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**MR. MEIGHEN ON RACE DEVELOPMENT.**

A Masonic gathering in Toronto, last week, heard an impressive address by Mr. Arthur Meighen, former prime minister of Canada, on what he is reported to have described as "the gravest peril confronting the world today." Statistics show that the increase in the human race is more rapid among the less intellectual classes. Mr. Meighen urged the necessity of a more substantial increase in "the educated and intellectual members of the race." The disparity of increase, as compared with the rapid rate of increase among the classes controlled by impulse rather than intellect, has impressed Mr. Meighen as a menacing situation.

Perhaps Mr. Meighen's sincere concern for this seeming tendency in the human race may inspire him to examine more courageously into some of the economic conditions which tend to discourage the increase of educated and intellectual members of the race. It would seem to be, after all, by fearless leadership in economic reform that present day statesmen can make the most immediate, practical contribution to the solving of the problem.

There must surely be need for readjustment of the economic system, under which all civilized countries operate, when such discouraging tendencies are being produced under it. The number of educated and intellectual members, presumably people governed by reason rather than by impulse, could be rapidly increased in every free country, and probably would be, if people were relieved of the fear of poverty.

Most parents would like to see their children well educated. But, under an economic system which tends to discourage the building of more public schools, which also tends to keep the teaching profession overworked and underpaid, and to hurry the children into city industries and wage-earning occupations, people in industrial countries seem to be struggling in a continuous spiral of inflated prices, high cost of living, unemployment and war. At least, and perhaps at most, the nation's leaders could help to remove economic barriers that tend to discourage the growth of an educated, reasoning people.

There is no sane reason why there should be any lack of the necessities of life, good homes, clean environment, abundant food, clothing and other domestic supplies in such countries as Canada, where the people are capable of producing at least five times as much as they consume, under a more effective system of distribution. Control of human impulses is perhaps beyond the realm of eurent statesmanship. But an increase in the facilities and opportunities for building more good homes in Canada is something immediately possible and practical. It would surely be welcomed, too, by some political leaders if it meant getting away from the futile disputes about tariffs up and down, the rights of capital and labor, and the alleged conflicting interests of country and city dwellers.

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