

great school of democracy, and the lessons learned there will never be forgotten in the life of those who take their part there.

Now the question for us is this: How can we preserve for Canada those lessons of devotion to a common cause, this feeling of self-respect which comes from service well rendered, and this mutual understanding and good will? The mere temporary acquisition of these has been worth while, but how much more worth while would it be to perpetuate these qualities not for three years, or for the life of the war, but for thirty years, the life of a generation! Conceive of this concerted action and mutual confidence applied to politics and statecraft, to education, to municipal affairs, to commerce and industry, and to every phase of our national existence, and think what Canada would gain thereby. Surely there must be some way in which this best that has been brought out can be made part of our permanent good.

One thing seems indisputable. All this unanimity of action springs from the feeling of individuality, and any system which seeks to perpetuate it must take into cognizance the human and individual element.

The great thing brought out by this war is that "he does his bit" not because he has to, but because he wants to. He "belongs." It is his: his war, his regiment, his trench.

Now how can we carry that feeling over? Evidently the only way is by making each man feel that he "belongs" just as much in his industry as in his regiment.

Now a great deal may be done by considering what are the causes of industrial discontent. It is not an answer to say that this strike was caused by a demand for higher wages, and that this lockout was brought about by the question of the recognition of the unions. These are only the superficial causes. Back of these are certain mental attitudes which must be clearly understood if we are ever to get at the cause of misunderstandings. Unions are only a concrete expression of individual feelings. Strikes are only a combined effort to remove a personal grievance. If both employer and employee, a company and workmen, boss and laborer, each understood and sympathetically understood the other's ideas, industrial unrest would be reduced to a minimum.

Let us look a little more closely into the things that really count, and let us find out, if possible, what are the things that are wrong in our industries, and see if there is not some way to make them right. Things are not all they should be, for if they were everybody would put the same effort into industrial service and their daily work that they now put into military service and the arts of war.

Yet war is an abnormal condition, and peace is normal. If we could put this same energy we now expend into the every day work of life, our conditions of life would be vastly improved and most of our ideals would be easily realized. The war has made men better simply because it has brought out the best that was already in them. It has shown us certain conditions of life which bring out that best. Can we make this habit of mind and these mutual relations permanent? Can we perpetuate this self respect, this feeling of individual responsibility, this confidence in our fellows, this belief in an attainable ideal, and this willingness to do our best to secure it? That is our problem.

Some loss of enthusiasm is certain. When the "tumult and the shouting dies" it is inevitable that the personal vigor and exaltation, the discipline and unanimity of purpose must suffer. These are collective virtues in which the "mass action" plays its part. Yet the other lessons of self reliance, of mutual confidence, of orderly habit, of personal pride in one's work have been deeply ingrained in the minds of many thousand men. These men will come back to work, bringing these changed personalities to their old tasks. Unless we can meet them half way, see things from their side and get them to see things from the other side, all this good is lost.

Can we not retain some of it? I think we can. Rigg thinks we can. What do you think about it?

PROFESSOR WILLIAM NICOL

It is given to few men to accomplish so much for his university and for his country as has been done by Professor William Nicol, whose state of health has made it necessary for him to retire from the chair of mineralogy in Queen's.

Professor Nicol is one of a small group of men to whose indefatigable and unselfish labors the School of Mining at Queen's owes its very existence. Early in its history he set himself to create for the use of the students a collection of minerals that should represent the mineral industries of Canada, actual and possible, and that should be theirs while they were students of Queen's. As a result of his labors there is now available such a collection for students' use as cannot be duplicated, it is safe to say, in any university in America. Other results of Professor Nicol's activities are the unique large scale specimens of economic minerals—specimens, one may say, on the ton scale—for some of them weigh over a ton. While he has never allowed himself to sacrifice the interests of the students to the display features of a museum, he has nevertheless been able to make the museum of economic minerals in Ontario Hall a place of real beauty and general interest.

Professor Nicol's students are known everywhere for their thorough and extensive knowledge of minerals—a result of his exact scholarship and enthusiasm as a teacher. But they honor him not only as a teacher, but as a sympathetic, generous and true-hearted friend.

For a quarter of a century Professor Nicol has given such service to his university. To this he has added many gifts of a more tangible kind. It is a well-known fact that often when the university purse was empty Professor Nicol has not spared his own pocket, when he saw an opportunity of adding to the mineral collections or otherwise usefully extending the equipment of his department. His name will always be associated with the home of the metallurgy department, Nicol Hall, the building of which was made possible by his generosity.

Professor Nicol's extensive knowledge of minerals, and, one may be permitted to add, his skill in acquiring the choicest specimens of them, have brought him into intimate association with the mining men of Canada and the United States. He has always been a welcome guest in the mining camps, where his jollity and good stories are well known. Mining men and all his other hosts of friends will join the Journal in expressing regret that he is obliged to retire from active work and in adding the hope that he may long be spared to enjoy his well-earned leisure.