

**Prominent Topics.**

**Penalising Loyalty Among Children.** The son of a British subject living in New York has been expelled from a public school, because while willing to salute the American flag, he refused to profess allegiance to the United States. In free countries like the British Empire there is no necessity to dragoon and bully children into changing their allegiance. An American child can attend any school in Canada from a kindergarten to a high school without being required to forswear his allegiance and without being examined regarding his political convictions. According to a recent estimate based upon United States Census returns, there are about 3,889,169 British subjects residing in the United States, contributed as follows:

England . . . . .	892,908
Scotland . . . . .	268,686
Wales . . . . .	84,252
Ireland . . . . .	1,378,428
Canada and Newfoundland . . . . .	1,221,960
West Indies . . . . .	17,710
Australia . . . . .	8,638
India . . . . .	13,987
Other British dependencies . . . . .	13,600

The British-born population of New York city is 401,409, made up as follows:

England . . . . .	79,662
Scotland . . . . .	31,200
Wales . . . . .	1,734
Ireland . . . . .	257,550
Canada . . . . .	27,336
Other British dependencies . . . . .	3,927

How freedom must shriek at the thought of nearly four millions of people being permitted to learn their "A.B.C." in Uncle Sam's schools without renouncing their allegiance to an effete monarchy! However, the fact that there are so few expulsions shows that not all the American school authorities are fools. Perhaps if we had a presidential election every four years, some of our school authorities would go daft or pretend to be daft in presidential election years.

**Child Welfare Exhibition.** The Child Welfare Exhibition now being held in the Montreal Drill Hall is attracting enormous crowds every day. It is doing good work in two ways, one in arousing public interest in all that pertains to the physical, moral and economic welfare of the children, and another in educating the people upon these questions. It serves to emphasise the fact that there is a great waste of human life and lessening of profitable human energies which can be averted by intelligent care for the young. In some respects, Montreal has a most unenviable prominence among the big cities of this continent. For instance, it has the biggest mortality from tuberculosis of all the cities, the statistics of which are shown. There are many other equally preventable diseases making havoc among our people. The exhibition as a whole is an interesting object lesson in the right ways and wrong ways of city life. It shows striking contrasts

in a most effective and impressive fashion. Although it is impossible to regard such questions entirely from an economic point of view, it has an economic side of vast importance. Human sympathy itself may be and often is unscientific and blundering, but it has an economic value by no means to be despised. To carry out all the reforms suggested by the exhibition will call for much money, much sympathetic labor and untiring perseverance, but they ought to be all forthcoming. Most of the suffering of children is due to no fault of their own, but to the ignorance and neglect of others. The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children. Most of the suffering is undreamt of by people who are well off, but who would never rest in peace if they only knew what privation, neglect and physical suffering there are among the children of the very poor. They may get rid of their responsibility for the condition of the men and women of the slums, at least to their own satisfaction, by asking with the first murderer, "Am I my brother's keeper?" They cannot dispose of their responsibility to the children in this way, even to their own satisfaction. In this connection a special responsibility attaches to all in authority, but it does not begin or end with them. Not even ignorance can be successfully pleaded. If we do not know about the conditions existing and barely hinted at by the Child Welfare Exhibition, we ought to know; we ought to make it our business to know. We can at least do our own duty, and part of that is to make our public representatives do theirs. A slaughter of the innocents is going on day after day and year after year, and we have not discharged our responsibility in the matter when we have published the mortality statistics. That insurance companies are taking an active part in effective social work of this kind is one refutation of the oft-quoted allegation that refers to "soulless corporations."

**Subsidised Motor Lorries.**

The British War Office has elaborated a scheme for subsidising motor lorries capable of carrying thirty hundred-weights or three tons, so that a large number of these vehicles may be available for the transportation of troops and army supplies. To encourage people to use motor lorries a system of premiums and annual subsidies has been arranged. Provision is also made for the Government purchasing the lorries. There is a fear that the railways would not be equal to the task of transporting the troops with their artillery, ammunition and supplies in case of a sudden invasion, and that motor cars will do the work with less fear of the routes being blocked. England is an ideal country for the experiment, because of its good roads. A similar system here might lead to a great improvement in the roads, as well as cheapening the transportation of farm produce and other freight.