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Editorial

The School and Industrial Unrest

The work that is done in school should directly or indirectly affect the life of the people. The programme of studies does not set forth the end of education but merely enumerates the means whereby the fundamental aim is to be attained. This fundamental aim is the betterment of life—physical, domestic, moral-social, religious, political, industrial. The elementary subject cannot proceed by direct effort to reach this complex end. It uses the more effective method of proceeding indirectly. If it cannot teach home economics it can form those tastes and habits which are the surety of success for any housekeeper; if it cannot teach trades it can develop industry, carefulness and honesty, which are essential in every calling; if it cannot because of social conditions teach the forms of religion, it can insist upon reverence and righteousness which are the very essence of religion.

Perhaps the opportunity of the school in promoting right industrial conditions could not be illustrated more clearly than by reference to the late strike in the City of Winnipeg.

This strike had an immediate or nominal cause—a disagreement between the iron-workers and their employers. It had fundamental causes which were not so easily placed but which were undoubtedly much more real than the cause assigned. Among these causes were (1) the unrest produced by the high cost of living, (2) the common belief that profiteering was more or less general and winked at by the government, (3) the further belief that labor is being exploited by capital—a few

men living on the work of the masses, (4) the incessant effort of a set of agitators from the old land, who for various reasons have fanned the flames of discontent. Personal ambition and untempered expression are always in evidence at a time like this, and they probably had a good deal to do with the extreme action taken by the strikers on this occasion.

Now, pedagogically, the way to deal with any fault is to find its cause. The remedy will then not be a matter of difficulty. Is it too much to say that if the causes are as indicated the remedy should be something like this, (1) **a reduction in the prices charged for the necessities of life**—this to be a matter for government intervention. A government which has not the will nor the courage to take action on such a measure should make haste to abdicate. There is absolutely no justification for such prices as wage-earners are now compelled to pay for goods, and a government is criminal in its negligence that does not attempt a solution. (2) **a severe punishment of profiteering**, and this to extend not only to the few men whose names are usually mentioned—the meat trusts and the munition manufacturers—but to all,—whether farmers, manufacturers, middlemen or transportation companies—who have become wealthy because of the war. It is said thousands of millionaires were made in the United States during the war. This may be exaggeration, but one can understand how in the earlier stages of the struggle, there was every opportunity for Americans. But Canada has been in the war from the beginning, and any man here who has