

Organization for Democracy

The Call to Rebuild Civilization is to the Common People and Cannot be Answered by the Autocrats who have Controlled Governments in the Past.—By H. W. Wood, President Canadian Council of Agriculture

CAN we rebuild civilization and put into operation the true laws of life? Can we build a democracy in which man will be living with his fellow man according to the true laws of life under the guidance of the true spirit of life, the people operating the institutions of civilization for their own good, instead of the autocratic classes operating them for the purpose of serving the selfish ends of autocracy? Can it be done?

Fifty years ago I presume 99 per cent. of the people would have said that this could never be done. Today a large majority of the people still do not believe it can be done, but it will have to be done. If it cannot be done the greatest crime that can be committed is to bring a child into a hopeless world. I believe it can be done and will be done, and I believe for several well defined reasons.

True Obedience to the Laws of Life

We look out into the depths of the universe and see everywhere the works of nature brought under perfect obedience to the laws of nature, until we come to man, and there we see the great outstanding exception. We see man in a state of unfinished development, disobedient to the true laws of life. Is the supreme effort of nature, namely, man, going to be the one supreme failure? I do not believe it. I believe this work is going onward and upward until man will be brought into perfect obedience to the true laws of life and become a perfect social being, operating a perfect civilization. I don't believe that nature has made her one failure in her supreme effort.

I believe this for another reason. You see nature working out her different problems under laws running directly parallel to each other. You see her perfecting the human body under these laws, and under laws running exactly parallel, I believe the great social body is being perfected.

Again let me illustrate. You see the helpless child on the floor. You see him trying to rise to his feet. Why does he do that? Because nature has planted in him a germ which, at a certain stage of development, begins to agitate, and in response to that agitation the child tries to rise to his feet. The human structure is so complex that God, or nature, cannot carry on the development of that one body to completion without the co-operation of the subject, and the call to that child to rise is the call to it to co-operate in the work of its own development.

We look out into the world today and we see evidence of an agitation which has never existed before in this great social body. We see men everywhere whose ruling passion in life is social regeneration, and we see fifty or one hundred such men where we did not see one fifty years ago. Does this not mean that the germ is working in the social body, calling it to rise? That is not all we see. We see hundreds or perhaps thousands of men trying to develop democratic organization where we did not see one a hundred years ago. Surely all this means that the call has come to the social body to co-operate in its own development, and that we are trying to respond. I believe we are going to go on in that development until it has been carried to perfection.

And I believe this for still another reason. The greatest democrat that ever lived in the world, the only one, so far as I know, who ever fully understood the true laws of life as well as the false ones, told us centuries ago that we would have a democracy developed in this world and civilization made perfect by making that democracy a perfect institution. True He did not call it a democracy; He called it the Kingdom of Heaven. But if that Kingdom is ever set up, and the only

prayer that great Democrat ever taught us to pray—"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven"—is ever answered we will have a true and perfect democracy. If it is never answered we will never have a perfect democracy, because the "Kingdom of Heaven" and

perfect democracy are synonymous terms. Nature, God, is calling us to this work.

Democracy Must Save Humanity

But this call is to the people. When nature called to the child to rise to its feet there was no other power on earth or in the universe that could answer that call and co-operate in the development of that one body except the child itself.

The call to organize democracy is to the people, and it will never be answered unless the people answer it. This world may exist for a million years, but autocracy will never answer that call. It must be answered by the democratic forces of the world; the common people themselves. If this world is ever made safe for humanity, if war is ever destroyed and democracy set up in its fulness, it will be done by the common people. In order to accomplish that we have got to develop a genius for organization, the ability to mobilize our strength through organization and develop a higher citizenship and sane and capable leadership, and with all the true social spirit, to carry that work forward. This is not the work of a day, or a year, or of a century; it is the work of the ages. It is the supreme test of humanity as to whether or not it can civilize itself and become worthy of continued existence. If the child could not have responded to its call its development could never have been completed, and it would have been cast as refuse upon the scrap heap of nature. If humanity cannot regenerate itself, it too will go to the scrap heap. It is a long hard road that we will have to travel. It will be the strong test of the race. When that child first stood on its feet the potentialities of a great athlete may have been latent in its body, but in order for those powers to develop, hard training, day after day, and year after year, would be necessary.

Democracy is in its infancy, just beginning to try, for the first time, to rise to its feet. It has no developed power, but its potential strength is unlimited. The strength of a mighty giant, a world force, is latent within it. Nature points out to this infant democracy the only way that leads to ultimate success. This way is slow, evolutionary development through years, decades, and, perhaps, centuries of continuous effort and growth, all the time increasing in strength and efficiency, and all the time accomplishing more and more till finally the work is done. What is the work to be done? To meet in deadly conflict all the autocratic forces that bar the way to human progress, and these we will find entrenched at every point where man comes in social contact with his fellowman, more especially at every point where trade is involved.

Do not be deceived. Autocracy is not confined to Germany, nor any other nationality. Nor is it confined to military trenches. There are men in Canada just as autocratic, just as much opposed to real democracy and higher human rights, as there are anywhere. And these more than any others lay the blighting hand of autocracy on us, on our welfare, on the welfare of our families and on the comforts of our homes. The conflict is between animal selfishness and social unselfishness; between autocracy and democracy; between Mammon and God.

The Gathering Forces of Democracy

The forces of democracy are just beginning to gather. They are gathering in class organizations. This kind of

NOTE—In his article last week, President Wood showed how, owing to the unorganized condition of democracy, civilization came very near to absolute destruction at the hands of a highly organized autocracy following false laws of life. In the view of President Wood, humanity is doomed to a hopeless future unless democracy can rebuild civilization according to the true laws of life. Can this be done? In this article President Wood answers this vital question.



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