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THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN.*

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Canada offers a fresh field for legislation and social reforms. Questions here stare us in the face in new lights, and in shapes which frequently do not yet present the difficulties by which they are encrusted in old and deccased civilizations. For public men there are splendid opportunities, and if those willing to take them have hitherto been few, let us hope that signs are rising which warrant the belief that the warnings of older societies will yet be duly studied and applied.

I must admit that for my part, I have been ready to dream of not only a Canadian political and social science and a Canadian literature, but even of a Canadian art and a Canadian philosophy, none of them merely narrow or provincial, but simply independent and freshly adapted to work.

It is astonishing that the nationalization of land, for instance, should be still a dormant question in our midst. A glance at any of our colonization maps will recall the land reforms of New Zealand, New South Wales, Ireland, France or Denmark, and show that it is one of the most vital of questions for our future.

Monopoly also is not yet thoroughly entrenched here, poverty in cities has little of the "submerged tenth" phase.

* A paper read before the Women's Club, Montreal.