

Editorial Comment

WANTED MEN

The fortunes of war are changing, and from now on the Allies will meet with growing success. Our hearts go out to the young men who have given their lives to hold back the foe during the black hours of our preparation. They have fought a good fight; they have kept the faith. Now there are wanted thousands who will assist in pressing on to a glorious triumph. Will you be one of the number?

Have you ever thought that you have but one life to live, and that it must be spent heroically or otherwise? Up to the present what has it meant? What is it going to mean for the future? Once in every life-time comes a moment to decide. That moment for you is just now. You may settle down to slothful self-indulgence or you offer yourself for King and country. You may have a long inglorious life, or perhaps it may be long or short but full of glory. It is yours to decide.

Did you ever reflect that there is but one way either at home or abroad to save your life, and that is by losing it? Last week there returned from the trenches for but a week one of the most heroic of our young Canadians. Thousands rightly flocked around him to do him honor. Do you not think that in the few short days of his return he experienced more true joy than you will in a life-time? There he had it all—his own self-respect, the esteem and commendation of his friends, the highest approval of his country, and above all the Smile of God. Isn't it worth living for? Isn't it worth dying for—if need be?

But why should you lay down your life for your friends? Again, let it be said, that it is not only for your friends' sake and your country's sake, but for your own sake. Do you remember the great Ulysses? In his later days this is what the poet has him say:

"How dull it is to pause, to make an end
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use
As tho' to breathe were life. Life piled on
life

Were all too little, and of one, to me
Little remains, but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence: something more
A bringer of new things; and vile it were
For some three suns, to store and hoard
myself,

And this gray spirit yearning in desire
To follow knowledge like a sinking star
Beyond the utmost bound of human
thought."

Now just put "service" or "goodness" in place of "knowledge," and see if you would not gladly be able to utter these words in your later days.

It has not been for young men in any age to accept such an opportunity as is now offered you. This is the war of all wars, for it will settle whether men are to be free or whether they are to live in perpetual slavery. The hands of the clock will continue to move forward or the dial will show that they have turned back three hundred years. It is you who must decide. You and your children and your children's children will be the servants of force and coarseness and bestiality or they will breathe in peace the free air of these broad prairies. Which shall it be? Think not if the Teuton arms should prevail that this continent, and above all this Canada, would be safe. It was Kipling who said, "In that case, Germany would never send a ship, nor fire a shot. She would simply say what should be done, and she would be obeyed."

It is right on the soil of Europe that this thing must be settled. The struggle is just beginning. There will be great disappointments and hardships yet, but there can be only one outcome. Will you share in the glory?

There is as yet no such thing in Canada as conscription. Don't you see how that is in your favor. You do not have to go, but you

have the privilege of going. You are a free agent. Among the Teutons it is not so. Perhaps you would enjoy the Teuton rule. To prevent such a calamity it may be necessary to resort to conscription here. You will not let it be so in your case. The call is now. The call is urgent. The call is to you. What are you going to say?

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WANTED—MORE MEN

There are some men too old to take up arms. There are others who must stay behind to furnish the sinews of warfare. There are fields to be tilled, munitions to be manufactured, homes to be guarded, wives and children to be cared for. Business and government must be carried on. You know if your duty keeps you here. If it does, then without leaving your native land you have as great an opportunity though not as great a risk as your countrymen who are now on the plains of France. Here as there you can recognize that each man is his brother's keeper and that each should love his neighbor as himself. These laws have not been recognized among us hitherto as they should. Business is selfish at the core. Class and race hatreds have broken up the unity of our national life. There have been evidences on every hand of discord, distrust and disloyalty. The name Canadian has become a

For Romans in Rome's quarrel
Spared neither land nor gold,
Nor son, nor wife, nor limb, nor life,
In the brave days of old.
—Macaulay.

Must we but weep o'er days more blest?
Must we but blush? Our fathers bled.
Earth! render back from out thy breast
A remnant of our Spartan dead!
Of the three hundred grant but three
To make a new Thermopylae.
—Byron.

Charlots of fire in the dark of death stand,
With crowns for the foremost who fall for
their land;
My God! what a time ere we meet hand
to hand!
Old England for ever. Hurrah!

Charge back! Once again we must ride the
Death-ride,
Torn, tattered, but smiling with something
of pride;
Charge home; out of Hell; gory-grim;
glorified!
Old England for ever. Hurrah!
—Gerald Massey.

synonym for all that is politically corrupt and dishonorable. Even now there are many who recognizing crime would yet condone it. It is for you to act the loyal part, to place country above party, purity above policy, honor and integrity above self-love and self-advancement. For those who have used public office as the means of private gain you will have nothing but curses; for those who have impoverished our treasuries that the privileged few might feed at the public mangers, you will have nothing but imprecations. You cannot condone wrong. You cannot be a party to robbery and disloyalty. Nor will you be doing less than the men in khaki if you succeed in keeping all at home pure and peaceful and righteous.

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PARTY GOVERNMENT

Because of the common sense exercised by people when party considerations do not influence them, and because of their recklessness and apparent lack of judgment and honesty when the party whip cracks, there is a growing feeling in favor of the breaking up of the party system. On the whole that would perhaps be a mistake. In matters of government men must work in groups to accomplish much. Single-handed they serve as goads to others but that is about all. And if the present parties ceased to exist, their places would be assumed by others, with narrower range of

interest, such as a labor party, a farmer's party. True, it is, that the present parties on occasion, become the agents of privileged interests such as the transportation companies, or the manufacturers, but this is but incidental. In so far as the two recognized parties are true to the principles they profess to hold they are broader than any special class or interest. If they are untrue to these principles, a reason is found either in that common feeling which prompts most men to place the winning of the game as first, and the upholding of principle as second, or in the baseness and rapacity of party leaders who believe that the only way to win personal and party success is by the use of large campaign funds. There was a day in which the names Liberal and Conservative represented something definite, but to-day there is little difference in principle and even less in practice between the two parties. Within the last month we have seen in one province a party breaking all the planks in its platform and adopting exactly the same platform as its opponents. This is because it is felt that a platform of principles is to stand upon during an election but to forget as soon as an election is over.

The solution of the difficulty as we have it in Canada is not so impossible as it might seem. First, the division on Dominion lines should not be the same as on provincial. The issues at stake are by no means similar. Indeed, there is no necessity at all for party politics in provincial matters. Large cities like Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg have in some ways as much business as the provinces in which they are located, and yet a mayor and council do the official work in quite as satisfactory a manner as the provincial legislatures. In the next place the independent electors—those free of party affiliation—should be large enough to hold the balance of power. Fortunately that condition is being realized. In the third place, education through press, pulpit and otherwise should develop a stancher morality. That after all is the important thing. This party warfare is at best exceedingly primitive—a continuation of school-boy contests or of clan savagery. But when the issues are clearly defined and of real human significance, then party warfare becomes part of men's loyalty and religion. Is yours the selfish or the patriotic kind?

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A GOOD DECISION

Things are not all wrong in Canada. Nothing could prove this more conclusively than the recent election in Manitoba. Self-confessed wrong had been committed, and the rank and file of the party which had to assume the responsibility for the wrong, refused to continue their allegiance to their former leaders and to the new leader with his hastily constructed platform. Nothing could be a greater credit to the people of Manitoba, than such an overwhelming victory for honest administration. They surely deserve it, for they have been duped too long. If the new government is only perfectly honest, and if its affair are administered by those who possess wisdom combined with economy, there is no reason why it should not have a long tenure of office. It will take only a few years for the province to get on its feet again, although there will of necessity be some privations to endure.

The best part of it all is that notice has gone forth to the other provinces and to the federal administration that grafting and corruption must cease. Manitoba has begun her housecleaning, some other provinces are about to begin and there are departments in the federal administration demanding investigation. When people put right before party they can accomplish anything.