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Aug.

There is No Third Event

1917

OUR GUARANTEE

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"THIS war cannot be closed by compromise. The enemy thing unbroken is incompatible with us. Either it lives and we die, or we live and it dies. There is no third event." That being so, there is nothing affecting the Canadian people at this moment which may take precedence of the part the people of Canada have in the business of ending the war—and that means winning it. We cannot, it seems, by any process of language burn this fact into the hearts and understandings of many of our fellow citizens. Heaven send some awful calamity to their firesides if nothing else will bring the meaning of the war home to them. Here is one of the most if not the most earnest and effective statements of the case we have seen. We might use other words, but we dare not try to "improve" it, and with this frank admission, we transcribe it exactly from the editorial page of "The Manitoba Free Press."

"The safety of the state is the supreme law.

It outranks, in importance, wealth, comfort, life. Though this may have a treasonable sound to some, it even outranks political advantage and party success.

Canada is at war. She is taking part in the greatest war in human history, both with respect to the numbers engaged and the issues at stake.

The tide of savagery, bestiality, lust and cruelty which threatens to overwhelm the world is being held with difficulty by a human dyke. To our eternal honor and glory we are a section of this dyke.

Between April 1, 1917, and July 5, 1917, the Canadian forces at the front suffered 27,000 casualties, with some 9,000 deaths.

We have become so calloused by the experiences of three years of war that a round number of casualties, however large, makes no impression upon our minds.

We beg you, Mr. Reader, to give a moment's thought, at least, in an attempt to realize something of what that phrase "27,000 Canadian casualties" means.

Everyone has seen a battalion on the march; as the long column passes down the street it gives a vivid impression of numbers and power.

The equivalent of twenty-seven battalions disappeared from the Canadian front in April, May and June.

Think of what lies behind that bald announcement: What moral courage, what valor, what endurance, what suffering, what sacrifice of human life, what tragedies in Canadian homes!

Most of these thousands killed were young Canadian boys—lads who had tasted none or few of the satisfactions of life, who had not really lived.

They died for Canada—for the security of her soil, for the safety of her people, for the honor of her flag.

Is it too much to expect that older Canadians, who stayed at home attending to their business, living in comfort, shall follow even a great way behind the example which the soldiers at the front have set? These boys put their country before their lives. Any sacrifices asked of stay-at-home Canadians are somewhat less than this—though one would hardly think so to note the desperate resistance made by some to the plain call of duty.

One duty, clear, inescapable, which comes home to every Canadian—this means you, Mr. Reader!—is to see that the soldiers at the front are not abandoned.

They went forth to war having an implied understanding with the people of Canada. We paraded them with bands to the station and sent them off with our cheers, our blessing and our pledges. They went to the front believing that we were behind them—literally to the last man, and the last dollar if this were necessary.

Are we going to stand behind them? Or shall we quit?

The only way to stand behind the troops is to send men to the trenches. Further, they must be sent soon.

We know, by official declaration, that we need 7,800 men a month. We know that this is at least twice the rate of enlistment.

Every Canadian can readily test himself to determine whether he is in this war to a finish, or whether he is prepared to quit?

Is he determined to see that those 7,800 men are forthcoming monthly; and to take whatever steps are necessary to see that they are got? If he is, then he is in favor of winning the war.

If he merely hopes that perhaps the men will be forthcoming and has no clear idea in his head as to how, failing this, the men are to be got, then he is not in the war to a finish. He is a potential quitter—notwithstanding that he may make the rafters ring with his rolling periods against the Kaiser. The cheapest thing in the world these days is patriotic cant; also the commonest.

Quitters—if they are in a position where they can be seen and their actions noted—will be marked men for the rest of their days. There will be an accounting now and hereafter."

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