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of money, and skilled hands and stout hearts and appreciative minds? You may look all over the world, and you will not find such a tremendous and concerted attempt to outvie the glories of the past as you can see here. It is wonderful, wonderful!

Now our optimism is well grounded, isn't it? We know what is going on, and we are infected with the very spirit of progress that is drawing the best hands and hearts and minds from their far-off birthplaces to help us in the greatest task that history will ever record. Talk about romance! There is nothing equal to this nation-building of our present day in all the tales of the masters. For it beggars description; words are inadequate to paint the picture of the scene; imagination itself cannot rise high enough to see anything but a dim outline of our glorious destiny. Our best dreams are but vague hints of the wonderful possibilities that await our West. For the reality dwarfs even our most fanciful hopes pertaining to it, even as the truth is always infinitely larger than our belief.

What has made the West will continue to make it supreme. The past is something of a criterion for judgment, but it fails as a perfect measuring-rod when we apply it to our future. For we are better off than our forefathers were. We have all they did as a basis from which to grow, and, in addition, we possess the very substance of their dreams, for which they seemed to pray in vain. The new cities and towns that are being established all over our land by the hundred every year are bound to be filled with our sons and daughters who will build better than we did, because they will have the light of our experience, and that experience which limited us will enlarge them. They will grow up with the country, and in the same degree that the West must grow shall our descendants wax great as citizens, since nothing is more prophetic than the voice of our best hope.

We are optimistic because we can build our own future. The opportunity so rarely seen is close at hand. The present is only a lever with which we turn the future in any direction we wish. Co-operation being the secret of our success, we are not liable to be led astray by a false doctrine. We know the truth that lies behind the necessity of work, and we are willing to accept the condition to get the blessing. Never in all the history of the world has a people had a better opportunity to make an ideal nation than we Canadians, and never has a people taken advantage of such an opportunity better than we. For it is not merely wealth we want, it is growth in every way possible, and to get the room for expansion we have come to boundless fields.

I believe we are going to be the saviours of Canada. The East has long since abandoned the task of creating the national spirit that alone can weld the many component parts of our mixed population together. But we are doing it, slowly, perhaps, but none the less surely for all that. And in the doing of it, we are conscious of a greater product than all our grain, massed and totalled—a harvest that cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. For we are building in full view of all the mistakes of other peoples, and we are too proud to perpetuate an inferior order of things. We grow the best wheat, and we want the best civilization on earth. That is our ideal, thank God! And in the faith that we shall achieve it, we have the real reason of our splendid Western Optimism.

MEXICO AND ITS PROBLEMS

By W. Stewart

The sorrows of Mexico began when it was conquered by a Latin race and not by the British or the Dutch, and this fateful circumstance is one of the most potent factors in its present turmoil.

The easy going Spaniards too soon adapted themselves to the climatic sloth and listlessness of its native races, resulting in a population to-day showing all the weak and erratic tendencies of Latin blood with few if any redeeming features. The power of the sword to them is law, and the era of modern civilization has never had a chance to dawn.

The great Dictator Diaz was the very man for his time even if he was a dictator in the worst sense of the word, for it was he with his strong mind, wielding a strong sword (a second Cortes), that gave Mexico the chance to rank as a world power. He was wise enough to see that Mexicans by themselves could never develop the vast resources of his land, and then, while cruelly curbing the turbulent spirit of his nation, he cultivated and secured the confidence of Britain, America and France. The result was soon apparent, and to-day we read of the foreign investments in Mexico amounting to the tremendous figure of £400,000,000. He was a Czar indeed, but can one deny his ability or fail to regret the movement which led to his downfall and the resultant chaos.

The task of subduing Mexico would be a long and costly one, and we can well understand the reluctance of President Wilson to enter into open hostilities. It is a very doubtful question whether beyond the necessary protection of their countrymen in Mexico any of the great Powers should take a hand in Mexican affairs. It is extremely difficult for an outsider to form any true estimate as to the rights and wrongs of the opposing factions at the present moment, and we fail to see what good would come from armed intervention by the United States, for such intervention would eventually end in the conquest and annexation of Mexico by the United States. Such an out-come would be pleasing to none of the European powers and certainly not to the United States of America, who has trouble enough in governing her present territories without adding to them. It seems to one that the wise course for the Powers to pursue is to let the Mexicans "cook their own pie" and "burn as many of their own fingers" as they like in the process, for such a course will demonstrate to the Mexicans that neither faction has the support of any of the great Powers which combined with the want of money and equipment must surely lead to a speedy settlement of affairs.

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