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Special Articles

Public Perversion of the Mother Spirit.

By J. W. MacMillan, D.C.

Democratic Russia.

By W. W. Swanson.

The Growth of the Sugar Industry.

Conditions in the West.

By E. Cora Hind.

Have Canadian Cities Stopped Growing?

By Guy Cathcart Pelton.

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Time's Healing Power

IN the midst of war national hostilities and hatreds find full scope. Each of the belligerents feels very angry at the other, and is disposed to declare undying enmity. But time is a wonderful healer. A few years pass and those who were so intensely hostile to each other find themselves engaged in friendly relations. The relations between Russia and Japan are an illustration of this. It is but a few years since the two nations were at war. Now their relations are so friendly that Japan has been supplying enormous quantities of munitions of war to the Russian Government. To some extent the connection of Japan with Great Britain accounts for the change. Japan is by treaty an ally of Great Britain, and now that Russia and Great Britain have become allies Japan doubtless is willing to do a good turn for Russia for Britain's sake. But the new and friendly relations between Japan and Russia go beyond that. The two nations are disposed to cultivate closer relations for their mutual gain. A Japanese correspondent who has been in Petrograd had an interview with M. Sazonoff, the Russian Foreign Minister, the substance of which he thus reports:

"For some time Mr. Sazonoff did all the talking himself, but at last I found a chance to put to him the question to which I came particularly to get his answer. 'Will you favor me, your Excellency,' I ventured to ask, 'with your opinion as to the possibility of concluding a Russo-Japanese alliance?'

"I had expected that the answer would be diplomatic, evasive, and non-committal. To my great surprise, Mr. Sazonoff cast aside all finess of diplomacy, and met my question with a direct, clear answer. 'A Russo-Japanese alliance would be most desirable,' said Mr. Sazonoff. 'Such an alliance will in no wise adversely affect Japan's alliance with Great Britain; the first will materially strengthen the second. The present war has brought Japan and Russia close together, and there is no reason why the two nations should not cement the ties of friendship already existing by entering into an alliance.'

That this friendly feeling for Japan is fully reciprocated is indicated by a writer in a Japanese journal:

"To-day it is no exaggeration to say that the Russians are treating Japanese travelers and visitors as their allies. To the peoples of Japan and Russia, if not to their Governments, the Russo-Japanese alliance is almost a matter of course. To Russia such an alliance would prove to be a great benefit, as it would enable her to devote her whole attention to strengthening her position in Europe. From my personal observations I am prepared to assert

that the Russians, both official and non-official, are eager for an alliance with Japan.

"As for the Anglo-Japanese alliance, it will by no means be weakened by the conclusion of an alliance with Russia. On the contrary, we should prolong the term of the alliance with England. It should be Japan's policy to co-operate with England on sea and with Russia on land."

What a pity that Germany has not conducted her war in a manner that would admit of some such restoration, after the conflict, of good relations with her present foes as is seen to-day between Russia and Japan!

A Bad System Revived

IN a discussion at Ottawa, a few days ago, on a departmental estimate, the fact was disclosed that a retired public official had been given a much larger pension than he was entitled to on the basis of his salary and term of service. This had been done through the easy device of adding ten years imaginary time to his actual period of service. It is true that there is a section of the Superannuation Act that permits this, but it is one that would be better honored in the ignoring of it than in making use of it to serve an objectionable purpose, and we believe we are correct in saying that for many years it has been treated as a dead letter. The rule that a man's pension, where pensions are allowed, shall be in proportion to his years of public service is a reasonable one. The pension system, except in the case of those who have been lucky enough to become Judges, is not wholly one-sided. It requires the contribution by the official of a part of his salary every year towards the fund from which pensions are paid. He must thus contribute for a long period of years if he is to claim a substantial pension on his retirement. Adding imaginary years to his term credits him with a service that he did not render, and with funds that he never paid. It is a side door to favoritism and worse. When it is known that this side door is open, the applications for admission by it will be numerous, and the pressure upon those in charge will become embarrassing. Few men in the service will be satisfied that their claims to recognition are less than those of their fellows. Where all are treated alike there will be no trouble. But when one official is thus credited with years which he never gave to his office, while his fellows are held strictly to their actual years of service, there will be much discontent and much resort to political "pull" to secure the advantage. We believe it will be found that the practice had been condemned and abandoned for many years. The revival of it by the present Government is to be regretted.