

THE PRINCE'S VISIT

THE visit of the Prince of Wales to Western Canada was, in many ways, a noteworthy event, and it undoubtedly did much to intensify the friendly feeling that exists between this country and the Motherland. The best thing about the visit was the behaviour of the Prince. As future sovereign of the Empire, he made it his aim to mingle with and understand all sorts and conditions of men, so that in his administrative capacity he might be a friend to all and an enemy of none. He was equally at home with and equally loved by soldiers and civilians. He could find enjoyment on the golf course or at the vice-regal ball. He could mingle with the members of government and feel equally at ease among the cowboy or even the Indians of the plains. He was a true cosmopolitan and a democrat of the democrats. If in some quarters there was an attempt to limit his smiles and favors to the wealthy or to officialdom, he was not a party to it. He came to us and left the impression that he is a pure, fresh young soul without affectation or pride, but rich in human feeling and kindly in his thoughts and deeds. Because of this we honor him and we are proud to know that Britain's King will still be the first gentleman in the land.

THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRY

IT would be impossible to find a land which has greater natural beauty than the land in which we live. The forests, the fields and the lakes vie with each other in their appeals to the eye, and each has its own music to delight the ear. Yet it is not uncommon to find men and women who are blind and deaf to it all. They are surrounded by beauty and they see it not, they are living in a world of music and hear it not. It is all there for them to appreciate and yet they never make it their own.

Now, there is nothing more educative and more refining than communion with Nature.

"A breath of unadumbrate air,
The glimpse of a green pasture, how they cheer
The citizen, and brace his languid frame!
Even in the stifling bosom of the town,
A garden in which nothing thrives, has charms
That soothe the rich possessor."

And this great work of Nature, how it leads him who studies it up to Nature's God.

"He looks abroad into the varied field
Of Nature, and though poor perhaps, compared
With those whose mansions glitter in his sight,
Calls the delightful scenery all his own.
His are the mountains, and the valleys his,
And the resplendent rivers. His to enjoy
With a propriety that none can feel,
But who, with filial confidence inspired
Can lift to Heaven an unassuming eye
And smiling say: 'My Father made them all!'"

It is a mistake to go through life with the eyes cast downwards. We are meant to look upward to the skies and onward to the hills. It is a mistake to keep our thoughts cast downwards to our ledgers and our vaults. They should dwell upon the glories and the beauties of the universe. It is a mistake to teach children that the first duty of life is to save and to hoard. They should first learn to love and appreciate. That man is not rich who has only natural wealth to boast; he is rich beyond the telling if he revels in the truth, if he appreciates the beautiful, if his deeds are kindly.

One of the greatest things parents in the West can do for their children is to enjoy with them the beauties of Nature. How many have been driven from the farm because its beauties have been overlooked! Every year boys and girls are flocking into the city to get away from the miserable unattractive life on the farms, though farm life may be and often is the finest, freest, fullest life possible. A young man will stay on the farm if he finds in it something attractive. That is the beginning and end of the philosophy of keeping boys in the country. Any farmer who starves the souls of his children deserves that they should leave him. There is a divinity which watches over young people and which protects them even against parental neglect or error. Every boy is born with a capacity and a desire to enjoy the beauties of Nature. He will not be denied his right. The mercenary farmer, who appeals to only the lowest in his children will lose their respect, and when they grow old enough to leave, he will lose their company. Therefore, let men and women because of the effect upon themselves, and because of the effect upon children, live in communion with the beautiful.

"Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege
Through all the years of this our life to lead
From joy to joy; for she can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts; that neither evil tongues,

Editorial

Rash judgments, nor the sneers of selfish men,
Nor greetings where no kindness is, nor all
The dreary intercourse of daily life,
Shall e'er prevail against us or disturb
Our cheerful faith, that all which we behold
Is full of blessings."

THE BOARD OF COMMERCE

THE appointment of the Board of Commerce was intended to regulate and perhaps reduce the cost of high living. There are indications that it will in a measure effect its purpose. It must be given time to make investigations and too much must not be expected of it, for though it may reveal much that is generally unknown it cannot do the impossible. It cannot, for instance, make a dollar worth more than sixty or seventy cents. For a dollar is worth just what it will buy, and for many, many years it will not buy as much as it did previous to the war. The reasons are obvious.

When the war broke out prices increased because there were fewer people to engage in industry, because thousands of factories were closed, because millions of acres of land were impossible of cultivation, and because transportation of supplies was practically prohibited. Naturally prices advanced. Fortunately the standard was fixed for wheat, and this in a measure fixed all other prices.

When prices of necessities doubled workers began to demand higher wages. This caused manufacturers to increase the cost of their wares. This led to further demands from the workers, and this was met by a further increase in the selling price of goods. And so the thing proceeded in a never-ending cycle—higher wages, higher cost; still higher wages, still higher cost. And so on for ever.

The matter was complicated by the attitude of labor, which demanded a shorter working day at a time when the world needed twice the normal production. It was further complicated by the fact that in many lines workmen refused to do as much work as formerly in a given time. One bricklayer says he used to lay 2,000 units in a day. Now his union will not permit him to go beyond 900. It may be this is an over-statement. A manufacturer informed me last week that before the war he paid his men 55 cents an hour and they did 175 units of work per week. Now they get 80 cents an hour and do only 100 units of work. As a result he has to charge two and one half times as much for his goods as formerly and yet not make the same profit. People who have to buy in these times must have larger incomes. Otherwise they will starve.

There are always some wage-earners such as preachers, teachers, book-keepers and clerks who are outside the circle. They are the people who feel the squeeze most of all. They have to pay the increased cost of production and have little or no increase in salary to meet it. Nor can they increase their production nor of their own accord raise their wage. As the chief sufferers at this time they began to place the blame where it seems to belong. At first they vented their wrath upon producers and distributors—farmers, manufacturers, packers, clothiers, and retail merchants. Now they are beginning to accuse labor, as well. Can anyone blame them?

Apart, however, from the increases due to the causes mentioned there have been abnormal increases brought about in other ways. The trusts have flourished—meat trusts, flour trusts, fruit trusts and the like. It is unnecessary to repeat what is common knowledge and belief. It is for the Board of Commerce to get at the real facts of the case.

Even such a Board will not and can not get to the root of matters. Preventive and restrictive legislation and punitive measures will not remedy a wrong moral attitude, and that is where the trouble lies. Germany died through her world ambition. We are likely to perish because of common greed. And if the greed and injustice continue we deserve to perish for we are as faulty in a personal and social way as Germany was in a national way. No nation can live where class is arranged against class and where each man thinks it no crime to rob his neighbor.

When a scale of remuneration is once fairly fixed, as depending upon amount and quality of service, it should rise and fall automatically with the price of necessities of life. This should apply all around and not only to such as chance to belong to unions. The only union worth anything is the One Big Union of Canadian citizens. Anything less inclusive, whether a union of all employers or all workers is not to be trusted. It will of necessity be biased in its actions and utterances and unfair in its demands.

In these troublous times the nation that first learns the art of living together is the nation that will thrive.

PASSING THE BUCK

THIS is a very pleasant pastime. It was never better illustrated than in the matter of the discussion of the high cost of living. The man in the street says, "Why don't you get after the big interests?" The retailer says, "Get after the wholesale men." The wholesalers say, "Our profit is only 1/4 of a cent a pound. Get after the farmers." The farmers say, "Get after the manufacturers of clothing, boots and shoes." And so it goes. The following is a fair sample of the method:

"E. C. Drury, Crown Hill, prominent in the United Farmers of Ontario, speaking at a convention of the United Farmers of Simcoe, at Elmville, on Saturday, when H. G. Murdoch was nominated, attacked W. F. O'Connor, vice-chairman of the board of commerce. He declared that the agitation by 'that man O'Connor' against the price of foodstuffs was simply a red herring drawn across the trail of the real high cost of living at the behest of the manufacturers. The high cost of living, he said, applies to all articles, and yet not the slightest move had been made against the cotton combine, with its 310 per cent profits; the woolen manufacturers, with their 74 per cent profits and the milling trade, with its enormous profits. The only thing O'Connor was tackling was the food stuffs. 'The farmers have produced every ounce of food possible,' he said. 'Has there been any combine to raise the selling price? Absolutely none.'"

It may be that we are mistaken in Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Robson, but we have the impression that before they get done they will go the whole round. Because of this they will have enemies in plenty. Also there will be laid before them all sorts of figures, explanations which tell how a gain of 67 per cent, is in reality a loss, and how a yield of 4,000 bushels of wheat of necessity means a loss of several thousand dollars. Really, the thing to worry over is not the high cost of living, but the fact that in Canadian industry there is so much heartless greed and so much misrepresentation of actual conditions.

SETTLE IT IN A NEW WAY

THE world has attempted up to this date to settle its problems by fighting to a finish. It is now proposed to settle differences by an appeal to reason. That is the meaning of the League of Nations. The following words by General Smuts is, perhaps, the best summing up of the situation that has been made. Let every pessimist read and consider:

"If the future peace of the world is to be maintained, it will not be sufficient merely to erect an institution for the purpose of settling international disputes after they have arisen; it will be necessary to devise an instrument of government which will deal with the causes and sources of disputes. The need is there and the end of the great war has brought an unequalled opportunity for dealing with it. For not only are men's minds prepared for the new peaceful order, but the sweeping away of the Imperial system of Europe leaves the space vacant which the new institution must occupy. The need, political and psychological, is imperative; the opportunity is unique; and only the blindness of statesmen could now prevent the coming of the new institution, which will, more than anything else, reconcile the peoples to the sufferings they have endured during this war. It will be the only fitting monument to our heroic dead. It will be the great response to the age-long cry from human heart for 'Peace on earth, goodwill among men.' It will nobly embody and express the universal spirit which must heal the deep, self-inflicted wounds of humanity. And it must be the wise regulator, the steadying influence in the forward movement now set going among the nations of the earth."

"For there is no doubt that mankind is once more on the move. The very foundations have been shaken and loosened, and things are again fluid. The tents have been struck, and the great caravan of humanity is once more on the march. Vast social and industrial changes are coming, perhaps upheavals which may, in their magnitude and effects, be comparable to the war itself. A steadying, controlling, regulating influence will be required to give stability to progress, and to remove that wasteful friction which has dissipated so much social force in the past, and in this war more than ever before. These great functions could only be adequately fulfilled by the League of Nations. Responding to such vital needs and coming at such a unique opportunity in history, it may well be destined to mark a new era in the Government of Man, and become to the peoples the guarantee of Peace, to the workers of all races the great International, and to all the embodiment and living expression of the moral and spiritual unity of the human race."

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