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THE END FAR OFF.
For us who know what terrible sacrifices we are paying in precious lives, in the unceasing, pitiless drain upon our reservoir of potential promise and vitality—who have greater reason than we to long and pray for peace? Peace, yes, but on one condition only, that the war, with its vast waste, its sacrifices, its untold sufferings, its glorious and undying example of courage and unselfishness, shall not have been in vain.

There can be no question of a separate peace. And peace when it comes, be it soon or late—and I will not disguise from you for a moment my conviction that the struggle will tax all our resources and our whole stock of patience and reserve—the peace must be such as will build upon sure and stable foundations the security of the weak, the liberties of Europe, and a free future for the world.—Hon. Mr. Asquith at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London.

"Set aside," says the Belleville Intelligencer, "puerile politics until we have won the war." This is an indirect rebuke to those who are getting ready for an election in Toronto.

CALIFORNIA EXPERIMENT.
In California there has been a curious experience. Fish, a common article of food, was so dear that an appeal was made to the state government for relief. A commission was appointed. It consisted of a wholesale merchant, a retail merchant, a fisherman, a state official, and a member of the market commission. This commission set each day and fixed the price of fish and the cost went down by from 25 to 33 per cent. Fish was sold at 5c per lb. and from that up to 15c per lb. when before the commission was appointed, the prices were 20c and 25c per lb. After the plan had been in operation for a time one of the wholesalers withdrew from the organization, and the question of dumping the fish into the bay rather than allow them to be put on sale at a lower price was resumed, 20,000 lbs. a day being disposed of in this way. The prices went up again. It is now for the state to declare whether for a purpose there shall be a wastage of food, and it will probably adopt some very drastic legislation.

Mr. Nesbit, K.C., and Sir Adam Beck do not appear to speak as they pass by. All over the power question.

THE WANT OF DETAILS.
The point which the Canadian Courier makes against an appeal to the people in an election during the war is that it will weaken our national unity. But how can unity be preserved in the conduct of the war by a partisan government, one which expects from the opposition its consent to all it does without consulting it upon anything, and not desiring any advice which will interfere with the patronage system.

The St. Catharines Journal puts it in this way: "That our leading men have but to come together in a mutually peaceful spirit and agree that whatever the mistakes and blunders in the past have been, from this time till peace comes they will work in harmony." This means that they will work without friction in advancing the cause they have espoused.

The Canadian Courier presents the thought in another way. "By all means," it says, "let the opposition co-operate with the government, absolutely independent of party politics, to carry on the war, and to stave off a general election." The Courier should explain itself a little more fully. Is co-operation limited to a voting of the supplies which the government spends, through party channels, and largely for the benefit of the conservative party?

MEN AND WOMEN VOTERS.
The women in some of the western states voted in the presidential election and made their influence felt. Mr. Wilson, does not claim that the women voted for him, and yet he can, as an act of justice, not gratitude, labor to have the election law amended so that the qualifications of the electors shall be the same in every state and affect men and women alike. The country cannot be right, electorally, which discriminates against any class, and the women are decidedly discriminated against in the eastern states.

The subject may suggest a harmonizing of the voters lists in Canada, and to the extent of giving the women of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, the standing of their friends and sex in all the other provinces west of the Great Lakes. It was a grave question with some persons as to the effect of giving the women the right to vote with their husbands, sons, and brothers, in the United States. Would they, on social grounds, vote contrary to the men and in opposition to them?

There is no way of knowing exactly, and outside of a close analysis of the vote, and with some way of determining it, but it is alleged that there has been a tolerable unanimity of opinion between the men and the women, when related, on the great problems of the day.

The St. Catharines Standard says a truce in politics is not needed. It has been tried and failed. A coalition government should succeed in Canada. But the Standard gets no encouragement from any political party. Coalition is not wanted nor sought for by conservatives or liberals.

JOLLYING THE PEOPLE.
The federal government has not settled the demand of the people for an enquiry into the higher cost of living. It simply says that it will authorize any municipality to conduct an enquiry; and the provincial government has not strengthened its position by saying "ditto" to this proposition. The municipality is not in the position of the government and cannot carry on investigations which are of a more or less technical character. "The people have not forgotten that the federal government trifled with this subject a couple of years ago. Before the war broke out, and before it could be charged with disturbing things, Prof. Laycock, the economist of McGill University, offered to organize a commission and do the work of it if given the necessary authority. There might have been incidental expenses, and they could have been paid without any objection. But the technical service would not have cost anything. The government turned down the offer and appointed a commission of its officials. These spent a long time, and considerable expense, in a confidential enquiry, the result of which was never announced. Now the government makes the fool proposition that any municipality can appoint a committee to probe into higher prices and the government will give it the authority to act.

Hon. Mr. Lucas, in answering the council of Toronto which called his attention to the existence of combines, from which the people suffer, suggested that it supply the evidence on which the crown attorney could act. Mr. Lucas was in public life when a liberal government through its crown attorney went after the combines and created a profound sensation. He will remember that Mr. Currie went after several firms and convicted them, and that he would have gone after others and probably convicted them—but an election occurred. With a new government came a new crown attorney, and the combines seem to have enjoyed immunity from prosecution ever since.

It is some job. Sir George Perley's experience in the administration of big business, and his familiarity with Canadian affairs in Britain, will enable him to take up his new post of Minister of Militia overseas with vigor and judgment. The direction of affairs of a Canadian army of 250,000 is no light task.

Here's a Problem. (Toronto News)
Not only the Liberals, but all patriotic Canadians should consider today if it is possible to allow this Government to continue dividing the country, exploiting our patriotism, gorging its friends with money voted for the war and denouncing the people who cry famine.

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Canada's contribution to the war is \$18,000,000 a month. The net debt of the country is nearly \$700,000,000, and in the last year the addition to it was over \$200,000,000. This means pretty heavy taxation during the coming years.

The Canadian Niagara Power Company claims that it is losing \$120,000 a year in selling power to the Hydro-Electric Commission at a lower rate than it can get for this power when sold to other buyers. So much as that?

Helping the Enemy. (Montreal News)
It is stated that there is a great shortage of socks among the soldiers. They've been giving them to the enemy.

Still Going Up. (Hamilton Spectator)
Strictly fresh eggs are predicted to cost a dollar a dozen at Christmas. That means most folks will have to fall back on crockery ones, or go without.

Is This a Warning? (Port Arthur Chronicle)
Food prices are to be investigated by the Federal government despite the fact that no investigation of the kind was ever made without being followed by a sharp advance in prices.

An Election at Hand. (Toronto Globe)
The world has gone around among conservatives that an election is coming soon. Liberals throughout Ontario should no longer defer the choosing of candidates as a precautionary measure.

The Coal Supply. (Toronto Globe)
The shortage of coal is another reason for increasing Ontario's supply of white coal from Niagara and other waterpowers. The Hydro-electric generation project ought not to be held up a day longer than can be helped.

Only One of the Kind. (Hamilton Herald)
Canada has several coal barons, but only one cement baron—Baron Max Aitken, to wit, who has just been raised to the peerage. If the new baron elects to stay in England there will be no protest from this country.

Other Causes. (Puck)
Before frothing at the mouth over the eight-hour day, "conservative" persons should remember that it was not increased wages or shorter hours for trainmen that wrecked

clinkers instead of heat? One of the worst enemies of mankind is the iron-jawed, bullet-headed clinker which wedges into a furnace grate and is harder to pry loose than the president of a fraternal insurance society.

One of these days some inventor will discover a way of preventing the Smoke Pipe from rusting out in the dead of winter and breaking in two around the hip joints. One of the worst calamities which can befall anybody is to wake up and find that a trusted Smoke Pipe, which was cleared out the summer previous by a plumber's assistant, has caved in at the knees and is trying to set fire to the vegetable cellar. The patience of the average Canadian under such circumstances shows that we are indeed a religious people.

Probably the best solution of the Smoke Pipe problem is to build it of reinforced concrete, with poroles every ten feet, so that the owner can crawl inside and blow out the carbon at regular intervals.

The ash pit is another source of grief which science has not been able to circumvent. Why is it that the hard coal manufactured to-day confines its energies to throwing off

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The Smoke Pipe.
The Smoke Pipe is an attachment to a hot-air furnace which burns up money faster than a college boy with a blank check book.
If it were not for the Smoke Pipe and the ash pit, it would be cheaper to heat a twelve-room house nine months in the year than it is to operate an electric toaster for a week. As it is now, the Smoke Pipe seizes most of the heat before it can escape into any of the upstairs rooms and conducts it up the chimney, which accumulates more carbon than a motor truck fed on kerosene. It is very discouraging to the owner of a new furnace to watch this costly heat drift out of the house with hectic energy and allow the occupant of a northwest bathroom to sprout icicles four inches long.
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Rippling Rhymes
USELESS REGRETS

We all regret our past mistakes, and view the same with wailing; and when we've made our dizzy breaks, our tears are unavailing. You run your car at crazy speed through city streets and alleys; for safety rules you have no heed or rural hills and valleys. Some day when you swing round a curve they'll sweep into your vision another car—you'll lose your nerve and there'll be a collision. When from the tangled wreck you crawl with slats and wishbone broken, the warning words you will recall that I've so often spoken. And when you lie upon a cot, with plaster casts around you, a string of dark, remorseful thought will torture and confound you. You'll weep for former folly then, your soul will be disgusted, but tears won't make you sound again, or heal the leg that's busted. And so with every foolish trick that you and I are springing; the penalty will make us sick, remorse and sorrow bringing.

