

CANADA'S RESOURCES FOR CANADA

The following clipping from a western newspaper makes a suggestion that is both practical and patriotic. Referring to the lumber industry in British Columbia it says:

"The lumber output in this province at present is taxed to its capacity. There is a heavy demand from the prairies and dealers there have but small stocks wherewith to fill it. Some parts of the United States join in the demand and there is as well a big overseas market which is offering high prices and must be satisfied.

"The lumber producer consequently suffers not from lack of a desire to satisfy his customers, but from lack of ability. Australian lumbermen are forced to buy what they need in Vladivostok for the reason that British Columbia cannot fill their orders.

"It is only human nature and what is to be expected, that under these circumstances the lumber manufacturer should advance his prices to top-notch figures, regardless of costs of production, and that he should thereby amass a fortune out of all proportion to his invested capital, risks of business, or service rendered the public. It is a clear case of profiteering made possible by present world conditions.

"The Canadian people, however, have a right to demand that their requirements shall first be met at reasonable prices, inasmuch as this lumber is largely grown on crown lands, and is, therefore, in the first instance, the property of the people. A searching inquiry into the whole question would certainly seem to be in order, to be followed by such restrictive and controlling orders as are necessary to protect Canadian interests."

We are so thoroughly accustomed to individualism as a principle in industry that it seems to be a violation of a man's personal rights to take away from him the privilege of selling all his goods in the best market. Yet it is the very doctrine which must be preached and put into practice if Canada is to take full advantage of the opportunity now placed before her. It is a great thing for Canada to have such magnificent natural resources. Should not the first care be to use these for the benefit of Canada, rather than for the upbuilding of other nations? What we require just now is not merely a few great industries, but houses, factories, farm homes in all parts of the land. The first use of our resources, such as coal, lumber, fish, mineral wealth should be to supply the needs of our own people. And this principle may be extended more widely still. In a democracy no man should think of living to himself alone. In a true and wise sense his intelligence, industry and service, of whatever kind are for the good of all. This is a hard doctrine for many to realize. It is particularly distasteful to those who have no strong Canadian sympathies though they may possess great power in Canadian industries. We should, as a people, be culpable in the extreme were we at this time to help other and rival nations in their schemes of reconstruction, if we at the same time take no steps to make reconstruction possible right at home. The following clipping shows that the subject is arousing national interest.

"Following on reports of a threatened lumber shortage in the west owing to the shipment of the Canadian supply to the United States, the Board of Commerce is in receipt of similar communications from the city of Toronto. These are to the effect that the lumber situation in that city is acute owing to the almost complete shipment out of the country of building materials, including lumber.

"Asked whether there was any intention on the part of the board to try and regulate the export of lumber from Canada, a high official would say nothing. Should the need for action in the line of placing an embargo on exports arise, it would seem to be a matter for the whole government to take up and decide whether such action should be taken."

Even more suggestive than this is the following sentence from a report by Mr. Stephenson, Inspector of Crown Lands:

"It has been found that the largest holders of timber lands in the United States are cutting very little, owing to the diminishing supply, and are buying up Canadian supplies."

Is it not about time for us as a people to begin to think of ourselves? We are not here as "milch kine" for other nations. Every citizen of Canada has such an opportunity for advancement that he can afford to pay the price of good citizenship—loyalty to Canadian Institutions, and full support of Canadian enterprise.

DOCTORS AS STATE OFFICIALS

The following contribution from a valued subscriber is given a place of honor in this issue of the Monthly, not only because of the thought which it expresses, but because it gives rise to a series of problems of more than ordinary importance:

Editorial

Another step we must make in our upward march of social democracy is to make our medical men servants of the state. Not only would such a move be beneficial to the state but would be helpful to the medical profession itself. There is no doubt in my mind that given proper sanitary surroundings and proper hygienic conditions a healthy person can be kept almost, if not altogether, free from disease. We have now reached the stage in our civilization when we consider it the duty of the state to exert its powers to bring about these conditions and to co-operate with the individual to see that proper health laws are made, and what is more important, to see they are obeyed.

We naturally look to the medical profession for guidance in these matters and they should be the leaders of the people in promoting the greatest standard of efficiency physically. With all due respect to the medical profession, and at the same time believing there are many members who give their lives in devoted service for their fellow-men, still they make their living by trying to cure and curing our diseases, and there may not be, therefore, the incentive there would be of ridding the human race of its physical misfortunes, as there would be if we adopted a different viewpoint.

I believe the medical man should work in the interest of the state rather than that of the individual, and he should, therefore, be a servant of the state enforcing the laws of health and sanitation on all its citizens. As an officer of the state it would be his duty to see that all were properly looked after medically and in his efforts to do this the sanitary conditions surrounding his patients would receive more thoughtful and forceful consideration. As a medical man his viewpoint would be changed from curing a disease to that of preventing a disease. He would be endeavoring to keep people well rather than making them well. When one reads that a government investigation, in the U.S., of one million workers showed an annual loss through sickness of 270,000,000 days and that three-fourths of the 25,000,000 children attending school in that country are suffering from physical defect of some kind, it seems to me it is time something was undertaken.

With our medical men as officials of the state, working faithfully to prevent rather than to cure, it would be one of the greatest means to uplift the world physically that people have ever experienced. It would bring a little more of heaven to this physically sick world and many would pass over the great divide after a well spent life, who, otherwise, would have been a sufferer, an economic loss and a hindrance to progress of the human race. Let us think on this question and do all we can to hasten the day which will alleviate suffering and bring in the sunshine and happiness of good health.

The broader question that is raised by this communication has to do with education. Why doesn't the state invest money in schools? Because it expects a return to the state in the form of service. It educates nobody for his own sake. This is the principle that should underlie the support of schools of every description. It is interesting to consider all the schools in a province from this point of view. To begin with the Agricultural College. It costs a fortune to keep it going. It is not too much if the graduates use their knowledge and skill to improve agriculture in the province. It is too much if they retire into private life using their endowment to swell their own private capital. The province cannot afford to educate men who use their intellectual capital for merely private ends. What is true of the Agricultural College is equally true of a medical college supported by the state. This has a very direct bearing upon the agitation now being made in this province to have the state spend half a million dollars for the erection of a medical college. The solution proposed by our correspondent seems to be not very wide of the mark. As we see it now the school teachers are the only class who return full value to the state for the money expended in their education, and in their case the state spends remarkably little. In the case of elementary schools it is a mistake to think that they are operated merely to help boys and girls to make headway in the race of life. The very essence of public education is that it should fit young people for community service. In other words education must be used for public rather than selfish ends. Should there, according to this, be public high schools and universities? Certainly, provided that they develop power that may be used for public good. If they turn out only sharpers and suckers, they fail in their mission. The school is essentially a social institution. The medical school is no exception.

FARMERS ARE MANUFACTURERS

The writer of a letter printed in The London Times makes the point that "the earth and the fulness thereof, the birds of the air and the beasts of the field were not bestowed upon mankind in the state in which they are found to-day," and adds: "The land of England, and, for the matter of that, all productive land, is a manufactured article, as much so as the clothes we were." Not quite as much so, perhaps. Still there is a measure of truth in what the writer of that letter in The Times says. The expenditure of labor and of money involved in bringing new land into perfection varies greatly, of course, according to the character of the land and the work done, but in no case is it an inconsiderable expenditure. As for the grains, the vegetables, the fruits and the animals with which agricultural industry concerns itself, their breeding and development have cost and are still costing great expenditures of work, thought and money. It seems paradoxical, in view of the terminology of current economical and political discussion, to think of farmers and manufacturers as being in the same category. But both take certain "materials", and by means of labor and machinery work them up into "finished products". At least, the farmer's products are his "finished products", though they may be the raw materials of other industries—the mill, the creamery and the packing plant. So are many of the products of many manufacturers (for example, leather, iron, steel and paper), the raw material used by many other manufacturers. The problem of shaping national fiscal policy is mainly a problem of bringing the just claims of all classes into the right adjustment.

WORK

The hiss of molten metal in the mold;
The clang of iron on iron, and beam on beam.
The untuned whistle's blast, so shrill and bold;
And clouds of white, and angry 'scaping steam.

The hungry furnace roar and the fierce scream
Of hawsers in metallic agony!
The straining men; the women flitting by;
Forming a picture like a wondrous dream
Of grim finality.

An ordered, harmonious dissonance!
That the dull brain rejects—in ignorance
Of its glorious theme, and bold significance.

The giant vessel floats upon the tide;
The majesty of Labor—justified!
The mark of craftsmanship—the pride of all!
Master and man—satin and overall!
—T. C. C. B.

NOTHING TO SHOW

By Mary H. Rowland

MY day has all gone—"twas a woman who spoke,
As she turned her face to the sunset glow—
"And I have been busy the whole day long;
Yet for my work there is nothing to show."

No painting nor sculpture her hand had wrought;
No laurel of fame her labor had won.
What was she doing in all the long day,
With nothing to show at set of the sun?

What was she doing? Listen; I'll tell you
What was she doing in all the long day:
Beautiful deeds too many to number,
Beautiful deeds in a beautiful way;

Womanly deeds that a woman may do,
Trifles that only a woman can see;
Wielding a power unmeasured, unknown,
Wherever the light of her presence might be.

She had rejoiced with those who rejoiced,
Wept with the sad and strengthened the weak;
And a poor wanderer, straying in sin,
She in compassion had gone forth to seek.

Unto the poor her aid had been given,
Unto the weary the rest of her home;
Freely her blessings to others bestowed,
Freely and kindly to all who had come.

Humbly and quietly all the long day
Had her sweet service for others been done;
Yet for the labor of heart and of hand
What could she show at set of the sun?

Ah, she forgot that our Father in heaven
Ever is watching the work that we do,
And records He keeps of all we forget,
Then judges our work with judgment that's true;

For an angel writes down in a volume of gold
The beautiful deeds that all do below.
Though nothing she had at set of the sun,
The angel above had something to show.