

Problem of Waste

By F. S. G.

While the leading nations of the world are encouraging the saving of time through the speeding up of flying machines, leading financiers of the world are calling for the elimination of waste and extravagance to avoid bankruptcy.

The greatest problem the world has to solve to-day is that of WASTE.

In England during the great World War, when the need of economy entered into everything, even to garbage, out of 42,000,000 garments thrown away as useless in ten months a commission was able to save £658,650 by treating them as rags, and of the soldiers' uniforms thrown away as waste, by making them over, using the good material, they were able to turn this waste into a saving of £340,502; thus together in ten months a saving of waste yielded upwards of £999,152.

In a book entitled "Waste in Industry," the report of a committee on elimination of waste in industry of the Federated American Engineering Societies, showed a waste of 50% in all industries, and of this nearly 25% was attributed to labor.

Among current magazines there are 18 varieties of widths and 76 different lengths. Among trade paper publications there are 33 varieties in widths and 65 in lengths. Among newspapers there are 66 different widths and 55 different lengths. These variations cost the public not less than \$100,000,000 yearly. The standardization of newspaper columns to one size would make possible an annual saving of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 in composition alone.

The saving of so-called waste has proven a wonderfully good investment in large automobile and packing plants in America.

The necessity of saving waste is felt by the leading railroads in Canada, thus you read on a large billboard at a station not far from Vancouver:

"MATERIALS COST MONEY,
DON'T WASTE THEM."

Large stores not only in Europe, but in the United States and Canada, have for years past found it necessary to employ help, whose sole duty it is to save small pieces of pencil, string, waste-paper, cardboard, boxes, cloth samples, etc.; this, too, has been most remunerative.

In a recent address a merchandise manager of a leading business house stated that "there was only one per cent. between success and failure in

business, and that success depended upon the sales force." While I do not belittle the need of a capable sales force, or the fact that success is only separated from failure by one per cent., I do wonder what rates of percentage could be debited to waste of time.

Time Is Money.

One million pounds sterling for a minute of time was offered on one occasion, with no results. We hear of people going into stores and finding clerks so busy talking together that they haven't found time to wait on their would-be customers. Other people say they see clerks loll-

ing around in their departments when they should be giving attention to stocks, or displays, etc.; and similar complaints are often heard in relation to porters, drivers, office people, elevator clerks, etc. What a tremendous waste of money is this waste of time. "WASTE" is a disease—it is contagious, and should be quarantined as are other contagious diseases.

On the 11th day of November, thousands of people in all parts of the world bowed their heads in front of cenotaphs, at the ruthless waste of 10,000,000 lives that were lost in the Great War.

As we close on the old year, and enter 1925, it seems to me that a fitting slogan for all workers would be **The Elimination of Waste**—waste material, waste effort, waste time.

Vancouver Burns Fellowship

Contributed.

"Of the making of books there is no end," and the same is equally true where the formation of new societies and associations—particularly of a Scottish character—is concerned. The organization, recently, of the Vancouver Burns' Fellowship is a case in point. Feeling that they were not possessed of the educational opportunities offered by concerted study of the poems of Robert Burns, a number of local Burns' lovers laid their heads together in the early spring, and the result of their deliberations was the launching of the organization named. The Fellowship was designed, primarily, to foster a love for study of the life and work of Scotland's national poet.

At the organization meeting, held on February 8, seventeen devoted Burnsians pledged their devotion to the cause. An executive was chosen to complete the plans then tentatively presented, and the Vancouver Burns' Fellowship was safely launched in a field already prodigally represented by a wealth of Scottish societies. Mr. P. McA. Carrick, a talented Scottish reader and elocutionist, was honored with the position of president; the Fellowship were also fortunate in securing the services of Mr. A. Fraser Reid as secretary-treasurer. Mr. Reid's journalistic contributions to Burnsiana are exceedingly well known throughout British Columbia.

The objects of the Fellowship, as outlined in the syllabus of study, are, briefly, to encourage amongst members the study of the life and work of Burns; to encourage the study of his poems in the public schools, by



offering annual prizes for essays on this subject; to encourage the singing of Burns' songs and Scottish folk-songs generally; and to inaugurate a movement among the Scottish societies and the general public of Greater Vancouver with a view of erecting a statue of Burns in Stanley Park.

From the foundation thus laid has been built up a Fellowship which is fast taking shape as one of the most successful outside of Caledonia. At the first meeting, held in the St. Andrew's rooms on Dunsmuir Street, the poem chosen for study was "The Twa Dogs," given the honored place in the famous Kilmarnock edition of Burns. So keen was the interest shown that it was found difficult to seat all those who attended. A distinct forward step, and one which called for a good deal of courage on the part of the executive, was taken when the Fellowship then secured Glencoe Lodge as their permanent home. The success which has followed has amply vindicated the judgment then displayed. Membership has consistently grown until, at the second meeting for the winter session, the roster contained a list of 70 names, all of them admirers of the