

So we may say there comes a time in the history of the nation when we must take ourselves for better or for worse. Why should it not be for better? Emil Reich has said that every Western nation has found sooner or later, that she must pass through an intellectual renaissance, a political revolution and a religious reformation. I think he might have added, a social readjustment. The individual citizen brings, singly or combined, to the national life, the intellectual life, the political life, the social life, the moral life, much for the making or the unmaking of the nation to which he belongs.

So far as the intellectual life is concerned, there has never been a nation that has achieved any greatness or permanency apart from intellectual greatness. We must take recognition of the intellectual element in our life. Perhaps Greece in the old world, and Germany in the new are the outstanding examples of success. In the glorious age of Pericles, Greece threw off from the intellectual anvil sparks of knowledge that have never been quenched. It is recognized that the German people are the most intelligent and most accurate students of modern times. The system and thoroughness with which everything is carried on in the great realm of intellect in Germany is almost inconceivable. I believe the intellectual element will count a great deal in the future power and permanency of the great German empire. With these two examples, you will see the necessity for the intellectual development of the individual. For that reason we must encourage, in this Western country, the planting of schools far and wide, in every new territory in this fast developing West. I take occasion to deviate long enough to congratulate our Western people on the splendid work done educationally by the schools of Manitoba and the territories, or provinces farther west.

INTELLIGENT GRAPPLE WITH EDUCATION.

I believe that educationally this country has grappled with its problem as efficiently, intelligently, and splendidly as any new country could have hoped to do. We must take into consideration our intellectual life to this extent, that on every possible occasion we will plant a school, that from the beginning, the very foundation, that work shall be uppermost. For that reason we ought to go so far as to welcome compulsory education. If a parent is not ready to meet his responsibility for the education of his children, the state should step in and compel those children to receive education to some extent, so that they may be safe citizens. For that reason there ought to be impressed on young men the necessity of maintaining the right proportion between the physical and the mental so far as time, energy and expenditure of money are concerned. Many a young man has been spending a lot of money, and far too much time, in meeting physical demands. I would like to see young men become readers and thinkers, as well as hockey players, (Cheers.) I believe that every atom of ignorance that remains in any citizen is a menace to the popular safety of the community. Decayed punk will give out a phosphorescent light, but a decaying mind can never become an illuminating force. I do not believe our ignorance can become in any sense the enlightenment of the nation. (Applause.) For that reason we ought to pay great attention to the intellectual side; perhaps there was never more need in any country than in this.

But the intellectual life is not sufficient. Even Athens, with all her intellectual power, was unable to withstand her invaders, to withstand the forces that were breaking down her intellectual life.

"Let knowledge grow from more to more,  
But more of reverence in us dwell,  
That soul and mind according well  
May make one music as before,  
But vaster."

OUR POLITICAL CREED.

My political creed in a sentence is: I believe we get nearer to the ideal politically when, to an increasing degree, the power is relegated to the hands of the people. I believe in the judgment of the common people, in the conscience of the common people as the court of final appeal. I believe in the voice

of the common people, their sanity, their opinion, especially when unbiased by the gold of corruptionists or the flatteries of the demagogue. I believe what Abraham Lincoln said: "You can fool some of the people all the time; you can fool all the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all the people all the time." You can see how the political item that the individual beings is going to be a great factor in the nation. I don't like to go on as far as Dr. Clanning went in characterizing our political life; but I believe we recognize and acknowledge that our political ideals have suffered an eclipse in Canada within the past few years. There has been a tendency to overlook, to shut our eyes to some of the political issues involved. When Sambo in handing chickens from the roost to Moses, asked: "Moses, don't you think it may be wrong?" and the latter answered: "That's a great moral issue, Sambo, hand down another chicken," so there is just a little tendency on the part of our citizens to recognize that there may be a little wrong in this or that, but to pass it by and say: "Hand down another chicken."

Sometimes I have thought the great demand of the present moment is for leaders; but I am not so sure whether the great crying necessity is not for followers in the rank and file, who have recognized the loftiness of great ideals and are ready to stand by them through thick and thin; and whether there is not need of the prayer of Browning in "Paracelsus," "Make no more giants, God; but elevate the race at once." Our public men are just as good as we are, for we make them. Our laws are just as strong and vigorous as it is possible for them to be, for they are the outgrowth of the nation. It is because the voter will sell his vote for beer that the politician is able to sell his for graft. It must come past the leaders to the rank and file. If we want better laws, we must be better citizens.

Speaking of the social item that the individual must bring to the nation, the speaker said: The strength of a nation consists in a strong, intelligent, industrious, God-fearing middle class. The menace of the nation, socially, always comes from the extremes. England's strength to-day is her middle class; her menace is the so-called very high, and very low. Russia is weak because she does not possess a strong, vigorous middle class. Rome failed because she lost her middle class. We must look to the development of a strong middle class. I wish to see, as the negro preacher said, a gospel that will "make the intemperate, temperate, the immoral, moral, and the industrious, dustrious." But we ought to recognize that every citizen should become a possessor of the heritage we have received here on this North American continent. I don't know anything so calculated to break down the social and patriotic spirit of a nation as to let all the wealth go into the hands of a few men. You cannot ask men to die, to draw the sword and shed their heart's blood for a country they don't own. I would rather see a million men owning twenty-five acres each than twenty-five men owning a million acres each.

NATIONAL WELFARE MORALLY.

The speaker dwelt lastly upon the moral item the individual must bring as a factor to the national welfare. He quoted Victor Hugo as saying that Napoleon lost Waterloo, not because of Wellington, or Blucher, or the rain, but because of God. With almost a touch of blasphemy, Hugo said, "Napoleon bothered God." Woe to the nation that bothers God; woe to the individual who becomes a moral microbe in the national life, ensuring its decay and downfall. We need regeneration of the individual before we can have regeneration of society. We can only save the nation horizontally when we have saved it vertically. It is our duty in our own life to bring the highest possible force to bear. If the time should ever come when we shall feel that we have lost our opportunity, that we have failed to measure up to our possibilities, I don't know what we could do but look into each other's faces and say as Cassius said to Brutus, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves."

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