

it became inevitable that she should take part in the world conflict. And now she shares our joy in the peace, which came the sooner because she took up arms along with us.

Allies in war we were for these brief, but memorable months. Friends we have long been, and our friendship will be touched into a warmer glow because we have fought and suffered together in the sacred cause of freedom.

Sunday School workers in Canada and the United States have known no dividing line. They have constantly taken counsel together, and have worked with one another in the closest cooperation. Our visitors in attendance at the Council meeting in Toronto will be heartily welcomed.

For many other reasons the meeting of the Council this month should be a notable one. There are great problems in the work of Religious Education to be solved in the coming years of peace, including the readjustment of a whole generation of Sunday School scholars to peace conditions, the re-enlistment of the returned soldier in Christian service and the maintenance of the altruistic ideals which the War has made dominant. Sunday School leaders must lay their plans with wisdom and farsightedness if they are to take full advantage of their great opportunities.

It has fortunately been possible for the Sunday School Boards of some of the leading churches in Canada to arrange their annual meetings so near the time of the Council's meeting, that the members of these Boards will be able conveniently to attend the meetings of the Council. A similar arrangement has been made by the Religious Education Council of Canada, a body composed of representatives of the various denominational Sunday School Boards and Boards of Publication and of the Canadian Council of Provincial Sunday School Associations. In this way it will be possible for a large number of the leaders in Sunday School work from all over Canada to receive and carry back to their own fields of effort, the stimulus of a meeting with fellow workers from all parts of the continent.

### Not Democratic !

The Religious Education Council of Canada is a representative body, the members representing the various denominational Sunday School Boards and Boards of Publication and of the Canadian Council of Provincial Sunday School Associations. The purpose of this newly formed Council, now to hold its first general meeting, is to promote cooperation and prevent overlapping in the great Sunday School enterprise throughout the Dominion. The constitution contains the statement : "The fundamental principle in this cooperative movement is the autonomy of each cooperating body acting as a unit through its own representatives, and retaining complete supervision of its own work."

It is somewhat strange that this organization should have been criticized by Professor W. S. Athearn, in a recent issue of the Magazine of Religious Education, as being undemocratic. How baseless this criticism appears as soon as it is remembered that the members and officials of the denominational Sunday School Boards and Boards of Publication are appointed, in each case, by the body which expresses the will of the denomination,—Synod or Assembly or Conference or Convention,—and are under the control of the several bodies which thus appoint them, while the Canadian Council of Provincial Sunday School Association is elected at duly called popular Conventions.

When Professor Athearn describes the members of the Religious Education Council of Canada, as occupying the position of "feudal lords" in the Sunday School world, it is difficult to take him seriously. If democracy means that those who hold positions of administrative responsibility and authority are chosen by the body whom they are to serve and are required to give an account to the bodies choosing them, it is not easy to see in what respects such an organization as the Religious Education Council of Canada fails to conform to democratic principles.