

fidence of the outcome of the struggle. They tell us that the German losses have been vastly heavier than those of the Allies and that the longer the German attack continues the more certain will be the victory of the Allies. Whether this is the final stage of the war, no one is unwise enough to predict.

The strain upon the Allies is becoming intense and it must be equally severe upon the enemy. More than ever the allied peoples at home have sought Divine intervention. Intercessory prayers were made in the churches throughout Canada and Great Britain on the Sabbath following the opening of the attack. Such a procedure shows no weakening on the part of the Allies but a solemn realization of the crisis which they face. It also serves to strengthen the grim determination of the Allied peoples of the earth to throw their entire resources into the struggle against a powerful and relentless enemy. The Kaiser and his war lords entered upon this war with the intention of conquering the world. They very nearly achieved their object in the beginning of the war and have been frustrated many times in the past, four years, but still their power seems but little weakened and their determination of conquest as great as ever. Each of the Allied countries is doing its best.

This grim crisis forces home to Canada the necessity of mobilizing all our resources for the struggle. Canada has done splendidly but can do vastly more yet. We are not fighting for Great Britain, nor France, nor Belgium; we are fighting our own battle for the protection of Canada and the protection of our homes. What privations the war may yet bring upon us are uncertain but they cannot equal the privations of the people of England, France and Belgium. The government of Canada was elected to see the war through and they will have the backing of the Canadian people in any action, no matter how drastic, that contributes to that end.

### The Tariff on Implements

In the House of Commons last week Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, gave the members a straight talk on the necessity of putting food products and agricultural machinery on the free list. The Western members, we imagine, will be almost unanimously in favor of taking the tariff tax off agricultural machinery. Why the government does not take immediate action on this question it is difficult to understand. Food is the greatest requirement of the Allies today and Western Canada is the place to which they are looking for that increased food supply. The food can only be produced by the use of more machinery. The tariff tax on farm machinery is almost double what it

was before the war, due to the increased cost of production. The farmer today is paying almost twice as much in tariff taxes on all his implements as he did three or four years ago. All this curtails the purchase of farm implements and machinery and cuts down the production of food. The tariff tax on farm machinery tends to strengthen the hands of the enemy and is probably more effective against the Allies than an entire division of German soldiers. The remedy is simple and plain. Why does not the government take action and take it quickly?

### Russia Still Fighting

One of the most interesting developments of the past week has been the revival of the fighting spirit in Russia and the capture of Odessa from the Germans. Odessa is the great grain shipping port of Russia situated on the Black sea and was taken by the Germans a few weeks ago to ensure their food supply. Last week the Russian soldiers attacked and captured the place, driving out the Germans. It is reported now that Trotzky, the leader of the Bolsheviks, is prepared to discuss with Britain and France terms of co-operation against Germany. It is to be hoped that Russia can be brought back into the fighting line of the Allies.

Some one suggests that the best way for soldiers to get their jobs back following the war is to marry the girls holding them.

The bill now before the House of Commons provides that the women of Canada shall have the franchise on much the same terms as men with naturalization qualifications. With all its evils the war has done some good.

Some Alberta papers are seriously discussing whether the new women members in the Alberta legislature should or should not wear their hats in the House. So long as the hats are pretty they relieve much of the monotony of gazing at the bald heads or flat heads of some of the "honorable" gentlemen.

President Wilson recently addressed one of the most sympathetic and finest diplomatic messages to Russia that the war has brought forth. The Russian people need encouragement and President Wilson is looking far to the future in endeavoring to interpret to them the stand of the best people among the Allies.

The housing problem in Winnipeg promises to become acute owing to the lack of building. The erection of new homes today costs from 50 to 60 per cent. more than it did before the war and contractors will not build as an investment. The population of Winnipeg is steadily increasing and those in touch with the situation predict it a serious problem to care for the residents this fall.

The big railway problem has been settled by the Union Government by allowing the increase in freight rates. At least the government presumes that it is settled, but public opinion is of another mind.

We wish somebody would tell us when the government will take over the Canadian Northern Railway. It is supposed to be taken over now, but there is still too much activity on the part of C.N.R. officials to suit public opinion.

Why should not the C.P.R. pay taxes on its immense lands, now standing unproductive, as a war measure. The people have had to pay a customs increase of 7½ per cent. as a war measure as well as many other war taxes. The C.P.R. could only appeal to the Privy Council to disallow such a measure and it is very doubtful if that body would go against the will of the Canadian people at this time. It would be a test of the C.P.R. versus the people.

For inventions for killing women and children the Germans still hold the palm. To the Zeppelin and the submarine they have added that long range gun. Its effectiveness for the purpose has already been proven.



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