

New Expectations Regarding Canada.

Before I speak of what I learnt as to the food situation and the necessity of large production, I wish to tell you that I learnt on all sides that Canada had come to a new place in the esteem and expectations of Europe and the United States—I met many eminent Americans in Britain, France and Italy). That new recognition of Canada—and new expectation from her—was based principally on what Canada had done through four channels: her army, food supplies, munitions, and Red Cross service.

The fighting of the Canadian army has given us fame that will endure. Perhaps Canadians pay less heed to that than do the British, or the French, or the Italians, or the Americans. Our people as yet do not generally know how much our army did; they do not appreciate to the full what magnificent service to the Allied cause the Canadian Corps rendered. The estimate of Europe is that it was one of the best fighting units on the whole Western front. Not that our men were braver or more intelligent than the others—no men could have been braver—but the Canadian Divisions had been so long together—they were not shifted about as the other divisions were from army to army—that as a corps their leaders knew what each part could do best, and as component parts of the corps they had developed a discipline combined with comradeship among themselves that could stand the severest strain and grow strongest in times of greatest stress. Thus it came about that the Canadian Corps was used as a spear-head during the last hundred days of the war to break through some of the most difficult places and at the same time break down the

morale of the Germans—and that with light casualties to themselves in view of what they accomplished.

Then Canada got a new recognition of her industrial capacity through making and supplying enormous quantities of munitions.

Moreover, a new interest was taken in Canada because of what the farmers had done, especially in the large crop of 1915, from which the Allies got in that crop year 40 per cent of all their wheat brought overseas. And now in these dark days, when food is scarce in Europe and millions go to bed three-quarters fed, Canada is regarded as a land of hope with great fertile fields and an intelligent, capable and industrious rural population.

Canada has a wonderful name in Europe by reason of the Canadian Red Cross work. That had its beginning, very properly at first, in the Red Cross supplies and service provided for our own men and hospitals. Later on it received ever widening recognition because the devotion and diligence of our women had furnished such an abundance of supplies that every needy Ally turned to us and none were turned away with empty hands. Canadian Red Cross boxes were supplied, not to 2,000 French soldiers, but to some extent to 2,000 French hospitals. I have frequently been told in France, "We are grateful beyond words for what the Canadian Red Cross has done for us." Canada has become graven on the hearts of France, and Italy, and Belgium, and Roumania, and Servia, and Poland, because of what she did in the war through her army and the people at home. That is a good thing for us; and it places obligations on us and opportunities before us. They expect great things from us in years to come.