

Editorial

THE SUN RISES

Of course the world is to be different, different in every way, and there must of necessity arise a new type of men and women, possessed of new powers and animated by new ideals. This has been said so often that we are all beginning to believe it. True indeed, is the sacred speech: "Men cannot put new wine into old bottles." The new world cannot endure the old manner of living.

What then of the new world—the civilization upon which we are entering? Who can describe it? Shall we personify it as an ogre with the wild eyes of an anarchist and the blood-red claws of the Bolshevik, or as a sweet smiling cherub rich in love and genuine good-will? As answer comes the little song of Pippa, so full of cheer and gladness:

"The year's at the spring,
The day's at the morn,
The morning's at seven,
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing,
The snail's on the thorn,
God's in His Heaven,
All's right with the world."

With this assurance who need despair? Dark days, terrible days are yet to come, because we have not yet reaped the full aftermath of the cruelty and wrong that were for so long practised by those who in their arrogance and pride forgot to love their neighbors as themselves. But when justice has been avenged the clouds will pass away and the sun will shine with undimmed splendor upon a world that is redeemed from autocracy and hereditary privilege—a world in which plain simple men, and women good and true, will love to dwell.

And what of the men and women? Into the fibre of their being will be woven the thought of brotherhood, so that rivalries and animosities will cease. Either this or we perish hopelessly. And the law of mutual regard will extend until it encompasses all nations and all tribes, "and so the whole round earth will every way be bound by golden chains about the feet of God."

In that good day there will be no place for unbridled personal ambition and for national covetousness. But will it be your day or my day? The answer rests with ourselves. "That which people wish to have they will have, if they only wish it with a whole heart."

CLEAN THE STABLES

TO reach the standard of attainment demanded by the new world-civilization it is necessary for Canadians to bestir themselves. Both constructive and corrective work have to be done. Though in many cases the best way to correct evils is to forget them and to launch upon a strong constructive policy, that course cannot be adopted in every case. Some wrongs are so great, some sins against society so grievous, that they cannot be passed by. They must be punished according to their heinousness. The new stream may wash away much of the debris that now blocks its course, but the heavy boulders of political corruption, profiteering, and anti-national organization must be removed by loyally-conceived and carefully-planned effort. It is necessary to tell every man who has played into the hands of aliens in order to secure their political support, that this country will no longer tolerate him or any of his kind; it is necessary to tell profiteers that they must disgorge, and so must every one in a position of authority who has accepted their bribes; it is necessary to tell those with anti-Canadian sympathies, that the prairies are not broad enough to hold any of their class or description. Only when these three menaces to our civilization are removed shall we be free to enter upon a real and useful constructive programme.

THE CANADIAN HOME

A PROGRAMME of construction will have in mind the proper organization and the co-ordinating of all the institutions of society. The first of these institutions and by long odds the most important is the home. The home is the true measure of national worth. If Canada is to have enduring greatness she must first of all develop the virtues of the fireside. Fortunately she is so situated that conditions are favorable. People who live on farms keep pretty much to themselves, and a strong bond of attachment is soon formed. Then the long winters keep people indoors and they must associate whether they like it or not. The problem then is to make the association as healthful and wholesome as possible. This means among other things proper physical conditions. A proper habitation, suitably furnished and equipped, with provision for useful occupation and innocent amusement, and with opportunities in the way of reading, and music—this is of prime importance.

If parents would hold their children they must make the home attractive. But the chief attraction is not in the furnishings, however complete and costly they may be. The real bond and that which has national and world significance is the bond of affection, which has its foundation in a spirit of kindness and co-operation—the one thing that is really worth while in the home and in the nation. It is this spirit that is needed everywhere if the world is to realize its fond hopes and its noble ambition.

Though home life is the foundation of all life, it is evident that in Western Canada many are neglecting to measure up to their opportunities. There are loveless firesides—grumpy fathers, nagging mothers and unruly children. There are homes in which no provision is made for the comfort and for the education of the children, and in which the ordinary conveniences of civilization are totally lacking—and this not because of poverty, but because of meanness. Husbands who are careful as to their stock are careless when it comes to providing for their wives, and in towns women who are anxious to preserve appearances by stocking their homes with the finest furniture, neglect to provide playroom and toys for the growing family. When shall we all realize that the greatest values in life are human values, that the greatest joy is the companionship of one's own family? If Canada would be first among the nations, she must see to it that her families are of the noblest type. Robert Burns was not wrong when he pictured for us the "Cottar's Saturday Night" as the one thing above all others which made auld Scotia great:

"From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs
That makes her loved at home, revered abroad;
Princes and lords are but the breath of kings;
'An honest man's the noblest work of God';
And certes, in fair virtues heav'nly road,
The cottage leaves the palace far behind;
What is a lordling's pomp; A cumberous load,
Disguising oft the wretch of human kind,
Studied in arts of hell, in wickedness refined."

THE NEW SCHOOL

AND Canada has one thing more to do, that has not yet occupied her thoughtful attention. So far she has but played with education. Men will not hesitate to spend hundreds of dollars to improve their stock, but they will haggle over a ten dollar increase in the salary of the teacher. And after all education is the problem of getting good teachers. The day is coming when all up and down this land education will be considered more seriously. Viewed in one way the schools are all powerful for good or evil. It is for us to organize and staff them so that they will become the surety of our greatness. Municipal school boards, consolidated schools, permanent teaching force, teachers' residences, community clubs,—all these are but a beginning of the reforms which are in order if, through our schools, we would lead our young to happiness and our nation to the glory that awaits her. We shall be foolish beyond compare, if in our planning we fail to develop in those who must succeed us, the qualities and powers that are essential to peace and progress. The education of children is not one of the duties of parents, it is the supreme duty.

THE SPIRITUAL FORCE

THE third institution of civilization with which we are concerned is the church. Frankly it must be confessed that directly it has not the influence in the land that it once possessed, though acting indirectly through the other institutions of society it wields a greater power now than ever before. The principles it stands for have been incorporated into our life, and they are the mainstay of our civilization. But men are naturally so willing to accept favors without considering their origin, that they imagine all the goodness about them to originate in their own hearts. Without the Christian spirit the world would indeed be a sorry place. Let us keep alive that institution which teaches by word and deed that the abiding things in life are not might and material wealth, but, the graces of the soul—faith, hope and love. It is easy for men of small mind, leaders of groups of malcontents, to decry religion. It is to the religion they decry that they owe home, friends, country and all the peace they now enjoy in a free land.

Then there are the courts and the legislatures, which must unite in promoting the good of the people. In only a few cases can it be said of our judges that they have allowed political or religious prejudice to influence their decisions. One could wish that our legislators were equally free from suspicion. Signs are not wanting however, that better times are coming. They will come not as the result of the encouragement of class distinctions. If as the result of personal ambition we have had class rule in Canada during the

last twenty-five years, it will not make matters any better to put the government of the future in the hands of other classes—equally rapacious and no less to be trusted. Well may we pray—God give us men!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A PART from these institutions of men there are great private enterprises in which individuals and corporations engage. These have their duties and responsibilities. Every man who is in business has the burden of empire resting upon him, every member of a profession owes it to his fellows that he be above reproach, every farmer is his brother's keeper, and every merchant his customer's servant. Even the publisher in a land that is aiming to make a real world contribution, must aim at helping his readers to a higher plane of usefulness and morality. To put it in a word, Canada will be great only as the result of united unselfish action on the part of individuals and classes, and she will never contribute to the world's greatness and advancement until she feels the throb of living power in herself. Her lands and her forest wealth—all that Nature has so lavishly bestowed upon her are nothing, unless the men and women who people the prairies are great in soul, strong in body and upright in all behavior. "We can be what we wish to be—if we only wish it with a full heart."

USELESS COSTLY TALK

THE waste of time at the beginning of the present session of the Dominion Parliament in the days and days of useless talk by which the debate on the Speech from the Throne was spun out had already wearied the patience and aroused the irritation of all Canadians who try to follow the course of public affairs, when there came the revelations made in the report of the Commission which investigated the Government Printing Bureau at Ottawa. That establishment has been badly mismanaged, and has been costing the country a great deal more than it should. The bulkiest annual product of the Government Printing Bureau is Hansard—the row of portly volumes containing the verbatim report of every word spoken in the House. There is also a Hansard of the Senate, which while not as bulky as the House Hansard, runs to several volumes and costs a very large sum of money. The total cost of the two Hansards runs over \$100,000 annually. Why should this waste of the public money be continued? Every possible method should be used to choke off unnecessary speaking in Parliament—that is to say, speaking which is not contributory to the proper functions of Parliament, which are deliberative and consultative, for the framing of laws, for the criticizing of the Executive, that is to say, the Government in power, and, in a word, for the transaction of the public business. There should not be in Parliament any of the sort of speaking used at political campaign meetings. As things are, hundreds of speeches are made in Parliament solely to enable the members who make them to send out, free of postage, the Hansard reports of them by thousands throughout their constituencies. Every hour Parliament sits costs the people of Canada a large sum of money. There should be an end made of unnecessary talk at Ottawa.

BETWEEN EXTREMES

DURING the period of reconstruction, two great classes are endeavoring to assert themselves. They have been well defined by Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen of Britain. It will do Union leaders, as well as would-be autocrats here to reflect on what Mr. Thomas has said:

"There are two dangers we are faced with. On the one hand are those people who cannot read the signs of the times, the reactionaries who believe they were born to govern, and that they must enjoy the best things of life, and what is left is good enough for the others. The days of those people are doomed. There are those who believe you can revolutionize by mere industrial trouble or introduce what is called the Russian method into this country. I am as bitterly opposed to the one as to the other, because I believe both are dangers and must be fought, and that both are against the best interests of the working classes. I plead with you railway men and women of the country not to take the law into your own hands. The essence of democracy is to be loyal to those you have put into authority. Any other way will lead to disaster. Railwaymen and women, are we going to change the position? A better time is in store for you, but as democrats I appeal for loyalty, and I ask you to trust the executive committee. If we fail, then the issue will be yours."