



A MENTAL worker needs a holiday in a different mental atmosphere. As my "work" consists largely in the study and discussion of Canadian public questions, I like to take a holiday where they are neither known nor understood. So I wait until the summer heats are passed and then tell the railway man to "ship me somewhere"—not east of Suez, but south of New York, so that the dazzle of Broadway and the clamour of the New York press lie between me and work. Down here not a soul could tell me whether Borden was a politician or an Olympian runner; and men express surprise when assured that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is really not the "Governor" of Canada. I have tried, when pressed, to make some of them understand just what he is under our system; but the task is not fitted to holiday chat on a hotel verandah. I generally quit when they conclude that he is an over-strenuous Secretary of State who bosses the real Chief Executive who is sent out from England. Of course, Americans who have made a study of the British system have no such difficulty.

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HOWEVER, this is fine for holidaying. We talk on our verandah of the height of the surf, the temperature of the water, the play at the local theatre, whether we are going into the "progressive euchre" to-morrow, and—possibly—of Taft and Bryan. I notice that people here are usually pro-Bryan or anti-Bryan. They do not bother with Taft. They could get up just as good an election, I fancy, if he were not running at all. Those who are for Bryan are still a little apologetic; while those who are against him are more than a little apprehensive. Men tell me that they supported Roosevelt last time and would have supported him this year if he had run again; but, as it is, they will vote for Bryan. Others tell me that the country is tired of "the strenuous life," and that it is just as well that Roosevelt should step out for a while; and that they hope that Taft when elected will be his "own man" and give the people a chance to quiet down and do business. It is, of course, just chance; but I have yet to meet an out-and-out admirer of Roosevelt who is going to vote for Taft; though I have met Democrats who found "Teddy" too radical and who pretend to oppose Taft because he will carry out Roosevelt's policies.

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BUT this is a long way from holidaying. Show me a man on his holidays, and I will tell you what kind of man he is. When we are at work, it comes natural to us to wear a mask. That is often a part of our business. But when we relax, then the man comes to the surface. Some men, of course, never relax. I always wonder what they are afraid will show through. As for me, I am the laziest thing alive when I am holidaying. I flatter myself that this means that I work very hard when I am in harness; but I am not sure that those who know me best would put this interpretation on it. Men who get little physical exercise as a rule become demons of activity on their holidays. Stay-at-homes like a holiday of travel. People whose work keeps them from their libraries read assiduously while resting. It is change we all seek. As I said, I get lazy.

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THE Americans know how to holiday. In Europe, the idle classes are probably the most accomplished idlers in the world; but the people as a whole do not take holiday in the universal American fashion. They are too poor and too busy. The French are, of course, an exception. They can take an omnibus to the environs of Paris, and exude more gayety in a day than most people can live through in a year. But where the Americans shine is in the ability of their great middle class—that is, four-fifths of their population—to make a business of holidaying for a fortnight on end. They all come down to the seaside, and spend half the day in the surf and the other half on the sand—everybody from the grandmother to the chubby baby

with its bare legs—and paterfamilias does not "care whether school keeps or not" until their excursion tickets run out.

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CANADA has too few popular holiday resorts. Muskoka is probably about the best; still it is not one jolly big resort, but rather a section of country with isolated hotels dotted about it. It is like the White Mountains or the Adirondacks; and not like Old Orchard, Cottage City or Atlantic City. We have no place like these latter where the people can get together and make up a good share of each other's enjoyment. We would do well to establish some such places on our great lakes where our people could find a cheap and enlivening holiday. There might be a source of national life in such a meeting-ground just as the old-fashioned camp meetings were employed to keep religious feeling alive. There are lots of places along Lake Ontario which might be used, and they would be easily reached from many of our cities. Every Canadian should be taught to take holiday.

Nidimporte

GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES

THE following despatch from Ottawa indicates that the Government will make a distinct effort to popularise the new law with regard to annuities. "By the end of the present month, all arrangements will have been completed for bringing into operation the law passed last session providing for the sale of Government old age annuities. It is the intention of Sir Richard Cartwright, who is the minister in charge of the new department, to conduct an educational campaign throughout Canada by means of public lectures, to be delivered by agents, specially selected to inform the public as to the extent and utility of this progressive scheme of Government insurance against risk of penury in old age."



THE KING AND THE KAISER.

Of late years it has been a rare thing to see King Edward in a German uniform. Our photograph shows him in the uniform of the Kaiser's Hussars. It was taken recently when the King and the Emperor met at Kronberg. This meeting together with the visit of the Emperor to England last year has done much to dissipate the strong feeling against Germany which has existed in England for some time. The result of this meeting was an immediate consultation in England between the Prime Minister, Sir Edward Grey, and Sir Charles Hardinge, so that there can be no doubt that matters of high policy were discussed by their Majesties.