business in 1918 as they did at any time during the past year or two.

Previous to the floating of the Victory Loan it was announced by Great Britain and the Canadian Government that the mother country could not finance any further war orders in the Dominion, and that if this country wanted to get more war business she must raise the necessary money at home. This has been done, only instead of giving \$150,000,000 as asked, we have given almost three times that amount. This money is to be spent in the Dominion for munitions, clothing, food products and other war supplies. Combined with that there are orders being placed by manufacturing es-

tablishments in the United States which are incapable of filling the orders in that country and now come orders from Great Britain for foodstuffs. All these should make for prosperity in the Dominion. It is true that the prosperity is in a measure an unnatural one, being due primarily to war conditions. However, the situation has to be faced. We are at war and our soldiers at the front must be supplied with munitions, clothing and foodstuffs. The more of those that we can send from Canada the better it will be for the Dominion. Everything points to continued and increased prosperity in this country.

### The Election

THE election is over. The Government has won a victory more sweeping than many of its friends expected. If ever there was doubt as to the sentiment of the Canadian people respecting the war there can be none now. Whatever else the election's result may mean it means that Canada is determined to put every resource of men and means into the fight against Germany. If there is anywhere in the British Empire a desire for the making of the kind of peace that the Germans talk of, it is not to be found in Canada. The enforcement of the Conscription Act, and generally the vigorous prosecution of Canada's part in the war, were the avowed purposes for which the Union Government was formed, and on these issues the verdict of the Canadian people was unmistakable. To many it was not easy to make clear that there was a real difference between the Government as now constituted, with Sir Robert Borden as Prime Minister, and the Government of a few months ago under the same chief. After three years of year-time party government the swing to a Union Government was too sudden to be generally accepted. Hence the kind of union for which the formation of a Union Government was desirable—the cessation of party strife—was not achieved. Those who held that the whole record of the Borden Conservative Government was in issue may find some comfort in the fact that the new House of Commons contains a considerable majority of Liberals. From that viewpoint the record of the old Government has been condemned rather than approved. But a large section of the Liberal party, while holding strong views respecting the record of that Government and not intending to, in any way, modify these opinions, were willing to accept, even at so late a day, the principle of union for the purposes of the war. This large section, uniting with a practically solid Conservative party, made a combination which was irresistible. Incidents have occurred here and there which may have caused some surprise, but the general result is about what was to be expected by careful observers of the situation. In an ordinary party contest, under fair conditions, a combination of the Liberals of the East and West would probably have ensured victory for Sir Wilfrid Laurier. When the Conscriptionist Liberals separated themselves from him, and especially when the Liberalism of the West spoke through its acknowledged leaders, the success of the Union Government at the polls was a foregone conclusion.

On the immediate question of the enforcement of the Conscription Act the Government has received a clear mandate. On all measures that seem reasonably necessary for the prosecution of the war the Government will have an overwhelming support. If they are able to confine their projects to such measures they are not likely to meet any serious dif-

ficulty in the new Parliament, for it is not probable that the Opposition will offer any organized hostility to a policy that has received in such a marked manner the endorsement of the great majority of the Canadian people.

### Aid For Halifax

THE announcement that the Dominion Government will make an appropriation of five million dollars, including the one million dollars mentioned some days ago, for the assistance of those who suffered in the Halifax disaster will, we believe, meet with the hearty approval of the Canadian people. The calamity did not arise from any local cause. It was Halifax, in her capacity of helper of the Empire and the Empire's Allies, that suffered so heavily. A French ship, loaded in the United States with American explosives designed for the Allies, had come to the harbor of Halifax to await the moment when she, with other vessels, could be provided with convoy for her voyage. A neutral Norwegian ship, engaged in the noble cause of carrying relief to the Belgians, had come to the same friendly haven—to the city from which went forth, in the early days of the war, the first ship that carried aid and comfort from this side of the ocean to the distressed people of Belgium. Somebody blundered in the handling of the two vessels in the northern portion of the harbor. At least, so it appears. We shrink from the view that the tragedy was the result of German conspiracy, though that remains to be determined by the inquiry now in progress. The collision that occurred caused the fire and explosion which wrought widespread death and injury and destruction of property. The sufferers from a disaster which occurred in such circumstance have a claim that is in no sense local. Happily there is no need to urge the claim. In the Dominion, in other parts of the Empire, in the United States, indeed throughout the civilized world, the Halifax tragedy has evoked a volume of sympathy and help that is beyond all praise. It has proved one of the things which "make the whole world kin."

So far as money and the things that money can produce are concerned Halifax must not be allowed to suffer. There is every probability that the aid to be granted by the Dominion Parliament, supplemented by a similar grant from the Imperial Parliament, and the splendid liberality of sympathizing people everywhere, will be sufficient to meet the immediate needs of the sufferers and to provide for the restoration of the property destroyed. What is most needed now is some capable and trustworthy organization to take care of and administer the contributions that are flowing in. The Halifax people who have escaped the disaster and those who have come to their aid from outside have been doing noble work in ministering to the immediate needs of the sufferers. But their efforts are necessarily devoted to the demands of the moment, rather than to the work of reconstruction. The appointment by either the Dominion or Provincial Government of a well chosen commission to take over the broader work seems to be necessary—a commission which will not only see that relief is granted to those who apply for it, but will also seek out the many who have suffered damage and are not likely to make any application. There is a dreadful record of death and injury that no money can repair. But whatever loss has been sustained by citizens of Halifax that can be made good by the prudent expenditure of money will form a claim that should be promptly recognized and met.