

burses money, and should contain a summary, showing the total contributions from all sources and for all objects, parochial and extra-parochial. It should also give a summary of the assets and liabilities of the parish. We realize that it is not always an easy matter to say definitely what the assets are, but to make a bald statement that there is such-and-such a mortgage or other obligation resting on the parish, without an accompanying statement regarding the value of the property, is of little use, and is often very misleading. There should, moreover, be a statement regarding the total number of contributors in the parish. We have seen parishes where a good financial showing has been made, but it has been due in the main to the generosity of a few members of the congregation, while the majority have done very little. We have, on the other hand, seen comparatively poor congregations make a splendid showing by a united and general effort. You cannot form an intelligent idea regarding the possibilities of a parish financially until you know the number of possible contributors, and, let us add, until an adequate system of contributing has been adopted and an adequate effort has been made to secure general co-operation.

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Loyalty and the Liquor Traffic.

The words of the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable W. H. Hearst, in support of the new Ontario Temperance Act, struck at the very root of the evil of the liquor traffic in its relation to the present war. It is not only a question of conserving dollars and cents, but what is of much greater concern, of conserving the physical and moral efficiency of the manhood of our country.

"The soil of France and Flanders," he said, "is red to-day with the blood of Canada's best and bravest. The flower of our young manhood is marching out daily in thousands. How long can this fair young Province stand the strain?"

"It will take us generations to make good in man-power what this war is costing us."

"In this day of national peril, in this day when the future of the British Empire, the freedom of the world, and the blessings of democratic government hang in the balance, if I should fail to listen to what I believe to be the call of duty, if I should neglect to take every action that in my judgment will help to conserve the financial strength and power and manhood of this Province for the great struggle in which we are engaged, I would be a traitor to my country, a traitor to my own conscience, and unworthy of the brave sons of Canada that are fighting, bleeding, and dying for freedom and for us."

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A VOICE FROM THE PAST.

By A. M. C.

An Eastern monarch to his wise men spake:
"Give me a motto for my life away,
To warn, to comfort, as I onward stray,
When joy is mine, or waves of sorrow break."
Whereat an aged man did answer make:
"O King! in golden letters and for aye
Write—near thy throne—'This, too, shall pass
away.'"

O Christian! loosely hold for Christ's dear sake

Earth's fleeting gifts; and let a holy light
Flash on this saying, and illumine thy heart!
And when fierce anguish, burning at its height,
Consumes thy very soul, and hopes depart,
Know that this little life must close for thee,
While bliss unending crowns Eternity!

Spectator

Comments on Matters of Interest from Week to Week.

It is seldom that a meeting of men is destitute of interest. Physical and mental peculiarities, varying modes of expressing the soul within, differing ethical standards are all points of great interest to the close observer, and it matters little who they be that forgather. Spectator had the privilege a few days ago of attending a meeting of delegates from a number of Recruiting Leagues, gathered out of many provinces in this Dominion. Delegates from Winnipeg to Halifax were in session in Ottawa, first of all to agree upon the best policy to suggest to the government for aiding in the great work of raising an adequate army in this free country, and secondly, to present their finding in gracious and effective form to the head of the government of Canada. It is rather remarkable how keen and successful business men, who within the limits of their own commercial, industrial or financial spheres are perfectly at home and effective, are hopelessly at sea when they try to frame a policy of a general character to meet divergent interests and prejudices. These men see clearly the concrete, but they utterly fail in the presence of the abstract. They know the lines of success in their own communities, but they fail to realize that other conditions and other obstacles will confront them when they step out of their own little world into the great complex world beyond them. They can't comprehend why a man elected from a certain constituency to represent the people of that locality in the House of Commons can't go on thinking and acting and speaking as the people of the constituency from whence he springs. When he grows cold on the old convictions and his vehemence against a certain race or caste is losing its ardour, his friends reproach him for his faint heartedness. The fact is that he is brought face to face with new conditions. He is confronted daily by men who have an entirely different outlook upon life and he learns not only that they have a right to that outlook, but in it he may find something to correct and broaden his own. In like manner, the law that seems so obvious to one locality or province becomes an absurdity when men attempt to apply it to the whole Dominion. And yet, I suppose, the statesmen of our country can only legislate wisely and effectively when they know the actual aspirations, divergent though they be, of the many kinds of people in the many corners of this far-flung nation.

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At the meeting in question the successful man of affairs was much in evidence and a sprinkling of the professional class gave keenness to the intellectual side of the discussions. The impression gathered at that meeting seemed to distinctly confirm former observations on the same subject. Spectator would like to know if he is right in his suspicions. Is it a fact that the men of Ontario are poor diplomats, that they lack in gracious utterance and are slow to apprehend and appreciate the other man's point of view? It is, of course, possible to generalize very vaguely on such a subject. Probably culture in its most gracious form is there found. Certainly courtesy abounding, and intellectuality overflowing is there. But is it true that brusqueness and vigor seem to occupy the place of honor in the province as a whole? At the meeting referred to certainly the delegates from the Maritime Provinces seemed to the writer to have a gentler method of approaching a difficult problem, were more

conscious of the right of others' to differ and oppose. Even the delegate from the West displayed these characteristics to a very notable extent. The men from Ontario were more rigid in their attitude. "This is the right thing to do and it is the business of those who don't like it to get out of the way." That seemed to summarize the situation. That is a type of diplomacy that is not likely to achieve the best results, and may be responsible for an influence in public affairs that less than rightfully belongs to a great and prosperous province.

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An appeal has been made, to the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, to have a registration of the male population of Canada, with a classification of capabilities and occupations, so that recruits for the army may be taken only from those occupations where they are not of primary value to the State. And secondly, he was asked to devise a means of compulsory service such as would be more equitable in the distribution of the burden of military service, and more effective in preserving the national economic equilibrium. Both of these requests are becoming each day more manifestly reasonable and the conviction is steadily growing that something must be done to direct our military efforts along more considered and rational lines. It was pointed out that compulsion in its most objectionable form is now in operation in Canada. The pressure of contemptuous public opinion, the pressure of social ostracism, the pressure of business withdrawal, are all used to force the unwilling to enlist. This pressure is applied blindly without regard to the maintenance of the vital industries of the country, or the upkeep of those industries that furnish the revenue by which the war is financed. It is, however, an easy matter to ask for conscription and easy for people to talk favourably about it when there is no prospect of it being enacted, but a change from the voluntary to the involuntary system means a great shake-up to democratic ideas. No party government could assume the responsibility of such a revolution, and if one were so daring as to attempt it, it would be quite impossible to enforce it. England attained registration under a party government, but when the further step of conscription was taken it was taken only by a coalition government, so that the responsibility should fall upon the whole people.

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On every hand there are evidences of a yearning on the part of the people of Canada for a more sturdy leadership in this great crisis than is at present forthcoming from our government. Never had a prime minister in this country such an opportunity to serve his people and impress his personality upon the pages of its history as lies at the feet of Sir Robert Borden to-day. Citizens everywhere of every party are waiting for the leader to step forward and affirm the honourable traditions and ideals of our race. They are praying to high heaven for a man to set our Dominion back upon the path of honour and service, and they cannot understand why he tarries in coming. The only politics that are of any avail to-day are the politics of national safety and honour. There are really no Conservatives or Liberals, but all are Canadians anxious to be told what they may do to be of most service to their country in its hour of peril. The day has come when our Prime Minister, who is absolutely trusted by the people of Canada, can assert his authority over his government and rule in the names of the whole people. It is to be hoped that those who stand close to him will strengthen and stimulate Sir Robert to a new phase of leadership which will mark a new era in public service, and a new power in Canadian statesmanship.

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