

Editorial

The Christmas of 1918

WRITING just a month before Christmas it is difficult to say what the world will have in store for us on that day. If the conditions of peace will not have been formally agreed upon, it is more than probable that actual warfare will have ceased. In the hearts of men there will be a great and abiding joy, because there is an end to the war that we hope will end. Once again on Bethlehem's hills the angelic host may take up the glad refrain of "Peace on Earth, good-will to men!"

Peace and goodwill come only to those who are willing in thought and deed to ascribe all glory and honor to God in the Highest. This Christmas should be above all things be a holy season. It would be sacrilege for us to pass our time in frivolity when so many are absent from our gatherings, and when so very many will never return. In view of the sacrifice that has been made for us, it is meet that the Christmas of 1918 should be a time of consecration and re-dedication. May it be so in every Canadian home!

Europe After the War

IT is not easy to estimate the effect of the war upon the nations of the world. As for Europe she will profit immeasurably, since freedom will come to her people with the overthrow of monarchical institutions. It must not be expected, however, that the change will be effected without sorrow and hardship. Possibly the next five or ten years may be for the Central Powers the darkest ever known to humanity. Just as coal when placed in the furnace gives back all the heat which it absorbed during the centuries of its formation, so these nations in re-establishing their citizenship may have to undergo all the suffering they endured during the long years of their oppression. It is so in Russia to-day. May the other nations, notwithstanding the unspeakable crimes of their ruling classes, have a kinder fate.

Britain After the War

AS for Britain our hope is that she may be doubly refined by the fires through which she has passed. She has many problems to solve, serious and weighty. She will solve them if she continues to exercise the unselfish devotion that has characterized her during the long years of the war. In the days of the Plantagenet rulers there was a wide gulf between the baronage and the common people, but this was bridged by the great war of the Crusades. Fighting side by side, men forgot their class distinctions. Bravery and sacrifice were the tests of worth. So may we hope that the first result of this war will be the doing away with artificial class distinctions. All hail to the nobility—those who have proved their lordship by their deeds of heroism and service! There is such a nobility in every land. It is not made up of socialists and demagogues and agitators, but of royal souls—those who are great because of their deeds, their aspirations and their culture of mind and spirit. And many of these belong to the old nobility. Nothing is more cheering than this very fact.

There is an Irish problem. It, too, will be solved almost automatically. It has been found out by actual test what people in the Emerald Isle can be trusted with self-government, and what people cannot be trusted with any power. Those who have read Ian Hay's "The Oppressed English," will know that there are a good many things concerning Irish freedom and Irish privilege that have yet to be said. It is one thing to talk about oppression and tyranny. It is another thing to suffer oppression.

There is for the Motherland a practical problem that is very difficult of solution. It is that of returning to their proper occupations the men who have been on service, and of releasing the young women who have taken their places. In this matter the State must intervene, otherwise the returned soldier and the head of a family will suffer. For young women having once tasted the joy of independent living will wish to continue at their work and will outbid the family man, and even the returned soldier. Business men, if left to themselves, will accept the lowest bidder, provided the service is equal. Eventually this will mean the discouragement of marriage. A family man cannot enter into competition with unmarried women. How is the problem to be adjusted? Evidently wage bargaining cannot be left to individuals and employers nor to employer unions and trade unions. There is a national side to every contract. A man must be paid not only for the work he does but for the service he renders the State. This cuts right across the doctrine of "Equal pay for equal work." The war has prepared us for national control of industries and institutions. The one institution in these times which must be fostered is the family.

Anything which directly or indirectly strikes at family life is a national menace.

It may be expected that demobilization will take a long time. During this period manufacturing concerns will have time to adjust themselves to new conditions. The balance of trade having been completely overthrown by the war, new enterprises will assert themselves and these will call for many workers, so that the problem of finding situations for all workers may not be as serious as was at one time expected.

The Great War

It was a conflict between brute FORCE, alert and aggressive, and stern JUSTICE, gracious but unbending.

With FORCE were allied cunning and deceit, worldly pride and inordinate ambition. With JUSTICE were associated honor and truth, kindness and goodwill to men.

Confident in her careful preparation of twenty years, FORCE seized an opportune moment, to assault without warning the citadels of freedom. With impious boasting and inhuman cruelties she entered upon her work of spoliation and desolation.

Then JUSTICE drew her even sword and stayed the murderer's hand. With pious zeal she summoned to her banners all the sons of freedom. From North and South, from East and West, from all the corners of the earth they hurried to her aid—prepared to sacrifice, prepared to die.

Four years the awful tide of battle rolled—four years of rapine slaughter and unceasing hate; four years of noble toil, unerring love and strong resolve. Then came the end.

The night has passed, the day has dawned and Justice sits upon her throne. **THE WORLD IS FREE.**

Now as we stand with faces toward the rising sun, we dedicate ourselves to the great work for which we are appointed. In the name of our dead heroes we shall carry on. Their unfinished labor it is ours to restore. Their people shall be our people and their God shall be our God. So shall we as well as they, be perfected through sacrifice, and so shall the world be made safe for all the people. In war, in peace, the law of life is this, that "Each shall love his neighbor as himself."

Canada After the War

AS for Canada the post-war problems are not so serious as in the Motherland, but yet two or three of them are beset with difficulty. The cost of articles grown on the farm has gone up by leaps and bounds, and with this the cost of everything else. Naturally there has been an increase in the earnings of working men, sometimes double, sometimes more than this. After the war there is bound to be a reduction in wages, and with this a protest greater than any we have had. In this matter those in charge of national affairs must take strong ground. It is for no employer nor group of employers, for no workman nor for unions of workmen to settle problems by their own action. In war the nation became all and the individual nothing. So must it be in post-war matters. But it is unfortunate that in some few cases the action of the national leaders has not inspired the people with confidence. So true is it that there is in some quarters dissatisfaction, not so much with members of the government, as with the continuation in office of a government that is

founded on compromise. A grave problem for Canada is to work out a form of government that will be suitable in the years to come. Shall there be a return to the old time party system? If not, what shall take its place? This is indeed a serious question.

Then there is the problem of East and West, but this is only of passing importance. Eventually the West will control the wealth of Canada and will dictate its policies.

The West is not settled by men who are narrow in their outlook and parochial in their sympathies. They will work on national rather than provincial lines. This much can be said to relieve the anxieties of those in the East who have been using the West as a dumping ground for so many years and who are now beginning to fear reprisals.

There is bound to arise for solution the problem of the non-English settlers. We have learned our lesson, however, and there is only one course open to us. When any man enters the country or continues to live in it, it should be on the condition that he is perfectly loyal to our institutions and that no national or religious bond interferes in the slightest degree with his loyalty. No man is a worthy citizen of Canada who owes allegiance to a power outside the great empire of which Canada is a part. We are no Balkan state, and never shall be. But to all who come to us in good faith and in loyal attitude we can extend a glad hand, offering them as soon as they have proved their sincerity the proud rank of citizenship. Their children will be our children. They will attend the national schools, speak the national language, learn the national customs and catch the national spirit. All this and more if these newcomers are true. But if there is any duplicity, any wavering, any insincerity, any class or racial agitation, there is ready a door of exit, not only for them but for such of our own people as would use them for ignoble purposes.

Modern Education

THE unifying of all our people in thought, feeling and purpose is the great task of education. In both Canada and the Motherland the greatest necessity is the remodelling of schools and universities so as to make them minister in the highest degree to national welfare. There is so much that is traditional in school-room procedure, so much that savors of mediaevalism in the standard courses in our universities, that such a forceful writer as Mr. Wells has found it necessary to urge a reform. His latest work "Peter and Joan" deals with this very problem, and it is good reading for Canadians as well as Old Countrymen.

In the same spirit Mr. Finney, an American writer, says:

"Especially at such a time as this, all signs indicate that we are on the eve of epochal social reconstruction. Some of the most significant and fundamental changes in recorded history are likely to occur within a generation after the close of the great war. This will be a most critical period for democracy. If social justice issues promptly our new born liberty will enlighten the world. But should there occur the convulsion of class struggle and conflicting interests, hope deferred may sicken the heart of the darkened world for a thousand years to come. The outcome of the crisis depends upon the sociological insight of our leaders. And the educators are very far from discerning as yet their own important share in this immeasurable responsibility. There is but one limit to what education may accomplish for the future of civilization in this critical period; that limit is the vision and faith of our educational leaders. Education must adopt an ultimate aim commensurate with the ideals of democracy and Christianity. . . . We are to look for the meaning of life not in the conditions of the remote past but in the ideal world that stands at the summit of social evolution, a world so fair and good that no art can adequately present it to the imagination."

A Fresh Start

THE bells are ringing and the whistles blowing just now, because the message has come that the war has ended. Let us hope the report is well founded and let us be devoutly thankful. Let us pray that this may be the last war of nations. But there is a more horrible war than that among nations. It is war within a nation. Against the possibility of such a war we must provide. The only safeguard is that we possess the spirit of the Prince of Peace, that we follow His golden rule. A good time to make a resolution is right now as the Christmas season is upon us. Let us rise above class and creed and race. Let us endeavor each man to love his neighbor as himself. Then shall we hear the bells of peace ringing not only on the Christmas morn but every day of the year. So may it be.