

does it stand alone. It is an integral part of a great movement for improving the conditions of life in Ontario. Intemperance, in Mr. Rowell's view, is the foe of progress. In business it is fast becoming a bar to promotion, and even to employment. Similarly, it is a hindrance to education, to physical, intellectual and moral development. It is the enemy of social justice because it disqualifies the victim of injustice for asserting his rights and attaining his true position. Every advance in temperance means an advance in the standard of living, in education, in freedom, in enlightenment.

Temperance measures are often referred to as measures of repression or restraint. Mr. Rowell regards them rather as measures of freedom and development.

For the Workers.

In the same spirit, Mr. Rowell advocates the establishment of a Labor Department, whose head would be an enthusiast in labor reform, a man of the type of Lloyd George. It would not be necessary for workingmen to besiege such a minister with deputations. He would be always, of his own accord, studying labor conditions, watching the progress of labor legislation in other countries, thinking out plans of his own, taking the initiative, and keeping in close touch with the industrial community. He would, through the factory laws, improve the conditions of labor for young workers, and give them better opportunities for exchange. He would try to devise some plan for lessening the evils of unemployment.

And the Farmers.

So much for the needs of the workers in cities and towns. The great agricultural industry of Ontario also requires attention. Something is wrong with country life in Ontario. The cost of food has so increased as to cause serious hardship to those whose incomes are small. Yet the farmers are not thriving as they should, and the rural districts are being depopulated. Mr. Rowell would inquire into these evils, and see if a remedy can be proposed. He would select a progressive man, a man of ideas, for Minister of Agriculture, and greatly increase the usefulness of that department to the farmers of Ontario. Here is a splendid field for administrative work. The present ministry does not seem to grasp the idea, and is making the work of the Department of Agriculture more and more a matter of routine.