

ON GUARD, CANADA, AGAINST UNDESIRABLES

Warning Note is Sounded by Mr. C. A. Magrath

IMMIGRATION LAW NEEDED

Chairman of Canadian Section of
Joint International Waterways
Commission Calls for General Sup-
port of Government.

"Great Britain has done more for humanity than any other nation," declared Mr. C. A. Magrath, Chairman of the Canadian section of the Joint International Waterways Commission, yesterday at the weekly luncheon of the Canadian Club. "We in Canada have our faults, and I fear our greatest has been over-confidence in ourselves. While other nations were preparing for this great struggle we kept on making money and talking politics, with the result that we discovered at the eleventh hour that we had to rise to the level of other nations.

"Since then Canada has performed her duty faithfully and well, considering her unpreparedness for dealing with abnormal war conditions. I had prepared an address on 'National Service,' but what would be the use of delving into such a subject after sixteen months of warfare in Europe, in which Canada is playing such a prominent part? Just now we are more interested in what is transpiring on the battlefields, so much so that it is our duty to devise ways and means of breaking the back of the enemy before another sixteen months has elapsed.

A Pull All Together Needed.

"This is no time for vain regrets—and God knows we have done our best—no time for partisan recriminations, but a case of do or die for the British Empire. It is a case of a long campaign and a long pull by every unit of the British Empire. Now is the time to throw our whole energy into this gigantic struggle. We cannot get sound and courageous management of matters relative to our position in the war unless the Government has the whole force of the membership of Parliament behind it.

No Time for Party Politics.

"I regret to say that we occasionally see glimpses of the ugliness of party politics looming up in different parts of Canada. There will be numerous bush fires after this war is over, and the political fuel will consist of the old, worn-out political party clothes. There has been evidence of too much running to political leaders with suggestions that they take chances with the taxes of the people. How can any Government do full justice and duty while the atmosphere is permeated with political squabbles? I say throw over political strife and political safety first ideas."

Referring to the ambitions of Canada in this struggle, Mr. Magrath made a passing reference to the success of the military volunteer service in years gone by, and the effectiveness of it under existing conditions. In this connection Mr. Magrath said that the city of Lethbridge was represented by ten per cent. of its population on the fighting line, adding that Toronto, in her response for troops, will likewise stand out prominently for all time in the British Empire. It was time for people to ponder over what is happening in Europe. Men walked along the streets of Toronto little concerned, while in the countries of the enemy men and women alike were thinking and planning how to aid their nations. In his opinion, the women of Canada in many cases had performed greater duties than many men.

Get Behind Government.

"I am firmly of the opinion that in matters of this kind," declared Mr. Magrath, "the people should get behind the Government—Grit and Tory alike—and tell them that their business is to put on 'full steam ahead.' At no time in the history of the British people have commercial and financial men been of greater service to the nation than at present. The basic idea in the minds of the business world should be to serve the people with courage, with a view to making the British Empire a greater Empire after the war is over."

For Canada's Future.

Dealing with the question of what is going to happen in Canada after the war, Mr. Magrath said that the present was the opportune time for the people at home to begin to plan for the future of Canada. The Government should take every precaution to adopt a sound immigration law to guard against Canada being flooded with immigrants of an undesirable character after the storm subsides in Europe.

Mr. Magrath dealt at some length with the financial side of the question, and laid stress upon the position of Canada in doing her "bit" towards the war, and of the able efforts of the newspapers in observing the reticence necessary on their part in war time. The newspapers had been really self-sacrificing, and had not only cooperated with the authorities in suppressing certain kinds of news, but had brought about marvellous results in encouraging men to enlist. It was the duty of the people to support them in their patriotic reticence.