

direct contribution to the war: the larger that contribution the greater the strain upon our meagre financial resources, not to speak of the stoppage of our industries and the weakening of our military forces, which may be needed to preserve internal peace. (*)

If a general collapse is to be avoided, these aspects of the situation call for the immediate attention and co-operation of all men of good will. And they must be viewed primarily from the point of Canada's interests.

Canada first

To some, the Empire is all and every thing; others think of France only; another category, logical but narrow in their Canadian exclusiveness, see nothing beyond the borders of Canada: they seem to ignore our most conspicuous world's responsibilities.

These various feelings indicate a singular absence of a truly *national* patriotism. They show a marked contrast with that strong and practical sentiment which binds in one solid mass the people of other countries, the moment the vital interests of the nation are at stake. Since the outbreak of the war, the country has been flooded with "patriotic" speeches and writings; but those words have been followed with very few deeds for the good of Canada.

This marks all the difference between the thoughtful action of sovereign peoples, masters of their destinies, conscious of their responsibilities, and the thoughtlessness of a child-nation, deprived of international status, unable to measure the consequences of its actions and even to foresee the repercussion of the movements of other nations, including that from which it depends.

(*) In his address before the Canadian Club of Montreal, on the 14th of December, the Finance Minister, Mr. White, stated that the war budget will require an annual borrowing of \$100,000,000, till the war is over. This is equivalent to the total yearly expenditure of the country, for all national purposes. It does not include the war pensions, a large portion of which will be paid, for many years, to residents of the United Kingdom.

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