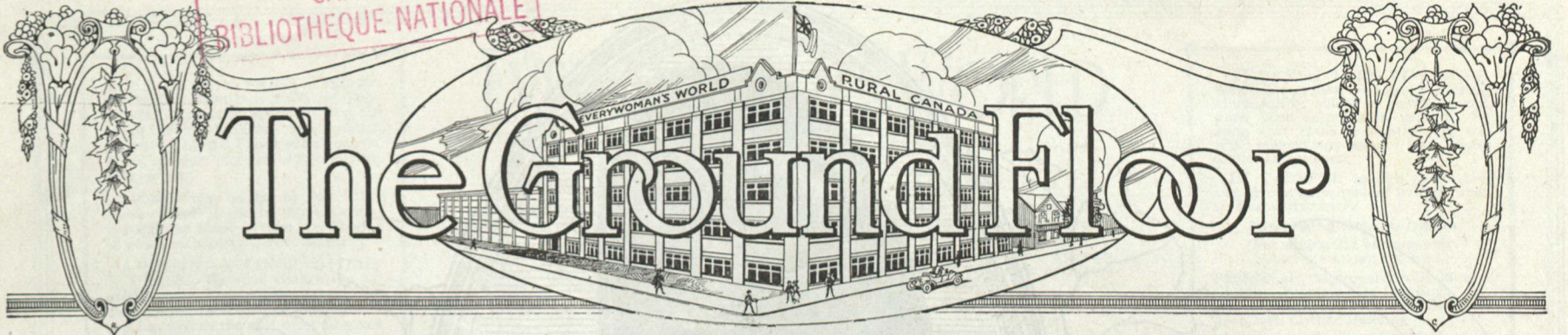


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The Ground Floor

Take That Bandage Off Your Eyes And Dare to Look at Life as It Really Is



IF the Boys who go over the top for us wore a bandage on their eyes—if they refused to face the facts of Hun reality—what chance would we have against the Beasts of Berlin? If David had worn a bandage on his eyes when he went out to meet Goliath, Bible history would, of necessity, have taken a sudden detour. It is considered an old granny's notion to hide in a feather bed when the heavens thunder and lighten.

The ostrich buries his head in the sands when he is alarmed and we don't think much of the ostrich. We pull out his tail feathers and wear them in our hats.

Now bandages and ostriches and granny notions may have their place, but they block progress. Those of us who march straight ahead, looking life fearlessly in the face, are those who have torn off the bandage and walked bravely over customs and traditions. Some people would have us go softly—they want us to go slowly. In other words they want us to stand still.

The First Road

THE first road the Pilgrims built was only twenty miles long. They said they had opened a path into the wilderness as far as anyone would ever want to go. That self-satisfied, complacent narrowness persists to-day. How many of you have built a road of Truth and Knowledge longer than the Pilgrims' first road? How many of you know that the road before the House of Life is beaten to a dust by the feet of children and of young men and women? Is your boy or girl, your brother or sister, among that young host marching towards the rising sun.

Who Will Tell Your Children?

WHO will tell your children the truths that shall set their course right upon the voyage of life? Who will guide them between the world of fairies out into the world of fact? Who will walk beside them when they meet their first adventure? Who will receive their first confidences? Will it be your counsel and guidance they accept or will it be the suggestive whispering of strangers? The Spartan mother who put her babe out upon the bleak hillside to survive or perish would not be received with cordiality among you to-day, yet how much better are you when you leave your children unprotected from the wolves of disease, pestilence and sin? Can your children in later years say of you as Lincoln once said: "All that I am and all that I ever hope to be I owe to my mother"?

Where Do You Stand?

THE smug "I am holier than thou" policy of branding unmarried mothers with everlasting disgrace and ignoring the father, has done nothing to lessen moral evils. Children criminally untaught in the vital things of life—are they to be held responsible for what they did not know? Before the white tribunal of Everlasting Justice, your sins of omission will be greater—far greater—than the sins of ignorance.

Through our churches we try to "rescue the perishing." We might as well save a house afire by shooting a half inch stream of water into the flames. We imprison criminal boys and punish fallen women. We pass laws to hang by the neck those who break our laws. We treat human nature as bad—we punish and redeem and get nowhere. We seem to have learned but little through the centuries.

We still play on the safe side and still the teaching of Christ moves slowly on. The Man, born in a manger, trained as a carpenter and executed as a criminal, is still pointing the way. In Heaven's name let us follow His example and not only preach but *Teach* it as well. The majority of us are not redolent with righteousness but the man or woman who leads in prayer-meeting and rails against prostitution, sex knowledge and sex education and lets the youth of the community go forth untaught, mentally and morally unprepared and unprotected, encumbers a too patient earth.

"Because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot I will spue thee out of my mouth," spake the Voice. The "servile souls are not worth the trouble and expense of damnation," says Billy Sunday.

Youth Challenges You

THERE is only one thing better than a cure and that is prevention. Yearly we destroy the souls of our boys and girls through persistent ignorance. We let our young manhood be bartered for the price of silence. We let our girls be sold for a Judas price into the life of harlots. We pierce the homes of the nation with the seven-edged sword of sorrow, because we cannot bear the knowledge of Truth. The Past rides on the back of youth as the Old Man of the Sea rode on the shoulders of Sinbad the Sailor, throttling the soul with his thin grey arms. But in this, the Twentieth Century, we rise to shake off tradition. Like Siegfried, we attack the

flames that surround our ideals and find only a theatrical and harmless myth.

Prejudiced Puritans

IF the women of Canada knew or understood the cruel facts of prostitution and social diseases accruing from ignorance, lack of interest and prudish puritanism; this hydra-headed evil would be lessened 25 per cent.

The sob of a mother whose baby must go through life blind because of someone's selfish silence and criminal carelessness, is an argument for sex education that defies the most rigid "conscientious objector."

Men and women must be made of iron and stuffed with straw who remain deaf to the need of saving the youth of the nation from the sins of ignorance. Saving them from disease, betrayal and suffering by the simple process of placing in their hands the proper educational

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literature. Ignorance is never bliss. It is cowardly criminality. What you know is not yours to keep. It is only yours to give away.

Knowledge is Power

KNOWLEDGE is the one thing that will open men's eyes to the things God Almighty meant they should see. You cannot acquire too much knowledge and no one can steal it from you. It is the "Open Sesame" to health, wealth, success and well-being. You have no legitimate excuse for ignorance. The Home Library Association offers you a way to learn for yourself or to impart knowledge to others. To men and women who, in spite of busy lives realize that *Knowledge is Power* the Association presents a wonderful opportunity. It is not an idle saying that "he who runs may read"; it is an established fact.

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