

# CANADA, IF GERMANY WON

Did you ever stop to consider what will be the position of Canada if Germany is not thoroughly beaten in this war?

It is so easy for us to think of the war as a spectacular proceeding on the other side of the Atlantic in which our interest is largely sentimental because of our affection for and connection with the good old mother country. We are shipping her some "mighty fine contingents," we say, to help her out in her day of trial; and very grateful we expect her to be. When we hear of individual Englishmen inviting our brave and handsome lads to their homes on Christmas, or showing them about London when "on leave," we have a complacent feeling that that is the least they could be expected to do when we are sending our soldiers to fight for them in their war. Sometimes I am fearful that friends of mine of the military age will disable themselves for military service by the active manner in which they pat themselves on the back over our generous and filial zeal in flying to the assistance of beleaguered Britain, beset by her foes.

We say, perfunctorily, that "it is our war," but we don't believe it. That is only part of our magnificent generosity—we are only trying to make the "Britishers" feel less under obligation to us as we pour our good gifts in their laps. So it might be just as well for us to sit down and think out carefully what would be our exact position—not if the Germans won, that is now impossible—but if they succeeded in creating a "stalemate." In plainer words, what will Canada be doing for the next ten years, if we do not utterly crush German militarism? We know right off what Britain will be doing—what France and Russia will be doing. They will be feverishly and anxiously arming as they never have before, in order to be as ready as possible when Germany has her next thunderbolt forged to be launched at their heads.

But we seem to forget what Canada will be doing. To begin with, Canada will be starving—financially. If Britain, France and Russia must buckle down to a fierce competition with Germany and Austria in re-arming for a "return match" in which the Germans may possibly recruit some Allies; for we can hardly calculate that her diplomacy will again be so totally un-Bismarckian—it is practically obvious that they will have little capital to spare; and problematical. So the aforesaid cold-one of the belligerent nations. Should the Allies fail to beat Germany on this occasion when diplomacy and good fortune are all with them, no cold-blooded financier is going to bet very heavily that they will surely beat her next time; and if they do not beat her next time, the fate of Canada will be at least abroad, will not seek it in any part blooded financier, thinking of "safety first," will send his surplus capital to some surely neutral field of investment which will not be immediately affected by the great war so obviously coming.

That is the first thing that will happen to Canada if we fail to beat Germany thoroughly. Another way in which we will be affected, will be the necessity of real military preparation. We may be very sure that if Britain is arming to the teeth to defend herself against a deadly and probably scaly blow at her heart some misty morning out of the North Sea, Canada will not be able to continue to play with her militia in the late stinky, haphazard and voluntary fashion. Australia will have—as it already has—universal military service. Britain is sure to have it as well, if the German menace survives. Canada cannot stand aside. We cannot shirk while our brother Britons are sweating under the yoke. So we will be compelled to bear an immensely more heavy burden than any we have yet dreamed of in military taxes and military service. That is another price we shall pay for failing to win this war now.

Out of this will come still another loss—at least in terms of material prosperity. Peasant emigration from Europe, seeking to escape the biting burdens of this new, super-militarism, will flow towards lands which will not be involved in the United States, to Brazil and Argentina, to any land in which military preparations are not so obvious as they must be with us. It is all very well to say that these will be poor-spirited people, of whom we will be well rid. They will be that. But they will eat and wear clothes and patronize railways and need professional help like braver men; and their avoidance of Canada will rob us of much material prosperity which a swelling tide of immigration might bring.

We will be left, in a word, high and dry, dependent on our own resources. Neither European capital nor European immigration will come to us to feed our prosperity. And it does not require any very intimate or complete knowledge of the main-springs of the prosperity we are enjoying to know that it was almost wholly created by the increasing flow to our country of European men and money. Had we been compelled

to delay development until native capital could finance it, and to await the slow process of breeding our increase in population, we should not be very much further ahead to-day than we were during the dismal days of the "exodus" when Canada was comparatively neglected both by the European emigrant and the European capitalist. So we know perfectly well what is in store for us if we permit a conclusion to this war which will deflect from us for the future these two fertilizing streams—European settlers and European investments.

I merely call attention to this fact just now in my effort to impress upon our people the great need there is for them to take this war and its obligations more seriously. If we fail to win this war, it will be most serious for the Canadian people. There is not a local interest which will not suffer—and many of them will suffer so greatly as to die of their sufferings. We will be like Egypt if the Nile should fail to bring its annual flood. Yet most of us treat the situation as if it were a matter which chiefly concerned the mother country. But should German boasts be made good, and they be able to hold their frontiers and compel an indecisive peace, we will soon enough realize that it concerns us probably more than the average citizen of the British Isles.

The Monocle Man.

## POLAND NEEDS HELP BADLY

Petrograd, Jan. 30.—In spite of the fact that several commissioners are at work investigating the devastation which Poland has suffered during the German invasions, the acute misery of its millions of inhabitants still goes unrelieved. The destruction is so universal that it hardly seems possible that it was the work of human agents.


Normally Poland is a pleasantly rolling country, not unlike the American middle west; fertile agriculturally, developed, productive, and prosperous, with its landscapes checkered with well-groomed farms and patches of wood. It is now bleak and scarred, almost every house is in ruins, and the mutilated roads are full of half-starved, half-frozen people who have no homes and no possibility of escaping from the charred remnants of what once were their habitations. The line of fugitive peasants is like a long black cord, knotted in places where they have assembled in groups to consider the best way to escape. But at one end, escape is cut off by the heavily massed Russian troops, and the other end of the line recoils from the advancing German army.

The picture is drawn by Prince Radziwill, a member of Poland's oldest and noblest aristocracy who has come to Petrograd from his home in Minsk to devise some practical method of assisting his unfortunate countrymen.

"I am afraid," said Prince Radziwill to The Associated Press, "the world has been so busy giving its help to unfortunate Belgium that our country, which is so far off from the western world, cannot expect a full measure of sympathy. The tragedy of Belgium came first and that of course makes it seem more important; the Polish tragedy is not yet finished. In this second German invasion it has suffered more than in the first and little—very little—is now left. It is now more swept by battle than any other part of the world. The refugees or rather those who would like to be refugees, have nowhere to go. There are not the same railroad facilities that one finds in Belgium; one cannot take a boat to a friendly power where there is shelter and assistance. And this is a country almost ten times as large as Belgium.

"It is not promises of help or contributions to be made after the war, that are now needed, but immediate assistance for the starving peasants who are in a frightful condition and whose condition is steadily growing worse with the march of winter and the scarcity of food and clothing.

"I wish the plight of our wretched people could be imprinted as vividly on the minds of other nations, as it is upon the minds of those of us who have witnessed it, and have had for neighbors, sorrow and suffering. If it were, I am sure that relief would come without being solicited."



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