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Special Articles

The Economic Consequences of German Defeat.
By W. W. SWANSON.

Conditions in the West.
By E. CORA HIND.

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Labor Day

YESTERDAY was Labor Day. In all the larger cities of Canada the men who are commonly spoken of as "the working class" held demonstrations in honor of the day. This designation of a part of our population seems to be convenient and is widely used, though it is by no means appropriate. In Canada there is hardly any leisured class. The whole population, with comparatively few exceptions, belong to the working class. There are thousands of men and women who work as hard as, and through many more hours than, those who belong to the various trade unions. Nevertheless, it is well that a day is set apart by law for special recognition of the dignity of labor and of labor's right to fair compensation and to reasonable opportunity for rest, recreation, and the performance of the duties of citizenship. If labor is sometimes inconsiderate in its demands, let us remember that too often in the past organization of society labor has not received its full share of the wealth which it was chiefly instrumental in creating. If labor has conceived the notion that it cannot get justice except through strikes, who shall say that there has not in the past been some justification for that view? But labor is, in modern times, coming into its own, partly through the more intelligent attitude of employers, partly through the instrumentality of more liberal laws, partly, beyond question, through the persistent effort of labor organizations in all democratic countries. Labor should be ready to recognize this better condition and should respond to it by a higher conception of the responsibility which attaches to every right or privilege. Mr. J. T. Foster, a prominent labor leader in Montreal, in speaking of Labor Day, gives to his fellow workers as a slogan, "Organize, agitate, educate." It is a good motto for both employer and employed: organize, for social improvement and for the protection of rights whenever they are threatened by injustice; agitate, for the removal of all just causes of complaint; educate, in the evil of selfishness and in the responsibility that everybody owes to his God, to his neighbor, to the community in which he lives, to the flag that waves over him as a symbol of law, order and necessary authority.

Difficulties already apparent indicate clearly enough that the gravest of all problems in the years of the early future will be the maintenance of just relations between capital and labor. If capital in some cases is still unjust, can it be truly said that labor is free from blame? In days of old there was a degree of loyalty of the worker to the employer that is far from common today. Too many workmen are ready to believe that the employer is their enemy and that they must treat him as such, extracting from him all that can be obtained, and giving as little as possible in return. Too

many agitators are ready to proclaim this as the true attitude for the worker. Too often he is led to believe that his duty is to gain what he can for himself, and to think nothing of the interests of others.

Here is a fine field for educational work by the leaders of labor. There is no need for instruction as to the power of labor. Workers have come into a full knowledge of that. But are they acquiring an appreciation of the duty of citizenship which should accompany the consciousness of power? It is along that line that education is needed for the worker, and for the employer too. Labor is justified in asking adequate compensation and fair working conditions. With a correct appreciation of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, there will come a determination that all difficulties on these subjects shall find solution through conciliation and arbitration, and that there shall be an end to the strikes which so often work cruel injustice to individuals, to families and to the community. Let there be more organization, agitation, and education, always having in view the welfare, not of a class only, but of the whole community.

Civil Service Reform

ONE of the most important items in the declaration of policy on which the Union Government appealed to the country was the "abolition of political patronage," the opening of appointments in public service to competition. It was a declaration well calculated to enlist the sympathy of independent electors. "Political patronage," the treating of the public offices as rewards for party services, while perhaps not so fraught with evil as it is sometimes said to be, unquestionably had regrettable features. The Laurier Government took a long stride toward a better state of affairs when, in the case of the whole inside service at Ottawa, they put an end to political preference and threw the service open to public competition. The proposal of the Union Government to extend this system to the service generally was an important and meritorious one. Unfriendly critics have frequently questioned the sincerity of the Government in this matter. Even now one often finds in the Opposition press the assertion that the old patronage system has not been abolished.

Unfortunately for the Government this doubt as to their good faith has not been wholly without foundation. The Government made a very bad start in their dealings with the public service. Fresh from a victory in which assurance of the abolition of party patronage had played a considerable part, they forgot the pledge and proceeded to do business in the old and objectionable way which they had condemned. An important office at Ottawa under the very eye of the Premier, and an office at Montreal of so much importance that it could not have escaped his atten-