

Who is most vitally concerned in education in a democracy? The principal upon which a democracy is founded, the right of the individual in governing, demands for the stability and progress of the state an educated electorate. No man or woman should vote by party but by policy. Is this policy a benefit to the state? In the light of social, economical and political history is this policy a means of progress? How many of us vote in that way? How many realize that the children in our schools today, are our voters of tomorrow. Economically we can plainly see that a man who can not earn his living and must be cared for in a "Home" is a drag upon the state.

The recent war should have taught us that a trained, efficient enemy is one who puts the greatest demand upon national resources. The fidelity with which the German common soldier supported in the recent war, should teach us the strength of education. Those men were filled with the idea that other countries were planning the downfall of Germany. Imbued with this idea, which to us was an astounding mistake, those men fought for five years. Their ambition of political world power and the impossibility of German defeat were taught them in school. What will be the by-products of our teaching? Are we teaching each subject in the light of its possible influence upon character? Are we providing the best educational facilities our districts can afford? Are we careful of details of ventilation, heating, sanitation because of their influence upon the health of our future citizens?

As a nation are we doing all we can in a concerted way to prepare our children to be worthy citizens of Canada? Are we making them worthy to bear the heritage of sacrifice, heroism and glory which has been left us by our armies in the Great War?

The night of toasting nuts and bobbing for apples is with us again, the night when men and maidens by charms and incantations may pull aside the veil of the future and know their fates, the night when any one may call up spirits and when witches and spirits are abroad.

Hallowe'en has not won its fame through any Christian ceremonial or feast, but seems rather to be a relic of our pagan ancestry. Although the eve of All Saint's Day, it had no significance to the early Church.

By proclamation of the Governor General, Canada observes Thanksgiving Day on October 13th. This custom which has been respected since 1879 will have added significance for us this year. The Great War has ceased since our last Thanksgiving Day. Most of our soldiers have returned from Overseas. For these we are thankful. For our country, strained but not broken by

struggle, we are thankful. For our obligation to face the future with its appalling responsibilities and problems, we are reverently thankful. We pray that wisdom may be given our legislators, that we may hold high the torch thrown to us by those who fell in Flanders' Fields.

October is a month of famous dates to us who live in America. October 12th is one of interest, for on that date in 1492 our continent was discovered by Columbus.

October also holds two important dates in British history. To us of the Anglo-Saxon race October 14th is framed with great significance. What would our race have been if the battle of Hastings had not been lost to the Normans? Trafalgar day, October 21st, is another date of historical worth to the world. At that battle was the supremacy of the British fleet determined and for a hundred years the "freedom of the seas" was theirs to hold intact. The part played by that navy in the Great War has proven beyond a doubt their worthiness to be protectors of the "freedom of the seas."

The obligation of the teachers to keep the need of personal thrift before the children is one which continues pressing with the beginning of the new school year. In a speech before the National War Savings Committee Sir Herbert Ames tells of the purposes to which this money is to be put.

"We are often asked what the money is needed for. The popular impression is that, at the end of the war, national expenditure can cease. This, however, is not possible. The re-construction period is almost as expensive and may be nearly as dangerous as that of the war. Nothing would injure Canada so much today as a period of non-employment. This would lead to misery and restlessness at home; it would do Canada's reputation incalculable injury abroad. For these reasons the Dominion, Provincial and Municipal Governments are uniting to provide opportunities for employment. The Repatriation Committee has recently issued a statement of the plan these governments will follow; it includes a programme of public works, railway renovation and equipment, shipbuilding, housing and roadmaking. All of these are productive enterprises for the creation of which it is legitimate to borrow. Again, we are endeavouring to place our returned soldiers upon the land, that they may find comfortable homes and increase the agricultural output of Canada. It is hardly fair to ask them to take unimproved areas far from lines of communication and if we are to settle them within reach of the benefits of civilization, land must be bought or expropriated and this involves large expenditure.

For the purpose of enabling Canada to participate in the export trade to Great Britain and to the devastated areas in Europe the government needs large sums of