

Like the rows of the upper and lower teeth,—

We are made for co-operation."

It was with this purpose in view, that I made the suggestion that I am about to read to you, for your consideration. I hope I am a man of good-will, and, like all men of good-will, I am as they should be, concerned with after-the-war conditions, which, like coming events, cast their shadows before them. I see, as an aftermath, Disemployment, and consequent Suffering, and it seems to me that it behooves us all to bestir ourselves, and not be backward in offering suggestions, calculated to lessen the force of the calamity.

It is agreed that governments will have to branch out into undertakings, which, in pre-war days, were considered the domain of private enterprise only. This will be particularly true of Canada, driven the retro by the lack of Capital borrowings from abroad. Canada will have to depend largely upon its own resources. Canada is mortgaged to the hilt, Federal, Provincial and Municipal debts coupled with those of individual citizens, if tabulated, would run into staggering figures, and further, we cannot escape the hampering effect of the world debt, which our statesmen speak of as though it were only National, and, therefore, only National in its effects. But Nations cannot live to themselves any more than individuals. If our high-brows would only awake to this fact, or even the people themselves, it would be the beginning of better things. Therefore, Canada must exploit its resources to the utmost. Canada has the labor power, though depleted. It has, also, almost inexhaustible natural resources: It will be short of capital: how can we overcome that handicap? There is one way, we must pool our savings, and co-operatively produce wealth for the common wealth. Individually, the workers' savings are small, but, collectively pooled, they are as the quotation:—

"Little drops of water, little grains of sand,

Make the ocean, and the pleasant le

I understand that the people's savings in the post office and banks, in 1917-18, amounted to one and a quarter billion dollars, largely deposited by the workers, a small interest, and re-loaned by the banks to the Capitalists, at a large profit, and used by them to employ the workers at a further profit, quite justified too, under the circumstances.

The workers can impel the Government to act, by simply offering to co-operate in financing Government-controlled industries. Only in this way can work be found for our returned soldier-workers, able to work, and provide proper care for those unable to work. Our pooled mites would make a muck, and could be supplemented by a tax on monopoly privilege,—unearned increment—and retaining income and excess-profit taxes, we could make this a condition of our co-operation. But I believe that the present Government would give full consideration to our proposals based on practical lines.

The following is the subject matter on which I invite your suggestions and co-operation:—

"Discussion, both in the Commons and in the Senate, as well as "outside" reveals a questioning and pessimistic attitude, relative to industrial and financial conditions, following on the heels of Peace.

I refrain from entering into the economics of the question now, however, I venture to offer a suggestion or two, for your consideration, namely, that Parliament, immediately following Peace, or prior to that time, at its discretion, issue to working-men, only, short term industrial bonds, at par, bearing, say 5 per cent. interest. The proceeds to be exclusively devoted to constructing good roads, prospecting and developing our mineral resources, ship-building, railway equipment, or any other "Industrials", wholly under Government control or Government management, or which would be willing to subject themselves to Government control.