

The Philosopher

"Their Name Liveth Forevermore"

There has come to The Philosopher's table a copy of the report of Sir Frederick Kenyon, adviser to the Imperial War Graves Commission, entitled "War Graves—How the Cemetery Plots Will be Designed." The policy decided upon is one which will unquestionably find the same approval throughout the whole Empire as it has already found in Great Britain. The principle of equality is to prevail. The graves of all who have fallen in the war are to be alike. The present scattered graves, of which there are about 150,000, are to be removed from their present places to central cemeteries; otherwise many such graves would in time be lost trace of. Now they will all be cared for reverently. The Graves Registration Commission will take care of the identifications. France, Belgium, Italy and Greece are providing land in perpetuity for the British war cemeteries, and are "adopting" the dead. In some of these cemeteries there will be many thousands of graves; in others but a few score. The same kindly care will be given to each. All are to be enclosed and adorned with trees and flower plots. There will be a central cross and memorial stone in each, engraved with the verse from Ecclesiastes, suggested by Rudyard Kipling: "Their name liveth forevermore." A colonnade will shelter the register of the names of the men sleeping their last sleep. Over each grave will be a headstone with the regimental of battalion badge, and an inscription with the name, rank and date of death, etc. In the years to come many tens of thousands of relatives and friends of the dead will visit those cemeteries. To all beholders the sight of them and the thought of the brave men who gave their lives in defense of freedom and human rights will be an enduring reminder of the terrible cause of war and should be an effectual warning against the recurrence in the world of any such tragedy, which has caused such an incalculable amount of human anguish since August, 1914, and has left a legacy of bereavement and mourning.

The Men Back from the Front

The honor roll of Canadians who won the Victoria Cross (many of whom died in the winning of it) is a glorious record of which Canada will ever be justly proud. Many hundreds of Canadians did deeds worthy of the Victoria Cross, but by the fortune of war, did not receive it. Many thousands of them gave proof again and again of the steadfast, unflinching courage which looks death squarely in the face and goes forward to the discharge of duty, without counting of the cost. Every man back from the front deserves the best that Canada can do for him. The country owes a heavy debt of gratitude to them all, which it can never fully pay. What the returned soldier needs is not pity, but opportunity—not coddling, but a square deal. He is entitled to that, in part return of the service he has given. He is entitled to patient consideration during the period of readjusting himself to civilian life again, after his experiences at the front. And, in this connection, it must not be forgotten that once he has passed through that period, his training at the front adds immensely to his value as a citizen. At the front he has lived the community life and learned the lesson of devotion to the general welfare. His experiences in the war have given him some of the most valuable qualities of good citizenship.

The Problems of Immigration

The whole question of immigration, to which in the years before the war too little serious thought was given by the people of this country, is one that now compels the most earnest thought which every Canadian who is really concerned for the future welfare of Canada can give it. The era when practically any kind of people who would come and help to fill up the vast emptiness of the Great Lone Land were eagerly welcomed, has vanished forever into the past. Never again will there be such indiscriminate admission of human elements into the great Western Canadian melting pot, with little or no thought given to the question of their suitability to assimilation in the mass of Canadian citizenship. The years when steamship companies were busy in attracting home-seekers to this country, seeking to fill the steerage of their ships on every westward voyage across the Atlantic with human freight, on which they made a profit of so much per head, can never come back. The multifarious agencies that worked for quantity more than for quality in the immigration to the Prairie Provinces have had their day. A new era has come, in which the quality more than the number of the immigrants who are to be admitted will claim careful attention. Only those may come in who are the stuff which will develop into good Canadian citizenship.

A Man of the People

Lloyd George, triumphantly returned to power as the executive head of the people of Great Britain, is destined to have a leading part in the shaping of the new world order. The free peoples of the world will look to him with confidence to prove himself the steadfast champion of the essential, fundamental principles of democracy for which he has hitherto stood. Born a poor village lad, he has raised himself to a position of greater power and responsibility than has ever before been held by any man in history. No other man ever carried a greater weight of responsibility than he had to bear as virtual dictator at the head of the British Government during the war. Through it all he has been true to the principles which have guided his career from the beginning. Macaulay, who was a great man of incurably Whiggish mind, talked of "the higher and middling orders being the natural representatives of the human race." They are the sole natural representatives of the needs of the human race. As Lloyd George said in one of his speeches of seven or eight years ago, when he was doing battle so strenuously for the principles of democracy: "It is not the upper classes, but the people who are truly to be said to compose the human race; what is not of the people is of so small concern as hardly worth the trouble of counting." What Lloyd George had in mind, of course, was the truth enunciated by John Bright, when he said that "the nation in every country dwells in the cottage." Is not this the outstanding human truth which has been proved by the war?

In Regard to Democracy

Belgium has passed a universal suffrage law. This is not a thing to be wondered at. Belgium has reason, if any country ever had, to realize the value of democracy. Even Central Europe, having also learned its lesson as to the value of democracy, is making progress in the work of sweeping away the whole antiquated structure of class franchises, which until the triumph of democracy in the war had a strangle-hold on most of the countries between the Baltic and the Adriatic. The war has blown to pieces the remnants of the old doctrine which until near the end of the eighteenth century ruled in every land without exception, that the masses could not be trusted in the exercise of political rights. The whole world knows now, and future generations will never forget it, that upper-class minorities are not to be trusted in a monopoly of political rights. When the smoke of the war clears away finally, every man in every land in Europe will have a vote. And an increasing number of countries will follow the lead of Great Britain in giving women the vote as well. Democracy means government of the people, by the people, for the people. And, as it has been pointed out more than once, women are people, too, quite as much as men are.

A Curious Suggestion

Cable despatches recently announced that it had been proposed that Denmark, in return for receiving back Schleswig-Holstein, which Prussia seized upon half a century ago, should transfer its colony, Greenland, to Canada. By whom this suggestion was made, does not appear. Probably somebody in Denmark. Historically Greenland is interesting, because the Norsemen visited it, and voyaged from Greenland to the mainland of America nearly five hundred years before the discovery of America by Columbus. Apparently it was somewhere on the coast of what is now Nova Scotia that the Norsemen landed in the year 1003. They attempted a permanent settlement, but were driven out by the natives. As for Greenland, its southern coasts are habitable, but the whole of the interior is a region of glacier ice and snow. The climate along its southern coasts is very uncertain, changing suddenly from bright sunshine, when mosquitoes often swarm, to dense fog, or heavy falls of snow, with icy winds. The population of the Danish colony is about 11,000, of whom only some 300 are Europeans. The annual imports, consisting of manufactured goods and foodstuffs, amount to about \$200,000; the exports include seal oil, fish products, eiderdown and seal, fox, and bear skins. The official reports state that Greenland, on account of the maintenance of missions and other expenses, costs Denmark more than \$30,000 a year. Since 1774, when the trade monopoly with Greenland which was held by a Danish company, ceased to be profitable, trade with Greenland has been a monopoly of the Danish crown; there is strict prohibition of intoxicating liquors. The suggestion that Canada should take over Greenland is rather a curious one. It will be interesting to see whether anything more is heard of it.

Pensions Are Not All

At present about 50,000 pensions are being paid in Canada. The number will be increased considerably when all the men in military hospitals on the other side of the Atlantic are brought home. According to the estimate of the Minister of Finance, \$30,000,000 will be a minimum sum to allow for the yearly expenditure in the form of pensions to Canadian men disabled in the war and the dependents of Canadians. The pensions are not gifts from Canada; they are not rewards for good service done. They are payments given as a right by the Canadian people, through their Government, to those of their fellow-citizens who have suffered incapacity, disability, or impairment of their powers while rendering heroic public service. Pensions can never be compensation. Their object is to lessen the handicap of the disabled men and help them live on more equal terms with those who have not suffered disability. There are other ways in which help is furnished by Canada to the men back from the front who need help. Commendable work is being done by the vocational training branch of the department of civil re-establishment. And it cannot be repeated too often, or too urgently, that every Canadian for whom the men who went to the front made such sacrifices owes it as his first duty to manifest practically his sense of his just indebtedness to them by kind and unfailing helpfulness towards them.

Our Neighbors

It is with solid satisfaction that the people of this country feel that Mr. Newton Baker, the Secretary of War of the United States, was not speaking in mere politeness, but in all truth and earnestness, when he said in his speech to the Canadian Club of Ottawa, the week before last, that "hereafter the two countries will recognize the boundary as an invisible line, marking not where jealousies began, but where the countries clasped hands in their common effort to establish goodwill and justice as the determining principle in settling international relationships." May it ever be so!

What Can Never Be Made Up For

From a Saskatchewan subscriber of The Western Home Monthly comes a letter to The Philosopher, with which is enclosed a clipping from a newspaper. The writer of the letter asks that the clipping be reprinted on this page. It is as follows:

The silent tragedies of shattered homes in Canada will never be published to the world. Lads who were the light of mothers' eyes, who went away with a laugh and a song, will never lighten those eyes again with their cheerful faces. Young men just about to step out into full manhood have been snatched from us on the very threshold of citizenship. Thousands of dream homes have been shattered just as they were about to be realized. Months, perhaps years, of courtship and all the sweet preliminaries of wedded bliss have been ruthlessly robbed of full fruition by the urgent and imperative demands of war. These homes of promise that never attained to material existence must be reckoned among the losses, the irretrievable losses, that Canada has suffered in these years.

Truly, these are among the saddest of all the losses brought by the war—this destruction of happy homes that would have been realized hopes, had not so much of the flower of our manhood been cut off in its prime of youth. Nothing can ever make up fully for the loss of those homes that were dreamed of and planned for. Time, with its healing power, will assuage the sorrow of bereavement; but so long as the pulse of life continues in hearts that have loved and lost, the lost ones will never be forgotten.

A Letter from Berlin

The letter which Rev. Dr. Deissmann, the learned theological professor of the University of Berlin, who is one of the leading divines of Germany, has addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, is another disclosure of the German mind. Professor Deissmann, who has written many books on New Testament questions, has, from the beginning of the war, justified Germany's whole course. His letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury says: "All that is now needed is mutual forgiveness and conciliation with a view to united effort against evil consequences from the war and in support of moral improvement." Dr. Deissmann, during the first two years of the war, wrote a weekly religious letter which was widely circulated in Germany, and also in neutral countries as part of the pro-German propaganda. Never at any time did he raise a word of protest or indignation against any of the gross wrongs perpetrated by Germany in the war; he never ceased to claim that truth and righteousness were on the German side. To quote one of his characteristic utterances: "We Germans stand as Christians with a clean conscience on the side of our Government." Truly the Prussian system of religion, science and philosophy was based on something fundamental in the Prussian mind fundamentally different from anything in the minds of the world's free peoples.