

dollar. It would also be proper to know what views have been pressed upon the Government as to the relation of the expense of sending men to Europe to the facility with which certain public works can be carried on in these times of restricted borrowing facilities and declining revenues.

The reports that come in from the Patriotism and Production Campaign are not encouraging as to popular devotion to the war—a Conservative M.P. has sneered at it in the House of Commons. In many districts the war is apparently regarded as only secondarily a Canadian war. What will be the logical outcome of such a disposition, when the economic pressure of the war really begins to be felt? It will partake too much of the spirit that seems already to be developing in the United States, thanks to the inherent regard for the dollar and to the pro-German propaganda we are doing nothing to counteract.

#### Aftermaths of War.

When the Kaiser has been vanquished and Europe has been remapped, the exhaustion caused by the war will be felt in every corner of the Empire, as well as seen in the maimed men who will live as best they may in every hamlet and street. Canada will have her own aftermaths of the war, which will not be as agreeable as some of the prophets predict.

We shall still have the late boom as well as the war to pay for. When that process is at work without the attendant excitement of the war what will be the attitude of the people who already feel that the war rightfully belongs to the bronchos and to the bronchos' countrymen, who have inconsiderately left off pouring their money into our very promising fields of investment?

It is not too much to say that in that testing time the cement on which our Britannic future will depend will be in proportion to the live fighting power that went into the conflict. Indifference to the war, while its appeal to every noble impulse is written in let-

ters of fire across the firmament, may eventuate in a loathing when the bill has to be met, and a determination not to be exposed to the risks of a similar negation of safety first in the future. British connection, the extra-prudent may think, costs too much, and it's too far away, anyhow.

#### To-day, To-morrow and After.

It has seemed to me from the beginning of the war that the crucial need in this cosmopolitan country is that all our kindreds and tribes and tongues shall be welded into a most conscious whole through an intense realization of what the war means to Canadian nationality. We should have made a religion, a crusade of our patriotism. The mere provision of goods for the wounded and of necessities for the despoiled—the motives for which may be charitable first and patriotic afterwards, should have been so much occasion for preaching the inner verities of the war, and the things it must mean for our future peace and manliness among the nations. Every day that we have put off making united efforts to achieve that end has meant two days lost. The time may be at hand when each further day's delay will mean four days' loss. For people who are indifferent to a war to-day may become very tired of it to-morrow, even when somebody else is fighting in their name. The day after to-morrow the disposition may be forever to put it beyond our sense of responsibility to answer the appeal of the events which made the first days of August, 1914, too memorable in the history of civilization.

P.S.—Since this was ready for the mail I came across an indubitable sign that the unwelcome leaven is at work. Here is a deliverance overheard: "It looks as if the Imperialists will be saying to us, 'As a reward for helping us in this war you shall be asked to take part in further wars.' It seems to me our reward ought to be that never again shall we be expected to take part in any European war. The politics of Europe have been a curse to the world anyway."