

Editorial

Save the Race

THE war has made all nations take action that would have been impossible in peace times. Illustrations are found in the food laws of the various countries, the legislation in regard to the manufacture and sale of liquor, the income tax schedules, the taxation of business profits, the regulation of traffic, the conscription of men and material. There seems to be nothing that the nation cannot demand of the individual provided it is in the national interest. It is not strange then that there should in some quarters be serious consideration of the problem of race improvement through preventive legislation and otherwise. The ravages of venereal disease in all lands have called for remedial measures, and the only sure preventive is that which will have to be taken ultimately—the prohibition of marriage to all who are unclean. To be sure there must in addition be treatment of the unfortunate victims of disease for their own sake, but the great problem is to save the race. Medical associations are becoming alive to the menace, and if they have courage equal to their wisdom it will not be long before something is done. We have many duties to children. One of the chief is to see that they come into the world right.

No Compromise

THE longer the war lasts and the more costly it proves in men and money, the greater becomes the determination of all right thinking persons to continue until German power is crushed beyond power of revival. Peace is the most desirable thing in this whole world, but it is impossible to make peace with those who are hopelessly inhuman and untrustworthy, whose devilish deeds are matched only by their broken faith. The speeches of Von Hertling to-day with their suggestions of peace, and the arrogant utterances of the German press and the great war-lords, after the first great drive lead one to think that surely the old rhyme was intended to picture present day conditions:

"The Devil was ill, the Devil a saint would be
The Devil grew well, the Devil a saint was he."

It is not surprising that public opinion in the United States, Britain, France and Italy is ever the same. President Wilson's Fourth of July address is but typical of all that the American press is saying. Consider this from the New York Times:

"There need be no doubt on the part of Germany that her present military offensive is having an effect upon American nerves, upon American minds, upon American wills—such an effect as will make the preparing peace offensive as useless as it is loathsome—ending forever any American thought of discussing peace with Germany's masters."

"Indeed, the last thing America now wants is peace with Germany; let there be no mistake about that. America will have no peace until she has so thoroughly whipped the Germans that they cease being German."

"Yes, when Germany ceases to be German; when the frontiers of civilization are extended eastward beyond the Rhine and the spirit of brotherhood flows westward from Moscow and Warsaw; when Germany becomes something else than the well-spring of the savagery that has, for these twenty centuries again and again overflowed and devastated Europe, each time undoing the progress of generations; indeed, when the Prussian pseudo-state ceases to exist—then, and not till then, will America believe that humanity and democracy are safe or consider that foundations for permanent peace and true progress can be laid."

"America no longer considers Germany a civilized nation. Her character is to-day exactly what Julius Caesar declared it to be, what Dante described it as being, what the history of Europe proves it to have been always—the character of the savage who has not yet become human."

The English and Canadian writers are quite as outspoken, and they go even further pointing out that even when the war is ended Germany is not going to stand even where she was before the war, as one of the great sisterhood of respected nations. By her sin she has made herself an outcast, so that her downfall means not only loss of military power, but loss of economic position and of that industrial leadership she had won through her industry. Particularly is it the voice of the British seamen, who are practical dictators in all that pertains to trade and commerce.

Public Opinion

THERE is always some foundation for public clamor. The clamor at the present time is so loud and so persistent that the man of dullest hearing cannot fail to catch some of the voices that are uttering protestations. Here are a few of the things people are saying:

1. The alien mine-workers of Western Canada should do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. They are no better than our own flesh and blood, who have volunteered or who have been conscripted for service abroad. It is held that the government should immediately conscript alien labor, and that a government

not strong enough to do this is not capable of serving the people of Canada. It is said, moreover, that though we have in name a Union government, the two old line parties are still jockeying for position, and each is endeavoring to make sure of the non-English vote. We cannot believe this is true, but many there are who assert it. If there should be one public servant acting on this assumption he will be well advised to reform his ways. The old line parties as such will never have a look in again. Any divisions there may be in Canada will be on totally new lines. Liberalism and Toryism of the old type are dead.

2. It is said that the moneyed interests still control Canadian policies, that they dictate the railway settlement, the trade policies, the food regulations, and in short that even as in the days of party government they still have the ear of our rulers. It is surely hard to give credence to such a rumor, but how can one explain the coal situation, the railway award, the delay in fixing food profits and profiteering generally? Before our people will be satisfied, a good deal of explaining has to be done. The following from the organ of the Social Service Council is typical of what is mind of our people:

"People of Winnipeg and Manitoba have a right to all the information that is available respecting the administration of the Dominion and Provincial Fuel Commissions and the reasons why a fair proportion of the hard coal promised to Canada shall not be available in Winnipeg and Manitoba. It is most unfortunate that there is a deep-running current of suspicion that the people of this province are not being taken into confidence. If there are good reasons why this province cannot have its quota of hard coal this year, it will be safe to trust its people frankly with these reasons. In the second place even the most casual reader among our citizens has become aware that there are well-organized and elaborate propaganda being carried on urging the purchase and immediate storing of soft coal. In respect to this matter likewise there are many questions being asked which indicate doubts as to the forces behind the propaganda. Self-respecting citizens do not relish the idea of being stampeded into any course of action. Neither do they like to entertain the suspicion that there may be those who, for selfish purposes, would play upon the fears of their fellow citizens or even contribute to a fulfilment of the prophecies that there will be much suffering if the advice of the propagandists is not taken. If there is no selfish playing of Eastern interests against Western interests—if there is no ground for suspecting the manipulation of the profiteer—if all the advice that is being given and all the fears that are being raised are backed by unselfish intention, it is most unfortunate that the sources from which these instructions are coming are not more clearly seen and more fully known by the public in general."

3. It is said that our food controllers are either not free to act, or are failing to protect the common people from the extortions of the butchers and grocers and others of the kind. A recent investigation in Winnipeg shows a difference of forty per cent in prices charged for ordinary meats, and there is almost an equal difference in prices charged for other necessities. In other words it is said that those who stand between the farmer and the ultimate consumer are openly acting the part of robbers, and it will take some explaining to make many people who have large families believe anything else. It is little to the point for food controllers to say they are not concerned with protecting the common people, their duty is rather to see to it that all the food possible is made available for the Allies. Their work, they tell us, is to preach conservation and to encourage production. If this is so, then why has the government not done something to protect the common purchaser—the poor fellow who is living on salary? The manufacturer and his agents get almost twice the old price for nearly everything they sell, the farmers get twice the old price for wheat, meat and other produce, but the working man pays sixty per cent more than formerly for everything he buys and his salary is in many cases no larger than it was. There is such a strong feeling on this point that there is open rebellion manifesting itself in strikes and agitations. Truly some explaining has to be done before confidence will be restored.

There are other things like this being said on the streets and in private conversation all the time, and an answer must be given that will remove suspicion and hard feeling. The war has dealt kindly with the farmer, with the manufacturer of necessities, with the transportation companies, and with middlemen generally, but the poor fellow who has to live on his weekly salary of four years ago—well, he has waited so long for recognition that his patience is exhausted. This is what is being said on the streets. The people who are talking are no doubt in many cases fed by meddlesome agitators, but in other cases they are making deductions from their own experience, and have concluded they are not getting a square deal, and that is the real trouble. In the end it may be necessary to get rid of agitators just as we must get rid of profiteers. Confidence must be restored. The man in public life who can restore it will be our national savior.

A Dangerous Doctrine

SINCE the adoption of free schools, the course of studies followed by pupils has been open to constant attack. And rightly so. One writer has well expressed it by saying, "A changing civilization demands a changing form of culture."

One of the dangers to be avoided in making changes is that of following a low ideal. For instance, there will be some who think of school work merely as a means towards the development of power to earn money, while others even more at fault think of it as a means of securing polish or refinement which elevates the student socially above his fellows. As a matter of fact, all education must think of helping pupils to make the most of themselves, so that the community life will be ennobled and enriched. It must aim at physical, intellectual and moral betterment. The present tendency is to forget this and to aim at what is termed "practical efficiency." The cry is for boys and girls who can do things. To some it seems of small account what boys and girls are in character and power of thought, if in the world struggle they can only "get there." Now this is wrong as wrong can be. The pupil is of more account than his work. The community spirit is of more importance than the community bank-balance. A school education which secures individual and community betterment will secure all other things. One cannot judge a school by its handwork, its sewing, its school gardens and the work that is being done in domestic science. These are all excellent, but they do not by any means comprise all that is excellent. To be able to read a book intelligently is as practical an acquisition as any of the things mentioned, even although book study is constantly belittled to-day. If one thinks over the things that count in the life of an individual to-day, he must put—not a lesser but a higher value on such things as power to think, good manner, right habits, power to sing, esthetic appreciation, ability to play fairly, and the like. And to-day as in the past ability to read, write and count are essential to the humblest education. The whole thing is summed up in the phrase—"People, not money."

The Senate

ISN'T it about time Canadians were giving some attention to that body of effete and moss-covered politicians which goes by the dignified name of the Senate? Isn't it about time we cast aside this relic of medievalism? Here recently the Commons were favorable to the passing an act highly in the interest of Canada, and protective of young women. The age of consent was to have been raised two years. But what did the Senate do? Without argument and without consideration, except by a small committee, it cancelled the proposed legislation—thus setting its own will above that of the chosen representatives of the people. And this is but a sample of meddlesome interference. During the present session two other acts were rendered inoperative in the same way. This, however, is not the only evil of the Senate. If any one can show more than one really useful purpose it has ever served in Canadian legislation, he should name it. Now that we have Union Government, and that old-time politics have been discarded forever, why not let this encumbrance go too? As Canadians, we should begin to think a little.

Facts and Fancies

MANY of the reports that are allowed to filter through the censorship of the Central Powers, are not to be believed. The policy of the German is to tell the opposite of the truth in the hope that his enemy may be misled.

For instance, when Kuchlmann says that the hope of victory by the Allies is but a wild dream, we may be sure that he was never more afraid of the power that is being aligned against him than at this very minute. Also, when it is reported that Vienna is in turmoil, and that famine is stalking through the land, we are not certain but this is all part of a game to keep the Allies from exerting their full energy. And so it is all the way.

But there are some things that cannot be hidden. The great victory of Italy, the loss of 300,000 of the Austrian army, the staying of the great drive at the will of the Allied commander—all these are facts the world cannot misunderstand. There is no camouflage in such matters. The enemy is going downhill, and going fast. There was never more ground for optimism than now. But optimism of the right type is always conjoined with good hard work. So let us keep busy. The victory will come to those who have power to persevere.