

If Canada Can Hold Her Inventive Genius, There are no Heights Impossible For Her to Attain---It Rests With Canadians to Pave a Way For Our Country's Climbers

IF this is to be Canada's century of achievement there are things to do—big things. Canada has produced some great personages, men and women who, to-day rank among the world's greatest artists. Canada has produced them—no more. **They were made abroad.** She has been unable to hold her talent because she was not great enough to appreciate its worth. Canada has learned, is learning. She must give her best and strongest room. She must encourage the climber. She must be appreciative. She must remove the many impediments in the path that leads upward toward the goal of success. Canada is no more or no less than the people who make her a nation. Therefore the people of Canada have a work to do. Let us get rid of the impediments, the holders back, let us make our great men and women here at home. Let us give our boys and girls a chance to climb. Canada's lack of appreciation has kept many of her best from reaching success. A few born leaders have fought thru in spite of obstacles, but we have lost great artists, writers and actors. They have been adopted by a more generous, a broader people. To our shame be it known, we have allowed them to go. There is no excuse for our making a repetition of a pitiable blunder. If our slogan is to be "Canada for Canadians," we will have to wake up. Kipling called our Dominion, "Our Lady of the Snows," and was censured for so doing. Canadians who resented the title displayed narrow reasoning powers. Up until the present, Canada has been "Our Lady of the Snows," with a vengeance. Our country must be judged by the atoms called men who build up a nation. We are those atoms and as a nation-builder we have been a frosty proposition. We have hampered progress by getting in the way of our countrymen who would achieve. We have been a lug on the climber. It's high time we Canadians warmed up. Chill and sympathy are not good companions and Canada wants more broad-minded, sympathetic people. Nothing retards growth and expansion quite so much as a chill, muggy atmosphere. The average Canadian is an adept at souring desire. The talent, which is ours by right of birth, has been lost to us thru down-right criminal negligence on our part. We refused to encourage.

Our best manhood and womanhood is seeking broader and more unhampered fields every day, because we are not strong enough and big enough to give them a clear right of way. We do not forget that one man who achieves greatness may do the work of many men and that we must be indirectly helped by his achievement. We only forget to show our appreciation of manly or womanly effort. We are victims of convention and narrow reasoning. We are not yet big enough to grasp the power of individuality. Every nation must, unto itself, be a little world within a little world and because stereotyped customs will make any nation old before its time, any land must grow stagnant without its creators of the new.

Canada needs her inventors, her makers of books, her writers of music, her painters of pictures. She will have to hold her talented sons and daughters. Our part is to clear the way for them to climb. This is more than Canada's century. It is her opportunity. It remains for her to encourage a little and to sympathize a little in order that she may hold a great deal.

She should begin by choking the Pessimist out of existence. The pessimist is an animal that cost creation very little in the offset. He is a "Knocker," a despoiler. He never misses a chance to kill the spirit of creation in its infancy, for the very reason that he himself possesses no ability to create. He would have the world remain a broad expanse of desert waste. He has not departed from Barbarism sufficiently far to understand why men should dare and do. He hangs to the climber and holds him back. So long as the Pessimist remains, he will slay ambition. He should be rooted out, he is a deadly menace to Progress, entirely useless as a builder. He is taking the room needed for a better man. If he insists upon impeding the machinery of Civilization, let him do it by getting between the cog wheels.

Two other impediments that should be removed from the path of our nation-builders are the unreliable man and the idler. The unreliable man is not necessarily a liar, he would be less dangerous if he were. Labelled liar, he could be disqualified from competing with clean men, as it is, his right to do so cannot be questioned. He holds the climber back for no man can climb onward toward his destinies, when forced to turn continually and watch the man behind for fear of a stab in the back. The man of questionable veracity is not a fit man to bear responsibility. The world fears him, realizing that honor is the key-stone of Character. Once it drops out, everything crumbles. Our climbers must not be hampered by outlawed opponents. If they are to win, they must watch the goal ahead. While their whole heart and mind and soul are centred on the pinnacle, they would reach, they must not be harassed by the dread of a trip up from behind. If we would hold our country's bravest and best we must protect them. To protect them, we must eliminate the Unreliable man.

Canada wants men who will climb and men who will make the climber their example. She



has no room on her broad field for the idler. This idler is as old as the world and since its nucleus has been a microbe to destroy the world's best crude material of greatness. He is not only a drone who feeds upon the food of his fellow man's honest endeavor but an insect that bores into the very vitality of progress and kills it in its inception. The idler is one of the world's greatest retarders of men. Like the Hook Worm that saps the life of the poor Southerner, he attaches himself to the entrails of laudable purpose and poisons ambition in its infancy.

Crime, becoming all too frequent in our young land may be traced to the man whose imagination has become crazed and crippled thru idleness. Drunkenness and debauchery are the fruits of idleness and idleness is the result of men having no set purpose in life. It should be the work of every Canadian to see that the idler is not encouraged to encumber the earth.

Cast him out, along with the Pessimist and the Unreliable man and give our climbers a chance to scale the heights. When a man achieves a great work he does the work of many men. It rests with those many men whether his work creates idlers or is taken as an inspiration. That man is a leader and was not born that the life-work of his fellows should be made easier, but that they should be themselves encouraged to climb. Any builder, any leader, great or small, is an inspiration for men and altho these men may never reach the heights he has attained they may, at least, earn the glow that comes

of endeavor, which is a degree of success without the laurels. They will have the knowledge that they are not idlers—not parasites that retarded. They at least have been courageous and strong and have won the contentment that comes from honest achievement.

As for the climber, he should remember that it is not enough to carry his own load. Selfish and narrow men may do that, but he is not in that class of men. It is not necessary for a man to be heartless because he finds the up-hill path a hard one. Neither is it necessary for him to make a stepping stone of his fellow man. He should make a stepping-stone of every failure he has experienced during the past and when he sees a fellow-climber on the direct road to failure, he should do more than sit down and study his own road-map. There is only one real success, only one goal worth the winning. The climber will need more than mere strength to win it. Courage, sympathy and gentleness are required of him, if he would make the grade.

The climber should not be satisfied with himself simply because he is doing all that his world seems to expect of him. If the Creator had not intended that he should strive for certain heights He would not have given him wisdom above the lower animals. Every man who is satisfied with a mere living should remember that it is just as instinctive for the wolf of the forest or eagle of the air to gain a mere living, as it is for him. Let him keep his eye on the eagle and soar aloft. Let him be not merely one of a million, but one in a million.

It must be recognized that nothing can be achieved without trial, nothing accomplished without courage and enthusiasm. Therefore the climber must be zealous, sane and strong. The men who will climb are the men who will make Canada a great nation. Let every Canadian utilize his faculties to build up his country by building up himself. Use strengthens, develops and confers stamina and resisting powers. This is the time for every Canadian to bring his faculties into play.

