

it has done in Russia, but Canada is not Russia, and ought to be able to elect her own rulers in representative assemblies. That may come some day. In the meantime the main duty for Canada is to stand unitedly against militarism as incarnated in Prussian junkerdom. Once that task is finished in the annihilation of the doctrine of brute force as worthy to control the world, we can clean up some of the matters here that must not be allowed to get a foothold in a new country.

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS

There is much controversy in the papers in regard to the Bible in the public schools. There is room for wide discussion of the subject. But it is interesting to recall that Huxley, the high priest of agnosticism, once frankly stated that in some way he could not very well define, the stability of the British Empire was bound up with its attitude towards the Book. And so he would advocate the use of it in schools. It seems strange that children should be barred by the State from school study of a literature before which all other writing pales into insignificance.

Rudyard Kipling: A Lecture

By R W. DOUGLAS

Someone has said that Kipling cannot be classed with any writer of his own age or of any literary age in the past. His tremendous strength, his creative faculty, even his mannerisms are his own, and while his style has been often imitated, he seems to have copied nobody. He is today the greatest—much the greatest—figure in contemporary literature. It is true that during the last few years prior to the great war, there was some talk, here and there, about the dwindling popularity of the author of "Plain Tales From the Hills." It was to ascertain the truth concerning this that a certain journal, a little while ago, requested its readers to name their favorite living poets. The result was astonishing and sufficiently set the matter at rest. Kipling headed the list with 22,630 votes, and his nearest competitor only received 5,598 votes, and only three others received more than a thousand. In any case the overwhelming majority for Kipling in this referendum is indisputable, and it shows that among people who are so far interested in literature as to take the trouble to register their preference he can easily maintain his position. It is not hard, indeed, to understand why this should be so,—Kipling had written with splendid enthusiasm and great exuberance of strength about the big things in life. His graphic power enabled his readers to realize the life led by real men. His pages were filled with the language used by soldiers, New England fishermen, men of the navy, gentlemen rovers, Canadian troopers, Australians, and all the members of that legion that never was "listed." Kipling marks in a measure the beginning of a new era, since his success in introducing the private soldier, with his simple philosophy and complex personality, did much to broaden the popular taste, and made people bolder, and more independent in their literary likes and dislikes. It can be said that the age needed such a man. So sweeping was his triumph, that even among those people who professed nothing but contempt for everything but the most abstruse in poetry, it was permitted to extol fearlessly the ringing verses of the Bard of Empire. Perhaps it was ow-