

CANADA'S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

"We have been accustomed to hear Canada spoken of as the leader in matters relating to education, but as a matter of fact we have been standing still, and more than that, we have been going back and sinking into the mire." This somewhat startling statement was made by Dr. J. W. Robertson, Chairman of the Commission on Technical and Industrial Education at a meeting of the Canadian Club held in Montreal this week. Dr. Robertson's statement is intended to shake us out of the spirit of complacency and self-satisfaction which has characterized us in the past. Just as Dr. Robertson said, we have been for years living in a spirit of self-glorification and, metaphorically speaking, have been patting ourselves on the back and claiming that we had the finest educational system in the world.

The Chairman of the Commission on Industrial Education is a recognized authority on educational matters. He has devoted a lifetime to the study of these questions, and, as Chairman of the Commission, had opportunities of studying the work carried on by the leading countries throughout the world. The result of his investigations were to confirm him in the belief that Canada was standing still, or actually going behind. He quoted facts and figures to show that this country was woefully behind Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States and other countries in the matter of providing opportunities for young boys and girls. The numbers attending night classes and technical schools in Canada were away below the attendance in the other countries mentioned.

The speaker pointed out that from the material standpoint of dollars and cents it would amply repay a city, a province or the Dominion if money were expended in providing technical schools and training up a corps of properly equipped workmen. The success of Germany and the other countries was largely attributed to the work carried on by her industrial schools. In addition to the material progress which a nation would make in adopting such a course, Dr. Robertson called attention to the moral and social good which would result therefrom.

It is hoped that the business men of Montreal will give good heed to the suggestions made by Dr. Robertson. This is the chief industrial centre in the Dominion and should take the lead in any movement which makes for the betterment of the industrial classes. The Manufacturers' Association have done something to encourage technical education, but could well afford to put forth an effort to improve the status of the work people of Montreal.

THE "MOVIES."

What was a novelty a few years ago is now part of the everyday life of a great many people. Moving pictures have at once swept into popularity, and made a very large place for themselves. Figures recently compiled show that there are nearly 20,000 moving picture houses in the United States and Canada, with an average daily attendance of over 7,-

500,000. Nearly \$300,000,000 is taken in at the doors each year. There is some \$25,000,000 invested in plant, \$50,000,000 in pictures and \$125,000,000 in theatres.

Every conceivable kind of subject is treated by the "movies." Some of the world's greatest actors perform for the moving picture machine, while melodrama, travel and every other range of subject known to humanity comes under its sway.

That the moving pictures are capable of a wide use has already been shown. In many schools they are being used to illustrate history, geography and industries as well as the manner and customs of various peoples. In Italy a short time ago the moving pictures were used to inform those recently endowed with the franchise how they should cast their ballots. In New York the other day a big bond house, which had undertaken to handle a big issue of bonds for a big engineering company, called together some fifty or sixty bond salesmen and showed them by means of moving pictures the possibilities of the power project. There is scarcely a field that cannot be touched by the moving pictures. Their use in connection with educational matters presents an almost unlimited field.

THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL REFORM IN BRITAIN.

Canadians, no matter what their political preferences may be, are keenly interested in the struggle taking place in Great Britain. While opinion is pretty generally divided between the merits and demerits of Home Rule, there is a disposition on the part of the Canadian people to sympathize with Premier Asquith in his social legislation. It is doubtful if any nation in the world ever attempted reform on as elaborate a scale as is being undertaken by Lloyd George and Premier Asquith. Among the measures which have been before the British people for the past few years are the curtailing of the power of the House of Lords, the various Insurance Measures put into force by Lloyd George, the extension of the franchise, the Welsh Disestablishment proposals, Home Rule for Ireland, and now the Reform of the Land Laws. Under ordinary circumstances, any one of these measures would be deemed sufficient for a government to undertake. As it is, there are a half dozen or more important social, economic and political questions before the country, most of which have for their object the raising of the social status of the people.

It is often much more difficult to put into force social legislation than any other kind. In the first place, such measures are never popular with the powerful interests, and in the second place, the work is made doubly hard through the indifference of the people the measure is supposed to benefit. Despite the many discouragements and rebuffs which the Asquith Government has met, they are staking their political existence on the success of the various measures which they are endeavoring to crystalize into law. These measures will revolutionize the social

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