

and destruction along a four-hundred-mile front in France and Belgium, were suddenly silenced. Millions of men who had been facing each other along this front stopped as suddenly in their business of killing each other. Electricity under the earth and sea through the air flashed the message around the world; "The Great War Is Over."

2. The Statement:

But WAS the Great War over?

The carnage, the devastation of fruitful lands, the bombardment of open cities from the air, the inhuman activities of the U-boat, were over certainly. The threat of Autocracy was removed, surely, but—

- (a) The financial and moral responsibilities of the war had not and HAVE NOT YET been met.
- (b) The financial and moral responsibilities have been intensified by the problems of readjustment which invariably follow Peace.
- (c) The war will not be over until Canada has honorably met every commitment made in order to win the war.

When actual hostilities ceased last November, the war did not end.

Financially, the fight had yet to be finished.

When the Armistice was signed, 352,136 Canadians were in active service in half-a-dozen war areas.

They had to be transported home. They had to be paid and maintained until demobilized. The sick and disabled had to be cared for. And all of them had to be started into civil life with enough money and training to take up anew the ordinary duties of citizenship. The military task was gigantic.

But—

In November last Canada also faced acute business uncertainty.