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## ANOTHER APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

To the Editor of The Mail:

Dear Sir:—The war situation is painfully unfair to the native-born Canadians, who only need to know the emergency in order to rise to it. Sir John Gibson, while lieutenant governor of Ontario, regretfully called attention to the truth that a large majority of the men who are bearing Canadian honor across the seas are British-born immigrants. This should enlarge the opportunities of the Canadian-born to redress the advantage which, in Canada's cause, lay with those to whom the war was geographically closer because of their former life near the North Sea, and of their service in British regiments.

Our people, who have shown a noble readiness to give of their money, need only to be seized of the facts, and of what the facts mean to Canada, and they will give, with more precious liberality, of their flesh and blood. How shall they be impelled by the vital evangel of the war unless it be preached to them? The government surely will not persist in leaving this business which, in Britain is making incessant recruiting sergeants of the most dignified statesmen, to the newspapers, excellent as they are.

THE NEED IS IMMEASURABLY GREATER THAN ANY WHICH HAS PRODUCED VAST PARTISAN PROPAGANDA FOR A GENERAL ELECTION. WE DO NOT LEAVE ELECTIONS TO NEWSPAPERS. WE COMPASS HEAVEN, EARTH AND OTHER REGIONS TO MAKE ONE POLITICAL PROSELYTE. THE TIME IS CRITICAL FOR PROPAGANDA FOR THE WAR WHICH IS TO SAVE THE EMPIRE AND REDEEM CIVILIZATION.

But, so far as the public can tell, the compelling word is not being spoken by or for the government. Vainly the people listen for a clarion in the valley, for the trumpet on the hill. They receive the cabled words of statesmen thousands of miles away appealing for recruits, but when they read of a speech by their own prime minister, or of the minister of finance, or of a staunch friend like the provincial secretary of Ontario, they miss the essential note—there is no inspiring turn towards the imperious urgency. They learn of officers being sent from Ottawa to call on recruits; but they hear nothing of the government desire for the sort of support which the government of Britain receives gladly from old party foes and from those who are of no party. There are plenty of men in this country to whom there is no idleness in talk of the last man and the last dollar, and who would undertake any toil if only the country may be served.

### THE CRUCIAL NEED.

The crucial need for organizing, unifying and expressing national sentiment for the war was pressed upon you before and after the storm broke. The deliverances that have lodged in the national consciousness have come from the militia department. And such deliverances! It was the department that gave out the news of the impending departure of the Princess Patricia regiment—news for publishing which the newspapers were afterwards blamed. The regimental files in the provinces contain the most contradictory sets of orders ever issued by constituted authority. A boast that a thousand officers had been brought to Valcartier who were not required; a spirited advice to every non-volunteering officer to reply with a rawhide to every insinuator that men were capable of taking advantage of the department's solemn provocation to officers of the king to seek safety first behind women's skirts; a farewell address revised, printed and circulated to the troops, in which the greatest personal vaunting competed for distinction with doggerel that newspapers refused to print—these are a few of the administrative illuminations of a minister of war which were fitly accompanied by the arrest and confinement of a Winnipeg editor, without a charge being laid against him; a military feat as lawless as it was futile.

There must be mistakes in fulfilling a task for which, though it was professedly foreseen, found us confessedly unprepared. But what has been exposed to public knowledge—some of it in the belief that it was highly creditable to the minister—makes men who are accustomed to judging the management of large affairs, shudder at the administrative quality displayed in the nation's name, and marvel at the recurring exhibitions of inverted capacity, foresight, tact and restraint, each of which seems to have been more humiliating than the last.

### INEFFICIENCY NOT WANTED.

Such men do not forget that the governor general is a soldier of unrivalled imperial experience. They knew that he will not be mistaken in the calibre of our military genius. Though they are certain that he will observe strictly the constitutional limitations of his office, they wish

that there had been more palpable readiness to profit by his presence, as well as by the availability of officers accustomed to administration and to war, of whom it is only necessary to name General Sir William Otter. They are aware that there are in Canada advisers of the war office, which, being new under the control of the greatest military organizer of our time, will not accept inefficiency even from Canada, at its own valuation. They know that there is too much reason to fear that the decision to ship the whole Valcartier army to Britain, including the thousand officers declared by the minister to have been superfluous, was the conclusive proof that the War Office was informed of the failure of our War Department in its most vulnerable part. They grievously confess that where servants of the empire gather together we have won a Gascon reputation we do not deserve.

But, while this reputation will be submerged in blood when our gallant fellows get the chance they long for in Europe, it will have to be dealt with in Canada, whose people, including those who were born in the islands from which most of their troops have come, have a sure instinct as to the capacity with which they are served in the weightier matters of their peace or their war. When that instinct is enforced by the facts that will surely emerge from the illusion that now surrounds them they will be ready to execute judgment. The dominant fact, to which attention is being given, wherever thoughtful men congregate, is that the prime minister is responsible over all. This letter is respectfully written in no other hope than that he will speedily take them into his confidence, and secure, by the leadership for which the situation cries aloud, the unflinching confidence they are eager to bestow.

CIVILIS.

### PARIS HAS LOST HALF ITS POPULATION

Fuller particulars of the recent census of the Paris population gives rather different results from those first published. They show that about one-third of the households have departed from the city, the present number being 761,200, 362,484 less than in 1911.

The present total population 1911. Women are in a majority in the 1,807,044, or 1,026,067 less than the present population, being represented by 949,086 individuals.

A few clients are now reappearing at the fashionable hotels of Paris. They were deserted at the outbreak of the war and since then many have been modified so as to serve as model hospitals.

Thus, the Hotel Majestic has become the Hospital Majestic, and there a staff of English hospital-trained nurses is working bravely under the auspices of a French Red Cross auxiliary association.

At the Astoria another score or more of British officers came in. They are in the care of the British Red Cross Society, which now has four establishments open in Paris, and is being admirably represented by Dr. Leckard Robinson and his local colleagues.

At a superb new building in the Avenue des Champs Elysees fifty of the famous beds are now occupied. This establishment is under a French society, but is staffed by British nurses, whose fawn-colored outdoor costumes are very smartly cut.

Some of the feminine staff wear not only the Geneva Cross, but a blue oblong badge on which are the words: "Votes for Women."

The inmates at present are all British, but this hospital is open to all other wounded warriors.

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