

Distribution of State Aid

The following words form an address delivered in the House of Congress by the representative from Oklahoma might well have been uttered in the House of Commons at Ottawa, for it is fully as applicable to our conditions as to conditions in the United States.

"We must spend more within and less without. Improve the conditions within, and we will have no fear from without.

"Internal improvements, in which the plain people have a deep and immediate interest, rather than a remote one, will do more to keep us a happy, closely united, and contented people than all the subsidies paid to railroads, to mail-ships and steamships, to tariff subsidies and high duties laid on the one least able to bear and for the benefit of the class least in need. I tell you, sir, the American people will not sit idly by and be ground down by inequalities and iniquities for which you can give no good or adequate answer.

"Millions for post-offices and public buildings for a few towns of the country and no assistance for the post-roads and the little towns, will not satisfy them, and is wrong as well.

"You have arranged tariff schedules for the manufacturer, so that his riches are greater than he ever anticipated. You have subsidized the railroads with land grants until they have grown corpulent with wealth. You have increased the appropriations for the war and navy until the patience of this citizenship is almost exhausted, and now, when asked to do something for the plain citizen, who produces more every year than he himself consumes, this bill will, and deserves to be, the most popular bill passed. It is the starting of a great improvement that will go on and on after we are gone. We shall all be proud of the beginning."

Out of Work

One authority estimates that in New York city there were this winter 350,000 people out of work. In Philadelphia the figure was placed at 75,000; in Washington at 15,000. Chicago, with more destitute than ever before in its history has 150,000 idle. Roughly speaking one in thirty of the whole population of the United States is out of work. In Canadian cities there are likewise thousands of unemployed. These include those who had summer jobs on farms, and those who were occupied at summer trades.

It may be that conditions are a little worse than usual, but every winter witnesses something of the same kind. The problem of continuous labor is one that must be solved if the increase in the army of hopeless, houseless men is to be checked. If nothing else can be devised there may well be instituted for those who are worthy a scheme of insurance against non-employment.

But not all are worthy. To illustrate this consider this from a reputable American paper.

"At Portland 500 men who had been receiving shelter at the expense of the city were offered work. Only fifty applied, and of these but twelve appeared at the place where work was furnished. Seven of the twelve quit during the first hour. In other words, five of the unemployed, or 1 per cent of the total number receiving shelter, remained at work long enough to earn \$1.50.

"At San Francisco the number of the unemployed is estimated at 15,000, but only 800 of them, or less than 6 per cent, appeared for work when they were given a chance to wield pick and shovel."

Another paper equally reliable puts it in this way:

"It is easy to conclude that the unemployed are a worthless lot of loafers, but this is not so; they are of all sorts. In the treatment of criminals we are beginning to differentiate with a view to reclaiming those who can be reclaimed; might not a little of the same careful inspection and testing be given to men whose only offence is to be out of a job? One might almost fancy that the aim of the authorities was to make work so repulsive as to drive away as many as possible of the men seeking it. In factories efficiency experts have learned that men must be as carefully selected for the coarse heavy work as for finer employment; even in a penitentiary convicts of delicate physique are set to the lighter tasks. But it seems to be assumed that unemployment automatically gives the strength, knack, and endurance needed for hard manual labor, or else that only common laborers can be out of work."

The more it is considered, the more evident does it seem to be that society cannot be built up on the foundation of pure individualism. Each for all, is a principle that must be recognized if community life is to endure. Government as representing the community is bound to exercise beneficent watch care over every individual, helping the distressed, caring for the unfortunate, and the aged, isolating the diseased and the dangerous.

Immigration from the United States

They are getting quite excited in the United States over the exodus of good citizens to Canada. It seems that Canadians have been spending \$60,000 a year in advertising the advantages of the Western Provinces, and naturally thousands have been responding. Mr. William J. White, the Canadian Government's advertising agent, and a gentleman who is known to many in our provinces, pleads guilty to the charge of advertising, and has these very sensible words to utter in extenuation of his offence.

"We have done a great deal of advertising in Iowa with good results, but we have not lassoed anybody, and I believe that on the whole those who have gone to Canada from Iowa have been benefited. They sold their farms in Iowa at a much higher price per acre than they could obtain just as good lands for in Canada, and in that way have enlarged their holdings, and I have heard little or no complaint from them. We try to aid would-be emigrants by pointing out the best agricultural lands and assisting them to locate."

It seems that many of the American papers are making the best of the inevitable. Some are saying that there is a counter-immigration going on all the time, though this is denied by Canadian authorities, others are saying that it is well for settlers from America to better their condition and at the same time to become factors in shaping the destinies of a new land. For instance the Washington Post says:

"She is willing to give away land that isn't worth much now, knowing that the only way it will ever increase in value is by populating the country. There are few of the restrictions against business there that exist here. Canada is advertising her liberal policies and is reaping the same reward that was reaped by the United States when our policies were more liberal than they are now."

Canada is pleased to receive good American citizens. They make good Canadians.

Being true to democratic ideals, they are needed to assist in offsetting the tendency on the part of some of our immigrants to reproduce in this country the political and religious ideals of Central and Southern Europe.

Government by Experts

The recent report on the National Transcontinental Railway, is no doubt highly-colored, but there is enough in it to demonstrate that the Canadian system of administering public affairs is nonsensical in the extreme. The Western Home Monthly has always held that we cannot have good government until all great departments are administered by experts, rather than by men picked up in the accidents of political warfare. As an illustration, ask what the Ministers of Militia since Confederation really have known about their work. They haven't known enough to take advice from those who were competent to give it. In local matters the same may be said in a general way of Ministers of Public Works, Education and Finance. The average legislator is about as able to prepare legislation dealing with social reform as an elephant is to take charge of a brood of chickens. The day is coming when all legislation will be submitted to experts in various departments, before being crystallized into Acts of Parliament. There are about twenty pieces of legislation in Canada that would never have been enacted, if men who really knew had been consulted. But then legislators do not always want to do what is right, they want to do what is expedient.

Bears and Bulls

Every man who is in a competitive occupation knows how he must "boost" his wares. The drummer knows his work. Would it not be well for us to develop national drummers? Would it not be a good idea to have every man "a bull" in the national exchange? We can all act in this capacity with a clear conscience, for we have the land and the opportunities. More than this, if we begin to extol our land, we shall begin to take greater pride in it, and shall be less tolerant of forces that make for national decline. A man who courageously fights evil is always to be commended, but the chronic kicker and fault finder in a country like this deserves no consideration. It is a privilege to live here, to breathe the fresh air, to feel the spirit of optimism, to see things growing. We can all with clear conscience parade our wares and extol their merits.

Keeping Up His Records

It is quite wonderful what a single good strong man can do. This is well illustrated in the work of President Woodrow Wilson. The President also illustrates one other thing—that no man is so popular as he who takes the absolutely straight course. Both in the United States and Canada political leaders have followed the insane policy that it is possible to retain popular favor and to continue in office only through working hand in hand with powerful interests or through compromising with evil. In every Western province to-day the man who will adopt an honest, courageous policy, who will stand unflinchingly for righteousness, national honor and integrity, and equal rights to all, will carry the people with him. All temporizing expedients are an evidence of weakness, and the people look at it in this way. When will we as a people learn our lesson? Can we not produce a man of like courage and wisdom?