

CURRENT EVENTS

The \$2,000,000,000 Liberty Loan called by the United States Government for funds to finance the war was subscribed to by nearly 3,000,000 people. Indications are that the loan has been oversubscribed by over \$800,000,000. The federal reserve district of New York alone claims a subscription of \$1,200,000,000. The appeal made to the people in asking for subscriptions was on patriotic grounds, the rate of interest offered being only 3½ per cent. The last day for subscribing was ushered in by the ringing of bells and the blowing of whistles from coast to coast.

The St. Andrews Rural Credit Society, the first society to provide bank money for farmers in Manitoba under the new loan scheme, elected its officers on June 9. The board is an extremely conservative one, and it is believed that few loans will get by. The first loan to be passed by the board was one for \$1,000, half of which was to cover the cost of breaking 50 acres of new land. The security behind the loan was a farm valued at \$13,000, against which there was a mortgage of only \$400.

A resolution was passed at the Methodist Conference in Winnipeg favoring the conscription of men and wealth. It included a clause expressing the ministers' willingness to serve in any capacity the government desired. A resolution was also passed calling for the establishment of a national administration.

Russian ministers, speaking of the crisis facing their country take a pessimistic view of matters in general. The Minister of Finance speaking at Moscow said, "The food conditions in Russia are neither isolated nor unique. The whole country seems to be on the way to be pulverized. In many cases the local government is in complete chaos. Treasuries are empty and the people are refusing to pay taxes. We lack not only food but raw material."

Members of the National Seamen and Firemen's Union took prisoner Frederick Jowett, president, and James Ramsay MacDonald, chairman of the Labor Party, both members of parliament, who were about to sail for Russia. A great demonstration held in Trafalgar Square protested against permitting the men to proceed to Petrograd on account of their supposed pacifist leanings.

Representatives of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company, returning from an 800 mile motor trip through western and southern Saskatchewan on June 14, reported that the rain had brought the crop along splendidly, and that all fields touched by the recent frost had fully recovered.

In addressing the manufacturers' convention at Winnipeg, Prof. Hutton, of the National Research Council, stated that with a capital investment of \$400,000 a plant could be installed which, using a newly devised process of carbonization, would convert 200 tons of lignite into anthracite coal per day.

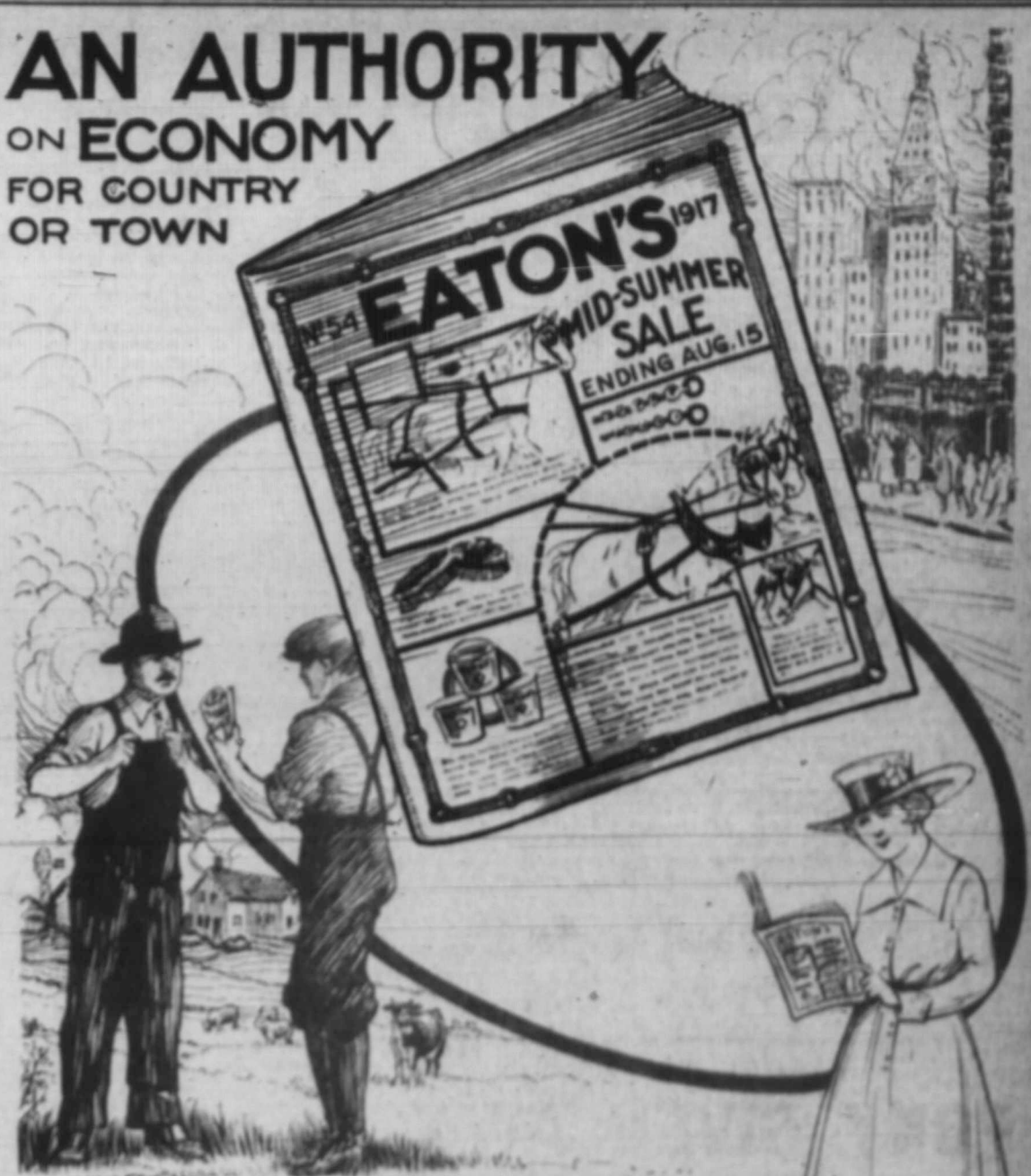
Chaotic conditions are apparently impending in China. The president has dissolved parliament, and a revolt in the Southern provinces seems to indicate that the country is on the brink of civil strife. Japan is reported to be rushing large bodies of troops to the country.

The British House of Commons decided against the principle of proportional representation on June 12 by 149 to 141 votes. The question may be reconsidered at a subsequent stage of the franchise act.

CONSCRIPTION FOR CANADA

The Dominion government proposes to meet the demand for reinforcements by raising a force of men not exceeding 100,000 between the ages of 20 and 45. The men will be called out according to classes which have been divided into ten groups. The only class of physically fit men exempt are clergymen and members of religious sects such as Mennonites and Doukhobors, who settled under a pledge that they would not be asked to bear arms. There will be

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no registration but those who contend that they should be exempt will have their cases adjudicated by a local tribunal, from which appeals may be made to appeal tribunals and finally a central appeal judge. Any man who does not respond to the call of his class will be treated as a deserter. It is expected that the required number of men will be got from the first three classes, that is, amongst single men and widowers without children between the ages of 20 and 34. The classes, which will be called out in the order named, are as follows:

Class 1.—Unmarried men or widowers without children, 20 years old but born after January 1, 1894.

Class 2.—Unmarried men and widowers without children born in the years 1889 to 1893.

Class 3.—Unmarried men and widowers without children born in the years 1883 to 1888.

Class 4.—Married men and widowers with children, over 20 years of age, and born not earlier than 1894.

Class 5.—Married men and widowers, with children, born in the years 1889 to 1893.

Class 6.—Married men or widowers, with children, born in the years 1883 to 1888.

Class 7.—Unmarried men or widowers, without children, born in the years 1876 to 1882.

Class 8.—Married men or widowers, with children born in the years 1876 to 1882.

Class 9.—Unmarried men and widowers, without children, born in the years 1872 to 1875.

Class 10.—Married men or widowers, with children, born in the years 1872 to 1875.

Marriages taking place after June 12 are not considered in placing a man in his class. "According to a return tabled in the house the first three classes under the bill comprise single men to the number of over half a million men and that over one million men are available between 20 to 45 years according to the 1911 census. The following table shows the married and single men between the ages of 20 and 45 in Canada by provinces.

	Single	Married
Prince Edward Island	8,051	6,791
Nova Scotia	45,667	45,984
New Brunswick	28,056	33,199
Quebec	143,540	208,079
Ontario	243,000	289,547
Saskatchewan	81,314	66,891
Alberta	64,263	58,009
British Columbia	89,729	81,300
Yukon	1,942	1,019
N. W. Territories	722	2,900

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