

EDUCATIONAL REFORM;
ITS RELATION TO A SOLUTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL
DEADLOCK.

*BY C. V. CORLESS, M.Sc. (MCGILL).

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Half a century ago, the greatest of the world's democracies learned by one of the bitterest lessons in history the absolute impossibility of harbouring the institution of slavery, autocratic rule over a portion of our fellow men, in a democratically free country. To-day we witness the selfsame struggle on a vastly more gigantic scale, in a world effort to uproot autocracy as a principle of rule from its last political stronghold on our planet. Thus have the two principles of liberty and domination ever struggled for ascendancy since a member of the human species first consciously gained control of others for his own ends. Thus will they ever struggle until all recognize that the only justice in social control rests on securing the greatest benefit to all—not to some; and until it is universally recognized that such control cannot justly be super-imposed but must arise from society itself, by its own consent and with its own approval. A taste of democratic freedom is intoxicating. Once acquired, it knows no bounds. But such freedom, if it is to be real, must be based on social intelligence and a well-developed ethical feeling, or it may take the form of license, that is, failure to recognize the equal rights of others. When this condition is reached, democracy becomes self-defeating.

Notwithstanding so clear a recognition of the incompatibility of democratic freedom and autocratic rule in political affairs, so clear that it has become a world issue, men have, for various reasons, been very slow to recognize this as the root cause of the existing antagonism in industry. Nearly all institutions in free countries have become democratic, that is, controlled by the consent of the constituents. In industry, the autocratic method still largely prevails. There is no possibility of this condition remaining permanent. The continual strife between capital and labour in the industrial field is rooted in this. It will not,

*Director and Manager of the Mond Nickel Co.