

days of prohibition agitation, possibly it may impress readers as timely and to the point:—

Evil never surrenders its hold without a sore fight. We never pass into any spiritual inheritance through the delightful exercises of a picnic, but always through the grim contentions of the battlefield. It is so in the secret realm of the soul. Every faculty which wins its spiritual freedom does so at the price of blood. All our finest virtues smell of battle-smoke. Apollon is not put to flight by a courteous request; he straddles across the full breadth of the way, and our progress has to be registered in blood and tears. This we must remember, or we shall add to all the other burdens of life the gall of misinterpretation. We are not "born again" into soft and protected nurseries, but into open country, where we seek strength from the very terror of the tempest. "We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God."

And it is even so in the life of the nation. Whoever knew a social evil yield without terrific struggle? When a nation grapples with one of its iniquities the evil spirit cries and rends it sore. Every noble law upon our statute books which widened the empire of freedom was won through blood. Social or political freedom does not descend upon us in our sleep, gently distilling like the dew. Freedom comes to peoples through convulsions, through tempestuous contests, through long and weary tramping in the noon and midnight. The opposing devil fights for every inch of the way. We have never passed into any splendid liberty with untattered flags, and unstained uniforms, and undented shields. The men who have won our inheritance have been badly knocked about, and the scars of their fight have become the emblems of their glory. And today the road is no whit easier. Freedom is still the perquisite of blood. If we set ourselves to oust some evil possession the established spirit will cry and rend us sore. In these roly realms we get our blessings at a price.

But the worst convulsion is usually just when the final conquest of an evil is almost assured. It is in the last gasp that our antagonist reveals extraordinary reserves of strength. The hardest conflict is always just before the devil is expelled. Let us therefore tighten our belts when our enemy calls out all his force. Just then the bonds are breaking. Just then the tyranny is falling. At him again! In these high realms the darkest hour is just before the dawn.

"Tread all the powers of darkness down
And win the well-fought day."

The iron industry, next to coal, is the most important to Nova Scotia. A writer claims for it that it is the key industry of the world. The topic presently agitating many is "What is to happen after the war?" The following, taken from a British paper—I neglected to preserve the name—gives a British view of the subject, and, as all views are sought after at the present time, to almost everyone should be interesting:—

What conceptions of such subjects are we to entertain after the war? If we learn the lessons of the war aright, and if we care to exert ourselves, we can produce houses and all other kinds of goods at a rate which has never been before attempted. The United Kingdom is a great natural workshop, and it is high time that it was fully employed in

the exercise of its overwhelming advantages. Outside the United Kingdom we have the great rich territories of the British Empire, yielding in amplitude nearly every necessary material needed by man. No other nation possesses such a remarkable heritage, and we shall be very much to blame if we further neglect the proper development of so large a share of the world's territory. I do not hesitate to express my opinion that, given the proper application of enterprise, the national income of the United Kingdom can, within half a generation of the end of the war, be increased so greatly that the nation will be able to look back upon the trade and production of the years before the war as comparatively insignificant.

The British people have suffered in recent years from a lack of realisation of the new scale of world endeavour. Let me illustrate my meaning by a striking instance which goes to the root of the matter. The iron industry is the key industry of the world. In the time of many of those who read these lines Britain was easily first as an iron producer. She is now a bad third. Between the years 1885 and 1913 the British iron production rose from 7,400,000 tons to 10,500,000 tons, an increase of nearly 3,100,000 tons, while in the same period that of Germany increased from 3,600,000 tons to 19,300,000 tons, and that of America from 4,000,000 to 31,000,000 tons. If we go the right way to work we can increase the iron production of this country to 20,000,000 tons a year within ten years of the conclusion of the war, and this increased production will signify a corresponding development of other industries, for iron is man's chief tool.

Chiazza Money, who is claimed to be one of the best authorities on financial matters in the British Empire, in an article in the British Weekly on war profits, incidentally refers to the Canadian system as introduced lately by Hon. Thos. White. He does not say hard things about it, as the critics at Ottawa attempted to do:

Common sense seems to dictate that we should treat all kinds of business alike, and that any firm, whatever its business, which has the good fortune to make greater profits in war than in peace should pay heavily towards the cost of the war. Our legislation recognizes the principle, but applies it in two different ways, distinguishing between munition firms and other undertakings. There is no element of justice in the distinction, because at this time the munition works are, above all, essential to the national welfare. Apart from the justice of the case, it is manifestly inexpedient to have two different forms of taxation in respect of excess profits.

Canada has levied a different sort of excess profits war tax. Instead of judging the excess war tax by a standard of pre-war profits, it is simply related to an arbitrary standard of seven per cent. on the paid-up capital. Let me illustrate the difference between the Canadian method and ours. Suppose a British company before the war was making a profit of twenty-five per cent. per annum and that it is now making exactly the same profit. It would not, in these circumstances, be liable for excess profits duty because, although its profits are great, they are not in excess of the normal or peace profits. Under the Canadian plan, however, twenty-five per cent. of the profit above seven per cent. will be taken by the State, so that if the capital were £200,000,