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AN OPEN LETTER TO CANADIAN WOMEN SLACKERS BEWARE

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF WOMEN, HEADED BY H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT, ADDRESSES APPEAL TO WOMEN FOR MORE SOLDIERS.

A year ago the thunderbolt of war fell upon us out of a clear sky! After the first moment of surprise and confusion had passed, we asked, "How can we help?"

During the year that has passed, that question has found many answers. The trained nurse quickly proved her value. Other women were called upon to organize and direct Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance work for Patriotic Societies, while all gave time or money or personal service in preparing supplies.

To comparatively few came the need for the supreme sacrifice—the ending forth of husband, son or bro-

ther to fight. The first appeal for volunteers was limited and did not appear very urgent. All honour to those who heard and obeyed the earliest call of Empire and whose women sent them forth with pride to fight in the front ranks of the Canadian forces.

To-day the situation has changed. We have learnt after a year of war, that our task is harder, our danger more real, than we thought a year ago. We have "given" gladly; now we are called on to "give-up," and service must fulfill itself in sacrifice. Most urgent of all to-day is the call to give up ungrudgingly our husbands, sons and brothers. We are called to create in our homes such an atmosphere of self-devotion that our men and boys may feel their resolution to offer themselves in their country's service is simply what we expect of them.

This does not mean that women should be constantly urging their men to enlist, for it is doubtful if the patriotic persistence of a wife or mother would produce anything but a reluctant and resentful recruit. The men of Canada have not shown themselves less patriotic than their women but it is for us, the women of Canada, to ask ourselves whether our self-

sacrifice is falling short of the supreme test.

Are we making it hard or easy for our men to obey their country's call to service?

Why is the call so urgent now? The answer is simple: it is because our existence as an Empire is at stake.

We went into the war to keep our solemn pledges to our Allies; and this reason still holds good.

But there are now other reasons which did not exist a year ago. Belgium with her ravaged land and exiled people cries aloud for justice. What do Canadian women say to the appeals of her outraged women and mutilated children? They have suffered for us; what are we willing to suffer for them?

The women of France and Russia and the United Kingdom have long ago heard the appeal to give up their men, and have responded nobly. What will Canadian women do?

Beyond the keeping of our pledged word, the woes of Belgium, and the example of our Allies, there comes to us to-day the knowledge that we are called on to fight our own battle; not to send help to Belgium or France or even England, but to fight for our own national existence.

We are told by the men who know that we cannot win in this war without more men.

If we hold back our men we are courting defeat; and defeat means, not a vague misfortune to the Empire at large, but the very practical result of a Canada governed by Germans.

Do we want to know what that would mean? Then let us look at Belgium, and learn how the yoke of the conqueror galls the neck of a freedom-loving people. Defeat would mean for us a period of bitterest shame and discontent, and then—another war. Can we risk it? We are risking it if we do not make the path of service easy for our men.

But the most compelling call for sacrifice rings out from the graves of those who on the fields of Flanders, at Langemark, and Ypres, and Festubert, have blazed the trail to glory with their life blood.

Can we make their self-surrender of no avail by holding back the men

who would take up and complete their splendid task?

There is a saving which is losing; is it worth "saving" our men from death if we lose their respect? There is a loss which is gain; even though we learn to face "Desperate tides of the whole great world's anguish, forced through the channels of a single heart."

We are called to scale the gleaming peaks of self-sacrifice, in the company of our brave sisters of the Allied nations.

What will to women of Canada do?

MR. ALEX BROUGH NOW WITH McLAUGHLINS

The many friends of Mr. Alex Brough will be pleased to learn that he has accepted a position with J. P. McLaughlin, as manager of his store, and will commence his duties Monday December 6th.

Lottie L. Tillotson's Entertainment

On December 17th, at the Empire Theatre, Schumacher, Miss Lottie L. Tillotson of Hawaii will give a lecture entertainment, under the auspices of the Methodist Church Auxiliary, for the benefit of the Red Cross Society.

Miss Tillotson is a widely travelled elocutionist and lecturer, and her stories of the customs and habits of the people, ancient folk lore, mythology, and scenic grandeur, cannot fail to create a deep interest and lasting impression on the minds of those who hear her.

Help the Red Cross Benefit Night, at King's Theatre, Wednesday and Thursday, December 8th and 9th.

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