

## Editorial

## Russia

It is well to know something of the countries with which we are allied in the great war. Perhaps more interesting than any other is Russia, because it is so different from the rest and because it is now passing through such a terrible ordeal. In area it is two and one-half times as large as Canada, or as large as Canada, the United States and India. It has a population of one hundred and eighty-six millions, equal to the combined population of the United Kingdom, France, Japan and Italy. Its population is twenty to the square mile, that of Canada being less than two. Yet the natural resources of Canada are developed more highly than those of Russia. This is indicated by the railway systems. The average mileage in Russia is about three miles to every 10,000 inhabitants, and in Canada about 39 miles.

The soil is equal to that of Western Canada and the production of grain is, of course, much greater. The wheat crop in 1915 was more than twice as great, the rye crop four hundred times as great, the yield in barley five times as great, and in oats four times as great. If the yield be estimated in relation to population Canada has, of course, the advantage excepting in the case of rye.

These figures indicate that great as Russia is, under right management it can become infinitely greater and more prosperous. We talk of our timber and with justifiable pride, Russia has an unexhaustible supply which may be used for building, navigation, pulp and other purposes.

The fur industry in Russia has not been developed so fully as in Canada, but there are possibilities untold in the northern districts of Siberia and in the mountains.

The Canadian fisheries are important, but there are more than three fishermen in Russia for every one in Canada, and the value of the catch each year is one-half greater than with us.

The mineral wealth of Russia is unknown. We outdo them in gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper, but, of course, they have found it necessary to develop their iron and their coal, and we do not approach them here.

Russian manufacture is considerable, but she could easily produce materials to the value of hundreds of millions each year, which she is now importing. Before the war her trade was chiefly with Germany and Austria. After the war it will be with Britain on the one hand and America on the other.

Should we not begin to learn the language of the Slav?

## Be Optimistic

HERE is how the Journal of Commerce expresses it. A straw shows how the wind blows: "A man's financial standing is usually judged, not by his own claims, or even by the representations of his immediate family, but by what is thought of him in the business world in which he moves. So it is with a nation. Germany from time to time sends out rosy statements of successful operations for the financing of the war. But if we wish to know how Germany really stands in a financial way we should enquire of her neighbors. Formerly 100 German marks were equal in Geneva to 125 Swiss francs, and in Amsterdam to 69 Dutch florins. To-day, for the settlement of any bill in Switzerland, 100 German marks are worth only a shade above 64 francs, and in Amsterdam the 100 German coins are worth only 34 florins. The neighboring neutral nations should be able, if anybody is, to forecast the result of the war, and if there were any faith in the ultimate success of Germany the mark would not be so heavily penalized. Moderate fluctuations in exchange occur even in peace times, through the changing currents of trade, but such a great depreciation of the value of German currency in the neighboring neutral states as these figures show has a significance that sober Germans will not fail to see."

## Thanksgiving

It is reckoned that the harvest of Western Canada this year has a market value of \$600,000,000—a fabulous amount. Over and above this there will be an income to the farmers from butter, eggs, roots and vegetables, and to other classes such as fishermen, lumbermen, miners, an amount to be reckoned in tens of millions. To this great sum must be added the profit of the manufacturers. Who will say that Western Canada is not getting to be the region of great wealth and importance?

What then is the most becoming action under the circumstances? Clearly for all people, old and young, to join in heartfelt thanksgiving for the wonderful favors bestowed. There is nothing more base than ingratitude, nothing so lovely than grateful recognition of kindness. All that we have received might have been withheld. Where there is rejoicing there might have been starvation and mourning. Our lot compared with that of people in other lands is enviable in the extreme. Let us join in praising the Giver.

How can we show thanksgiving? Not in needless feasting; not in vain display, but in deeds that parallel the great act of Him who gave us of His bounty so freely. It will be to our undying shame if this year there is any real need of poor and hungry unsupplied, if laborers do not receive full value for their hire; if smiles of contentment are not as common as the needs we eat. Thanksgiving opens the heart and the purse. We should all consider ourselves as stewards rather than as owners of wealth. And this is no platitudes.

## An Experiment in Chicago

IN the great departmental store of Marshall Field Co., of Chicago, there are supervisors or directors charged with peculiar duties. The first of these is the head of what is known as the welfare department. Her duty is to promote the physical, intellectual, moral and social welfare of the employees. Over and above salary the various clerks have provision made for their needs in many ways. Rest rooms, play opportunities, classes of instruction, social opportunities, and above all protection and supervision. The great store believes that the clerks have this claim upon it, and it believes it pays as a business investment to keep the clerks in good health and to place a premium on intelligence and morals. A second instructor or supervisor directs salesmanship. She instructs clerks in the art of selling goods, in the art of receiving and waiting upon customers. She lays it down as a principle that civility and courtesy are the first asset in a good clerk, and her great aim is to make this plain to every employee of the great store. Since the matter was taken up seriously even Chicago has felt the difference. The store has incidentally reaped a golden harvest, and the young ladies are infinitely richer because of their added virtues. Indeed, other stores have awakened to the situation and there is now in the windy city a competition in store civility and courtesy. There are other supervisors in the store with duties somewhat akin to these, but they need not be referred to now.

## Caring for the Salespeople

QUITE unconsciously we have been led to emphasize this matter of courtesy and civility in business, because in these days of rush and whirl the fundamentals are likely to be neglected. The really important question raised at this time, however, is that suggested by the appointment of the first supervisor mentioned—the supervisor of welfare. Is it too much to say that officers of this kind should and could be employed in every town and city in Canada? Is this provision not owing to the young people in the stores and shops and will it not pay even those who employ their services to be careful in such a matter?

When a young girl enters a store as clerk she has much to learn as a salesgirl; she has also to keep herself from being a salesgirl and nothing else; and finally she has to remember that in all probability she will in a few years leave the store for the home, and she should not enter upon family duties without preparation. It is, therefore, fitting that the good work now undertaken in some establishments and in some towns should become general. Educational classes for workers are being formed and the instruction given looks to present usefulness and culture and to preparation for future activity. Roughly speaking, instruction and practice in morning or evening classes may cover such a wide range of topics as the following: Art of buying, judging and selling goods, health and manners, behavior as a personal asset and in relation to business; system; language and literature; taste in dress, decoration, house furnishing; domestic science; social etiquette, recreation; social service.

## Caring for the Home Workers

THE caring for young workers in stores and factories is but an illustration of a broader problem. Similar provision should be made for housemaids and other domestics, for underlings in all departments of life. A woman does not fulfil her duty to a servant when she pays her the stipulated salary each month. There is something far more important than the monetary compensation. If housewives would but recognize it, it is this very fact that makes one house a home and another a prison for so-called servant girls. This is the day of women's clubs. The Western Home Monthly would suggest as a topic for discussion at every Homemakers' Club this problem of caring for and properly assisting and instructing the girl workers.

## Our Second Problem

OUR first problem is the war; our first need is victory; our first duty sacrifice. We can solve the problem and win the victory only when the sacrifice is complete. Our all is at stake and we must, with our sons and mothers, be prepared to risk and give all. There is no condemnation too severe for the man who at this time withholds his goods and his goodwill. There is no damnation too extreme for him who seeks at such a time to grow rich at the expense of those who are making the supreme effort. There is a time in the affairs of men and nations when decision and action have eternal significance. For us that time has arrived. Our attitude and conduct towards the great problem that is nearing solution will determine our destiny as individuals and as a nation.

The second great problem which we are fronting just now, and which will be with us even in more alarming form after the war, is one that concerns ourselves alone. It is on that account none the less

serious. It is the problem of reconciling racial differences, and of blending all the elements that go to make up the nation into a coherent unity. There is a sense in which we can truthfully say that in so far as we are concerned there is little to be gained by solving the first problem unless we solve this second one as well.

There is nothing to be gained in a matter of this kind by indulging in non-committal phrases and empty platitudes. It is important that the real difficulty be realized so that it may be effectually met: Indeed there are two difficulties facing us—one of which dates back to the Conquest in 1759 and the other to a period within the memory of most of our readers. In 1759 there were in Canada two great races, the British and the French. These correspond to the two languages, English and French. In recent years there has been an influx of non-English immigrants, representing a whole host of nationalities, some of them ready to assimilate and some determined to preserve their own identity, customs and speech. It will be convenient to deal with the two problems separately.

The British government has always been lenient in its attitude to conquered peoples. It was particularly lenient in the case of Quebec, granting privileges that would have been considered absurd by any other conquering nation. Yet these were granted as privileges, and must be considered as such even after one hundred and fifty years. Even though these privileges have been greatly extended, that does not alter the fact that Canada is as yet part and parcel of the great British Empire, and that every privilege granted must be interpreted in light of that fact. To take any other view is to hold that the conquest of 1759 was not a conquest but a compromise. It is fortunately not necessary to say this, except for a few misled fatalists who recently were particularly outspoken in their utterances, with regard to recent immigration it is enough to say that privileges were also granted in some cases. The Mennonites and Doukhobors have no reason to complain that these privileges have been interfered with, and we are not aware that they have ever attempted to give a significance to the privileges that was not intended. As regards some of the other races, they came here because they considered that there were better opportunities than in their European homes. Most of them have been quite ready to learn our ways, language and customs and have been glad to accept the protection of British law. They include many of our best Canadian citizens. Unfortunately others have not been so docile. They came as conquerors, claiming equal language rights and scorning the idea of assimilation and control by Canadian or British authority. There is, indeed, in some quarters, a strong anti-British sentiment, and an arrogant bravado, that is exceedingly aggravating. One would naturally think that if an immigrant to this land were not satisfied with its laws, customs, schools and the like, he could avail himself of the privilege of returning to the land from which he came. Indeed, it is necessary to assert this most emphatically and to say, that Canada is Canadian and British and that while it welcomes all races and classes, it does so on the one condition that they become in word and in fact true and loyal subjects of the Empire, and that they give up all thought of establishing little kingdoms within the kingdom, little racial preserves that are out of harmony with the general life of the country. There would, in all probability, have been no trouble at all here but for the traitorous policy of some of our politicians, who catered to what is known as the "foreign vote."

What then is the solution to the problems? That is the great question for after the war. Fortunately it is not impossible to find a just and a sufficient answer.

## Why the Separation?

IF anything is clear, it is that conscription of men without conscription of wealth and all other resources whatsoever is wrong in principle and disastrous in practice. If there is an election to-morrow and one has to decide between a man who cannot agree to the conscription of men and a man who will not agree with the conscription of wealth, he can vote for neither. The only man worthy of a vote is the man who is equally sound on both policies. The most vexatious thing for those who read the columns of our leading political organs, is that some of them harp continually on one string and some continually on another. The man who will not send soldiers to the front is no friend of the Empire, and has no real love for democracy. The man who refuses to tax wealth and who joins with the interests in plundering the people is not worthy to hold a position in the Canadian government. Let him be "anathema." Scores of members of the Canadian parliament are unworthy of re-election. They have had years to make good and failed. The West demands this double test.