



## Not an Emergency Board

OUR friend, the Toronto Star, came at us one day last week about the editorial in our issue of week before last on National Government. We are reminded that we have partizan objections to the scheme. Thus tapped upon the wrist we should go to our corner and say no more about it. However, we are led to wonder if there were a Liberal Government in Ottawa instead of a Conservative, would the Toronto Star be so eager for a programme of reform? It may be so. But candidly, are we not as apt to have national thinking as any Liberal or any Conservative or even any independent paper in Canada? We have no motive for wishing either of the old parties to retain their hold on this country any longer than they can prove themselves to be more concerned in the welfare of Canada than they are in that of the party to which they belong. We also invite any party editor anywhere in Canada to prove, by a fair selection of opinions from any number of editorial pages in this paper, that we have any political interest in parties.

So far as National Government is concerned we reiterate that what we need in this country is not an emergency board to administer our affairs either with or without the present Premier. We do not need an aggregation or co-ordinating experts who will win the war and save the country. We need a re-creation of our whole political machinery. We need a better Parliament; broader-gauge Cabinets; less politics; less capitalizing of national issues for the good of either party; less peevish and petulant criticism; far less timid and crafty administration; more—much more—concentration of the best brains of Canada in the business of governing and representing Canada. National service is no new slogan created by the war. It is as old as we are. If there is any body of men in Canada who should be experts in national service it is the Parliament of Canada. We expect to have Parliaments after the war is over. But we can't reform Parliament by creating emergency boards. The emergency we are in now began a long time before the war. We should have begun long before the war to meet it.

At the same time if any newspaper in Canada can pick out three or four good men who would be of better service to the Premier than as many men now in the Cabinet—by all means let them be found, no matter to which party they belong. But when the emergency has been met, let us not send these men back to private business. Let them stay in public business. Let them spend their energizing and nationalizing ability for the good of the country—in the Parliament of Canada.

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## There Were Three Crows

AT least three very peculiar theories regarding the reasons for Germany's new manifesto of submarine frightfulness are perched like the three crows on a tree. Almost any average man is likely to be confronted by one or more of these three. The first is—that Germany wishes to drag the United States into war. The second is—that Germany wants the United States to declare war upon Germany. The third is that Germany wants a state of war between Germany and the United States. To be sure there is a remarkable similarity about all these psychic propositions. Closely compared by the aid of a good Washington microscope they begin in fact to look almost identical. In fact, they all amount to practically the same thing. Therefore it must be true—That Germany really wants the United States to go to war. There must be what amounts to a reason. In the light of German psychology and Washington diplomacy, what is it? First, because public feeling in Germany is on the point of revolution, and that in a final settlement Germany would say to her peo-

ple, "Well, you see practically the whole world was against us. What could we do? The world is a very stupid institution. Please don't revolt and we'll fix the world up." The second is that, in the final peace settlement, Germany will want one powerful friend at the council table. If the United States goes to war with Germany she will have a good deal to say in the Peace Conference. That is the doctrine of the eleventh hour worker mentioned in the Gospels. And from the latest utterance of President Wilson we may conclude that for one reason or another—also psychological—the United States officially wishes to remind the world that she is a friend of Germany. The third is that Germany wants the United States in the war so that she may go ahead with her "to the limit" submarine campaign without being charged with violating international law. In that case she could inflict more damage upon England in a month than the United States could possibly do to Germany in the same time. And England is, after all, the country that Germany desires to punish—not the United States.

These are the three popular theories. We may take our choice or the whole lot. And then get ready for a new crop.

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## Temperature and Temperament

B LUSTER about being a northern race does not jibe well with shuddering over zero weather.

We have a lot of people in various parts of the country who were never intended for more than 60 degrees variation in temperature one way or another. The ideal etiquette in a thermometer for such people should be from 10 above zero to 70 above. They would call one winter; the other summer. With such a beneficent accommodation in thermometers we should hear no growling about super-heat or whining about the infernal cold. When a man became politically naturalized under such conditions he would also become acclimatized. He would be just as cheerful a part of his environment as the beaver or the cat. Unhappily, however, we live in a land in three-fourths of which mercury has a magnificent compass from 105 in the shade maximum to 60 below minimum, or a total extreme variation of 165 degrees Fahrenheit. With such colossal temperament in our climate we should be able to develop a national temperament of a remarkable calibre. But if we continue to scold about extremes of temperature we shall never develop our national temperament. Of course something must be conceded to the man who contemplates a coal bill about as high as either rent or taxes. But the price of being comfortable has a good deal to do with our primitive and cumbersome methods of gathering fuel. Until we can get coal out of the luxury class we shall have to consider migration with the birds as a means of getting even. But in that case the railways could get us. So what's the use?

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## As Fair for Jack as for Jill

SOME people are said to have offered their services to munition manufacturers gratis. There are said to be Canadians now engaged in making shells on that basis. Far be it from any one who advocates true patriotism to squelch any such self-sacrificing impulse in any one. But let us make a practical and patronizing suggestion. For every man or woman that gives his services to the nation in making munitions let the munition-maker strike from his profits the cost of all raw materials and machinery depreciation involved in making such munitions. If services gratis are to be rendered by employees, why not by employers? If munition makers are heaping up profits, why should they do so even to the extent of one-hundredth per cent. be-

cause of the patriotic sacrifice of other people. If any munition maker or war supplies manufacturer in Canada is making any fraction of a percentage more in that kind of business than he used to do or could have done in times of peace in competition with the world at large under any sort of protective tariff, why should he? There are munition millionaires in the United States. Are we to have a crop of munition near-millionaires in Canada? Will the war tax of the Minister of Finance make it sure that munition fortunes are impossible? Or is some higher form of patriotic service expected than that a man should make a fortune out of a war when he couldn't begin to do it in any kind of legitimate industry in a time of peace? Let us not discourage other people from donating their services to the country. Also let us see to it that no munition manufacturer makes a further profit on such services.

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## Weighing Uncle Sam

THE business of weighing Uncle Sam is being carried on just now by quite a few million people. Probably no one is more engrossed in weighing himself—his guns, his manhood and his money—as U. S. himself. The Kaiser, it is to be presumed, has long since finished weighing Uncle Sam, and, having found him wanting, makes no bones about letting the world know about it. But we who are passing buckets or actually fighting the fire ourselves are willing to delude ourselves into thinking Uncle Sam, if cast in the balance on our side, would actually make the scale teeter in our favor. In fact, we know very well that he would be a help if he declared war against Germany—as at the moment of writing he may—but whether he brings on our side formidable forces, or whether his advent is a mere feather-weight in the scale, is the question being decided by millions of "amateur weighers." Scales are, as it were, being held up in every smoking car, back-kitchen, library and street corner in the Dominion—to say nothing of the cars, kitchens, libraries and corners in the lands of our Allies. With squinted eyes and craned necks we watch Uncle Sam, dangling there before the eyes of mankind. In a few days the beam of the scale may stop teetering and we shall see for sure just how much Uncle Sam is worth at the present time. But, even if he declares war, it will be some time before anyone can say—even the Kaiser—his undeveloped worth.

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## Atmosphere, Not Beverages

WHEN a subscriber cancelled his subscription to this paper a few days ago because he thought we advocated reinstating bars in Canada for the diversion of returned soldiers he was much too hasty. We did no such thing. What we wanted was to see some sort of resorts created for the recreation of men who, after they leave the hospital, are not well enough to return to the front or to go to work at any trade. Nobody imagines that any such resort would have to include a bar or anything like it. Tea and coffee and beef tea might be quite satisfactory. It is not the beverage, but the atmosphere of the place that counts. More than half the interest in any bar that has lately been abolished in this country was not to be extracted from the bottles and barrels behind the counter. It was in the place itself: in the comfortable, crony-making conveniences that made it possible for men to gather without joining some expensive club or having to find comfort in the sometimes awkward and austere precincts of church parlors. Just what such resorts should contain to make them congenial we leave to the creative ingenuity of social reformers. But in devising such places it will be as absurd to harp on the idea of social or moral reform as to dream of rehabilitating the bars.