

Things Current

By Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.

THE DECLINE OF BOLSHEVISM

It is not many months since many quite respectable citizens hailed with approval the dawn of Bolshevism in Russia and expressed the hope that it would continue to rise and illumine the world until even our own benighted Canada would come under the effulgence of its rays. The people who took this attitude were, for the most part, pacifist in relation to the Great War, and acclaimed a movement which, with the minimum of force, displaced those in authority and climbed to power, as they said, in the name of the people. It should be granted that Russia, the home of the Bolsheviki, required some change from the age-long despotism which had repressed the masses and stunted the aspirations as well as the intelligence of millions. But it now becomes more apparent every day that the last state of Russia is even worse than the first, and that the new tyranny of violence and ignorance and irreligion is turning a country of enormous possibilities and vast resources into "confusion worse confounded."

Hence Bolshevism, whose dawn, we say, was acclaimed by many who did not understand it, has passed its zenith and is going down in the shadows of sunset: Men who openly espoused its cause now see that the regeneration of human society does not lie in that direction and that education and quickened intelligence must always be a condition precedent to improvement in social conditions. If Russia had gone more to school she might have become a model for many other nations. As it is she has become an example of how not to accomplish human betterment.

The New Day.

But that the world, warned by the failure and the frightfulness of Bolshevism, is moving to better things is evident enough. Bolshevism has done good by showing that delayed reformation always leads up to revolution, and the world is on the way to social reformation in order that expensive and deadly revolutions may be avoided. Co-operation between employer and employee is becoming the watchword of the new day. Their interests are manifestly in common, despite the views of some who seek to import catch phrases that have no application in a free land like Canada, where, generally speaking, there is wide equality of opportunity. Big employers, who were employees only yesterday, see perfectly well that every faithful worker must have his proper share of what his labor produces, and proper treatment of those who toil is shown not to be charity or benevolence simply but actually good business. Recently Lord Leverhulme of Sunlight fame has been preaching that gospel here. And the joint council in which both employers and employees sit together, mutually respectful of each other, is helping to deliver us from the class-conscious doctrine that dynamites a nation in two.

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OPPORTUNITY IN CANADA

To illustrate our view that there is equality of opportunity in Canada and that there is no such thing as a prescriptive ruling class in this land, we call attention to the passing the other day, in Winnipeg, of Mr. James Gordon, head of the great cattle business that was for years known as that of Gordon & Ironside. I happened to have known both these men with some intimacy, when they were living in two southern Manitoba hamlets and trucking in a little lumber, with some cattle-buying from the farmers on the homesteads

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