

THE WORLD SPIRIT

The cursed thing, extreme partyism, is showing its horns every now and then. The prospect seems to be, if smaller party men have their way, that when a general election is held in Canada, we shall have the degrading spectacle of one party trying to prove that it is more loyal than the other, all for the sake of gaining a few hundred votes of the thoughtless ones who do not place a true valuation upon the "loyalty hogwash" talked by practical party politicians during a season of election excitement. It is remarked by one of the independent journals that neither party in Canada saw the emergency that has arisen in connection with the war. Had the Government seen the emergency it is pointed out that we could have had on hand a store of soldiers' shoes, trousers, great coats, rifles and other equipment of an army to be hurled with the least possible delay at the Empire's foes. In the matter of preparedness, one set of governing men are not a whit in advance of what another set would have been in the matter of readiness for action on land.

In the name of decency, let us hope there will be no "loyalty" campaign in Canada when the general elections are sprung—probably at no distant date—in order to take advantage of the war excitement. These "loyalty" campaigns—for the sole purpose of gaining selfish power—are a menace and a curse to Canada. It is time we reared a breed of statesmen who will talk less and do more. Let us follow Britain's example. Let us regard our people as loyal—they are loyal—and centralize our attention in giving to Canada righteous, uplifting, ennobling government—not the party variety, that is chiefly concerned about the division of spoils of office, awarding contracts to friends, and treating the outs as though they were aliens and not Canadians. There is only one type of Canadianism or government that is helpful to Canada or the Empire. That is high-minded Canadianism and high-minded government.

Down with the curse of extreme partyism. Canadians should frown upon a war campaign, where one set of politicians try to make it appear that another set are disloyal. There is no reason to doubt the loyalty of Canada. No one, save a selfish party man, or an extreme enemy of our country will endeavor to stir up internal strife and heartburnings by seizing upon a time like this to make party capital out of the war.