

Development of National Spirit in Canada is Urged By Lieut.-Governor Brett

Industrial Association, Canadian Club and Board of Trade Members, With Representative Women of City Listen To Appeal for Imperialism and All It Stands For

A vibrant plea for the development of a national spirit in Canada, for support for Canadian industry and Canadian institutions, was voiced this afternoon by Lieut. Gov. Brett in his address at the luncheon tendered in his honor by members of the Edmonton Industrial Association, the Canadian Club and the Edmonton Board of Trade. It was, in effect, Dr. Brett's first formal introduction to the people of Edmonton since his investiture as lieutenant-governor last month. He has officiated at several events but today the centre of the stage was given over entirely to him and upwards of 200 members of the three semi-public organizations, together with over fifty women gathered to welcome him.

"Conditions and results of the war," was the topic of his address and around it he wove an earnest and effective appeal for imperialism and all that imperialism stands for. He urged that greater use be made of the schools in fostering and developing youthful interest and pride in Canadian and British history; that adults practice their preachments on Canadianism and so conduct their lives that Canada may profit to the uttermost."

In the course of his speech Dr. Brett said:

No doubt we all realize that Canada is at war, and every Canadian is affected by that fact. There are certain new duties laid upon us and certain new opportunities offered us. Every man and woman should realize these clearly; otherwise the fullest measure of the nation's obligation will not be reached. Up to the present time Canada has done well. The men have realized their obligation to serve the Empire in its great and just struggle, and the women have risen magnificently to their opportunities in this respect. There is not a class in the community, from capitalist to unskilled laborer, from the men of sixty to the boy scouts, who has failed to perceive that this is the day of national and imperial sacrifice. The unanimity in this respect has been wonderful.

National Spirit

The national spirit has been exhibited in a united manner, which few could have anticipated. In regard to volunteering for service there has been no undue delay on the part of the British born, the Canadian born, or the French-Canadian. It was natural that the British born should form a considerable percentage of the first contingent. They have come more closely in touch with military and naval services than the Canadian born, who are the product of a century of peace. The young Britisher, who came to this country recently, understood better what the call meant and had no family ties on this side to hold him back. He could volunteer with slight business consideration. The second contingent contained a much larger percentage of native born. The duty is now much clearer, the realization of that duty much stronger; the Canadian born is now showing his mettle. His business and family relations have been arranged, and he is freer to go. Future

contingents will be almost wholly Canadian born.

French-Canadians.

As for the French-Canadians, they are like the other Canadian born. A century of peace had eliminated almost all military traditions. Even the grandfathers could not remember war, therefore, the grandchild could not be expected to realize the new conditions without an effort; but, once the situation was made clear, their patriotism gave them the cue. Their duty was clear and they met it magnificently. Everything considered, the French-Canadians have done all that could be expected of them. Their public men, with the exception of a few, have exercised their influence to the full in helping the people to a realization of their duty to the Union Jack, to the cause of the Allies and the needs of the unfortunate Belgians.

There is no need to describe or dilate upon the many activities of Canadians in Red Cross work, Belgian relief, and subscriptions to the Patriotic fund, comforts for the Canadian troops, hospitals and nursing.

But there are other duties and obligations which may not be quite so apparent, and hence are demanding more consideration at the moment. The most important is the question of mutual help. This is a problem which concerns every man, woman and child in the country. No complete national system of self-help is possible without

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URGE GOVERNMENT TO PAVE COUNTRY ROAD AS A TEST

Council Believes It Will Lead To Greater Demand For Tar Sands

"That this city council has noted with satisfaction the comprehensive program undertaken by the department of mines in connection with the investigation of the tar sands of northern Alberta, and particularly the practical test of the sand as a paving material recently completed under the supervision of S. C. Ellis on Kinnaird street, in the city of Edmonton.

"That in view of the conditions which at present govern the securing of supplies such as asphalt used in Canada, the council realizes the great importance that must attach to the successful development of our Canadian deposits.

the co-operation of every system, great and small.

The British Preference.

If British and Canadian Christmas cards are to be given the preference over foreign Christmas cards, the women and children must be taught to make the distinction. It is the same with every other kind of product made by British and Canadian workmen—the people must know the distinguishing marks, and must insist on getting them; and they must have clear ideas as to why they are to give these the preference. This means a campaign of education which will reach to the very limits of our population.

Canadian Sentiment.

This is our opportunity and much can be done to co-serve the interests of Canada and by building up a strong Canadian sentiment do much to stimulate Canadian factories and increase our national prosperity. Much buying is a matter of habit, and it takes some effort to eradicate the habits of a lifetime, even though the lifetime be scarcely begun. The children should know the basis of the "Made in Canada" and "Made in the Empire" campaigns. Teachers should explain why these are not selfish and why they are necessary: It is not selfish to protect one's own in the hour of adversity, if one can do so with honor. This is the case in a nutshell, but it needs enlargement and explanation and driving home.

One man shouts: "I am a thorough Britisher," and goes down town and buys half a dozen Austrian collars, a German penknife, and a foreign magazine containing the advertisements of foreign manufacturers only. Is he as British as he thinks he is? What is needed is one who practises what he preaches.

The Canadian Clubs

Take the Canadian clubs for instance. Have they risen to the height of their professions? Have they preferred Canadian history, Canadian art, Canadian literature and the study of Canadian institutions. Have all the members of Canadian clubs a volume of Canadian history in their libraries except perhaps a primer they or their children had at school? Did you ever hear of a Canadian club going in a body to an exhibit of Canadian art, or encouraging a Canadian dramatic venture? This is not to cast a stone in the direction of Canadian clubs. I am a member of one myself. They are no better and no worse than those who are members of Empire clubs, Navy leagues, Imperial Order of Daughters and other so-called British organizations. The members of Canadian clubs are as good as the average citizen in respect of their practical patriotism. They were lacking in self-esteem and allowed themselves to imagine that anything produced outside of Canada was better than a similar article—picture-book, magazine, ornament, garment or machine — produced at home. This now should change in order that industrial and commercial activity be maintained. Canada has great financial obligations to meet and trade must be kept at its highest pitch in order to enable us to meet our share of the expenses of the war.

Supreme Duty to Flag

Every time a man sends a dollar out of the country, directly or indirectly, that can be avoided, he evades his supreme duty to the flag to which he owes allegiance. This may seem a strong assertion, but it is necessary under war conditions. I saw it stated by a New Yorker visiting Toronto a short time ago that Toronto had suffered less than New York from the war, and one reason he gave was that the creditors and lenders in New York demanded their pound of flesh, while in Toronto, as in London, men were given time to meet their obligations. Whether this is true or not, it ought to be true.

Canadian Big Brothers

Every Canadian should help every other Canadian when opportunity offers. There must be sympathy for the man who owes us money, for the man to whom we pay wages, for the tenant who pays us rent, for the man who finds it difficult to meet his interest or his taxes. There should be a great Canadian brotherhood — the big brother sharing with the little brother for the sake of the common citizenship.

It has been said that Canadians are

face of knockers—that they knocked the reputations of their fellowmen, knocked their own institutions, and knocked every worthy national movement. If this war stops that tendency it will have done the nation at least one bit of good. If it creates a spirit of brotherliness and neighborliness, a spirit of mutual trust and admiration, and atmosphere of civic and national responsibility, this war may be a blessing in disguise. Even this would be good policy if there were no higher motive. Every time we help a fellow citizen we increase the prosperity of the country as a whole, and thus add to our own prosperity. No nation is prosperous unless all its citizens are happy, well fed and properly employed. National happiness and national prosperity are but the sum total of individual happiness and individual prosperity.

German Selfishness

Not long ago a prominent Canadian preacher remarked that "God has not sent this sword across the face of Christendom without some good purpose." Perhaps the sword was "permitted," not "sent," but the purpose is the important matter. The world has grown material and pleasure loving. It was a world of self-seeking, a world of frivolity. Selfishness seemed to be at its height, and German selfishness was the greatest of all. The Germans cared for nothing, respected nothing, regarded nothing except to prove their military efficiency. The treaty obligation, the brotherhood of man, the sanctity of woman, the divine right of the helpless child to be respected, the sacredness of libraries, universities and cathedrals, the rights of non-combatants—all these they have disregarded, because of their national selfishness and military ambition. We see these faults clearly and are prepared for the greatest sacrifices in order that this selfish nation shall be taught a lesson.

Economy Imperative

Never before and possibly never again will we be called upon as a nation to exercise the most rigid economy and saving and bring into play the virtue of frugality. This is not only necessary to meet our individual obligations and necessities, but to provide funds for carrying on the war. The army is drawn from useful employment, is looked after by the government and financed by the people. We will hereafter be compelled to face the necessity of living within ourselves under conditions brought on by the war, and it is well that we begin now to practise every economy.

When this war comes to an end Alberta, as well as all portions of Canada, will have a long roll of honor of those who have given up their lives in defense of our ideals, and we cannot begin too soon to save money for the erection of suitable memorials. The memory of those who have fallen in battle should be perpetuated by the erection of memorial slabs placed in our hospitals, city halls, children's homes and other public buildings, and if I might be permitted to suggest that the next building to be erected on the University campus be known as Memorial hall—not to commemorate the memory of any individual, past or present, but to serve to perpetuate the memory of those brave men from Alberta who have given up their lives for the empire. When visiting the United States I have noticed with what pride the American points out such monuments erected to perpetuate the memory of some fallen hero. Nothing does more to promote and develop a national spirit of pride and loyalty.

Frivolities of Tangoing Age

But let us not forget that we too had faults. Let us therefore be learners as well as teachers. The pettiness of politics, the frivolities of a tangoing age, the foolishness of fashion and society climbing, as well as our extravagant habits, should be eliminated so that the serious matters of life may be able to claim a certain amount of our time and attention. We should learn to distinguish the true from the false, the essential from the non-essential, the noble from the base.

From such considerations as these it will be clear that what is needed most is a development of intense British and Canadian feeling. The school lessons, the reading rooms, the lecture halls, the newspapers and magazines should all be active in creating this atmosphere. Much can be done in our public schools by the encouragement of the teaching and study of Canadian and British history more than has been done in the past, especially in those schools where there is a large percentage of children of foreign birth. Have the schoolroom hung with pictures depicting something in the life of Canada or the empire; an explanation of the flag and what it stands for. It should be our duty to stimulate in the minds and hearts of all children, but more especially those children of foreign-born parents, not only love for Canada, but for the empire to which they and we belong. No firm or lasting affection can be engendered unless it is based on an understanding of the glories and traditions of our past.

Instruct Our Children.

In this present conflict of ideals, in which the issues are so vital to the civilization of the world and the freedom and integrity of Great Britain and of the British dominions, it is our supreme duty in Canada to instruct our children as to what these ideals and issues are, and help to arouse a true patriotism—patriotism which has been so vividly and beautifully defined as "Something which grips the heart, making the blood tingle in one's veins with pride and love of country." It might be well to have our school teachers instructed to devote a few minutes each day to the reading of passages from some of the many publications, such as "Why Britain is at War," "Germany and England", etc., and explaining the whys and wherefores of this great war.

Germany has for the past forty years been teaching her children her ideals of civilization, that might is right, and that everything is to be gained by the sword. It is manifestly our duty to teach our children what are the national ideals of Great Britain, for which she has taken up the sword in this great war. Let it be known that the great ideal is "Liberty", the keeping of sacred obligations, the defence of weaker nations, to shield the independence of free states, to maintain the honor and good faith of the British Empire, and to protect against brute force the principles of civilization and the liberties of Europe.

Our National Songs.

Are we not remiss in our duty in not insisting upon school teachers familiarizing the pupils of their schools with the complete text of the National Anthem and such songs as "O! Canada", "The Maple Leaf Forever", etc., and a thorough knowledge of the development and growth of the Union Jack, our national emblem. The national anthem, the most sacred invocation that can be made, wherever the flag flies should be received with greater reverence than unfortunately is given it very often. It is too often noticeable that as soon as the first bar is struck it seems to be a signal to many to prepare for departure by looking about for their overcoats, overshoes or rubbers and a sigh of relief of general impatience to start for home, which is not intended for disrespect, but is done through thoughtlessness.

Can anyone conceive of a nation built on German ideals giving to conquered South Africa self-government within a few years of the close of the bitter and costly Boer war, and allowing one of the conquered generals to become the head of the government? And when the history of this war is written no name will stand out more prominently with well deserved laudations than that of Louis Botha, and with what pride and satisfaction did the civilized world read a few days ago of his triumph in the recent elections in South Africa?

India Raises its Flag

The most significant thing which the war has developed in its bearing upon the

future of mankind has been the magnificent way in which India has rallied to the flag and begged that she too might have the opportunity to prove her loyalty with her blood and treasure. Here is a land which has for centuries been the victim of the feuds and strifes of warring principalities and incompatible beliefs, a land in which the mass of the people have not anything approaching the education of the western civilization, where the word of Ninnah or Yogi has been held the word of God. Yet this India, to us incomprehensible has comprehended us, and those, who in the black year of 1857 sought to kill us, today ask nothing better than to die for us. A half-century of unselfishness in administration has bred a loyalty to Great Britain that even religious fanaticism and the proclamation of Jedahs have been unable to overcome. Rajah and Marajah, Prince and Nizam have offered to the great British Rajah their lives and their treasure chests. Sikh and Ghurka and Pathan and Hindu

pled that they too may bleed in the great cause. Has anything in the history of the world given greater promise that in the near future nations and peoples will realize that the thing which earns and secures this deserved loyalty is an idea not a nation. We see it typified in a nation, but in truth it is a cause common to all true nations. The changes of boundaries which will result from this war matter nothing: the changes in the aspirations are all important. England today typifies a democracy for which the world is willing to suffer, but this democracy is inherent in mankind, and concerns them broadly as much as it does England. The world requires that the feudalism existing in Germany be destroyed, and to accomplish this destruction is the duty of every free people. The end of all great wars can only come when all great nations have a similar idealism, when they recognize that there is a cause greater than nationality to which their loyalties are due. Where nations are actuated by this super-national conception of freedom war becomes futile and preparation for war needless.

About the Future

What about the future when the war is ended? Where will Canada stand? What will be her relations to Great Britain? We may rest assured of one thing, the ties hitherto existing will be strengthened. We must admit that Canada has taken a very important step, far reaching in its effects, in entering this war. We in common with the rest of the empire have taken up the gauge of battle, which says to Germany "Your Empire or Ours." We are saying that so far as in us lies this world empire shall be maintained. We must ask ourselves are we therefore assuming deliberately and whole-heartedly the responsibilities of empire? It seems to me there is but one meaning to be drawn. We have pledged our future to the empire and are sealing the pledge with the blood of our sons. Let us then consider what will be our position in the empire in the future. Are we through the long years to come asking no responsibility of empire, but ready at any time on a call from Great Britain to drop our business and rush to arms? Or shall we take a high place in the council of the empire nations, doing what we can to preserve the continuity of British history and the perpetuation of British ideals, and take a wide, intelligent and influential interest in the affairs of the great world empire? Has not Canada among the other nations of the empire entitled herself to representation in an imperial council of the empire? It is only fair to assume in the light of the generous treatment accorded to the self-governing colonies and dependencies of the mother country that Canada shall at the close of this great struggle receive the just recognition of which she has made herself so worthy, and along with other colonies of Great Britain have a voice in deciding the

vital questions which affect the empire as a whole.

Vote of Thanks

A vote of thanks to Dr. Brett was moved by Alex Stuart, K.C., and was seconded by James Ramsey, president of the Board of Trade.

Mrs. C. Clyde Macdonald spoke briefly on behalf of the Women's Industrial association, outlining what has been accomplished and urging the active support of those women present who were not members of the association.

A solo by Miss Bessie Pikle and a recitation by Miss Hazel Porte were much appreciated by those present.