

sure had been paralyzed by, two potentialities. It feared that Parliament would automatically expire before the end of the war; and that the war taxes it would be compelled to impose would make its party so unpopular that it would be in danger of losing office. These fears had made it consider the advisability of appealing to the country for a renewal of confidence as soon as the first contingent had been despatched to Europe.

This contemplation had injected a dangerous disposition into the more eager partisans on both sides. As soon as the parties sought rather than avoided opportunities of joining together before the whole people, they found that it was impossible to preach unselfish patriotism and practise distrust, and that it was not necessary to fear your fellow-countrymen more than they feared the enemy.

Ahead of Politicians.

It was everywhere remembered that the party leaders in Britain had agreed on special legislation by which there would be no general election there until after the war; that, meantime, all bye elections would be uncontested by the last defeated party; and that every effort would be made to have vacancies filled by outstanding men who might be relied on for vision, expression and action in the recurring crises of the war.

The early stages of the campaign for the war in Canada revealed the predominance of exactly similar conditions from coast to coast. The people were as far ahead of the politicians in patriotism as they had been behind them in electioneering.

The public wanted no election during the war. As soon as this was made plain a similar agreement to that which had dignified politics in London was announced from Ottawa. It was quickly discovered that the country had a reserve of statesmanlike quality on which it might freely draw. An eagerness for public service manifested itself everywhere. Political leaders were developed in places where they had never been sought.

Strong measures for financing the

war were freely discussed, without fear that advocates of them would be made to suffer at the polls, and to endure unsavory campaigns against their personal repute. As soon as dread of one another was eliminated from public men, the Prime Minister's proposals to meet the danger were transformed into an irrevocable pledge that two hundred thousand men should be equipped with all possible speed; and put through outdoor training, in winter, in their own country, so that when they reached the front they would be hardier than those who had been for months in the trenches.

Change Everywhere.

The unity of leaders evoked an undreamed of spirit of sacrifice everywhere. It spread into other departments of public life, besides the direct preparations for warfare. Commissions were appointed with sole regard to the capacity and known public spirit of the appointees, to co-ordinate the economic necessities of the country; to hasten the settlement of vacant lands in the West; to increase the productiveness of large areas in the East which had suffered from rural depopulation; to cut out the superfluities of the cities and to bring national works into harmony with the necessities of the time.

Propaganda for the war led to an understanding of how broad the function of Canada was in winning and steadying republican opinion of the British part in the struggle. Canada saw that she was the natural representative of the Western hemisphere in the fight for liberty for the weak.

Public men, therefore, appealed from time to time in the United States, and Canadian writers obtained access to American periodicals, to the great advantage of the Allies' cause—as was only fully appreciated when the mediatorial influence of the Republic had to be used in the final terms of peace.

So far from Parliament being warned against discussion, it for the first time in its history, discussed national affairs without suspicious concern for pending elections; because it realized that the supreme desire of the nation