

## PARTY TRUCE FOR THE SESSION.

Let the Parliamentary session which will open on Thursday next be short and businesslike. No time should be wasted in striving for party advantage on either side, and the cleavage that such strivings promote should be prevented. A party truce has been fairly well kept, and it should not be broken during the session. While the truce lasts it is essential that the Dominion escape from the thrall of the idea that politics is a game played by two organized parties, a game in which each strives to get an advantage over the other. We must recognize politics as the application of political science to the collective affairs of the Dominion. The affairs in hand are the providing of military forces, the insuring of a food output for the Allies, and the financing of a large deficit and an unusual monetary demand. Everything connected with these affairs must be considered and discussed with the utmost frankness by all, without thought of party advantage, but with an earnest desire to secure the best collective judgment of Parliament.

Recruiting must be considered and the best methods of promoting and stimulating it adopted. The all-important question of equipment must also be dealt with. Rifles, boots, uniforms, mounts, ammunition, and general accoutrement must be considered with a single eye to efficiency. If anyone has been guilty of the treason of making our men helpless through poor equipment the man must be brought home and punished. Compared with this, the offence of the man who helps an enemy's reservist to escape and fight our men in the field is not as great. No member of Parliament can be faithful to Canada and the Empire while he condones any such offence. This is a time when the collective interest must dominate. Our food contribution must be considered with freedom from the considerations dominating in time of peace. Prices in the Dominion may need attention. If they do the duty must be faced. The destination of our food exports must also be taken into account. The decision that grain is contraband may simplify matters. It may lessen the danger of our grain supplying United States mills and allowing the grain of that country to be exported to Germany. Our nickel output may also call for attention.

That the financial problem will receive prompt attention is assured by the promise of the Budget for Tuesday next. The Dominion has passed through a phenomenal era of borrowing, which brought swollen revenue from the borrowed goods. Instead of wiping out our old with our new debts we went into new extravagances, adding the new debts to the old. The situation created has been violently aggravated by the war, and the need of greater taxation is imperative. The method of obtaining the money must be fully considered and discussed with entire freedom. Revenue cannot always be increased by increasing rates of duty. There is a level of greatest revenue in every impost, and further increases lessen returns up to the point of absolute cessation. Men and interests to be benefited and men and interests to be injured by prospective changes in taxation will be heard. Secondary effects must be considered. The public interest as well as private interests must be kept in mind. Parliament's best judgment must be brought to bear to minimize the burden the Dominion will be called upon to bear. All these matters can be fully considered in a short session if the members shake off the partisan attitude of hostile armies seeking or waiting for strategical advantages.