

THE NEED OF THE CENTURY.

In the long run, the degree of esteem in which a people holds its teachers will determine its future position among the nations. A prophetic voice has proclaimed that the twentieth century is to belong to Canada. In any way that matters, the century belongs to the people who can direct the trend of human affairs and dominate for even a time the activities, the character and direction of the activities, of a large portion of the human family. In that sense shall the century belong to Canada, or shall Canada during the century be dominated by the ideas and standards of the grim greeds of uneducated or half-educated peoples? By half-educated people, I mean people who are trained only into intellectual and industrial ability, without the good-will which gives desire and power for co-operation.

A feeling of restlessness, of change, of chafing under existing conditions, is abroad among the people. That is not wholly new, but there is a comparatively new feature in the unrest. Instead of the movement being all city-ward, there is now a tendency, an instinct, an inclination to get back to the land, to stay on the land for the sake of the homes and the families, for the sake of health and security in opportunity of employment, and for the advancement of worthy education. For a long time, the only people who actually labored by hand on land were slaves and serfs and less intelligent peasants. Nowadays, through the great advances which have been made in the control of natural forces, there is growing up an intelligent preference for life on land by educated people. That condition again calls for modifications in education, in order that they and their children may be able to utilize the personal experiences of the schools in making the best of their lives and opportunities afterwards.

To advance the education of the people is the highest privilege as it is the most important duty of statesmanship. Would parliaments and legislatures and county councils, and the whole list of them, be worth while unless they led towards the fruits of better education? Of all the forms of help