



YOU have probably noticed that the Premier of Canada has allowed himself all of a week's holiday. Moreover he took some work away with him to do on his holidays; for he expected to spend several hours a day over his correspondence. I wonder what would happen if some of the rest of us had our holidays clipped down to a week, and we were asked to do a few hours' work a day while we were "enjoying" them. A lot of us would begin to talk about the nervous prostration and complete break-down which must infallibly follow so rude a violation of the laws of health. Yet not all of us are as old as the Premier of Canada; and precious few of us have had as hard a twelve months' work as he has put through. Yet if we were denied our holidays and took the sacrifice seriously, we might actually break down. But it would not be the work which would crush us; it would be the feeling of grievance and ill-usage. It is the solemn truth that a man very often cannot do work which he thinks he cannot; while he could easily do the same work if he wanted to think he could. It is not the overworked men who break down as a rule; it is the men who believe that they are overworked.

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THE Premier can get through so much work on so small an allowance of holidays because he is working for himself. He is taking no man's orders. He sticks to his work because he chooses to; and he knows perfectly well that he can take as many holidays as he wants with no one to question why. But he prefers to work. The spur of ambition—the desire to keep his party in power — undoubtedly an honest belief that he is serving his country—the love of the game—all make him anxious to stay at work. If he were kept away from work by an accidental barrier, the worry of it might make him sick. He does not feel that an employer is getting two weeks' extra work out of him for nothing. The more work he can put in, the better he is pleased. He is like the workman who is paid by the piece—the writer who is paid on space. He realises the difference in feeling between the shoemaker who works for himself in his little shop and the employee of the big shoe-shop who works on salary.

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I BELIEVE there would be much more good work done in the world, with much more willingness, with much better and greater results, and with less wear and tear on the health, if we could all manage to find tasks where we were paid by results and not by time. If I were running a business—and it is probably a good thing for me that I am not—I would put every possible man in it on a percentage basis. The wage system is the poorest possible way to pay for labour. It is a clumsy device which probably was invented by some stupid fellow who had more land than he could till, or more cattle than he could watch, and was compelled to get the son of a neighbour with a large family to help him. So long as he and his own family, together with his slaves, if he had any, could do all the work which his possessions called for, no question of paying for labour arose. But this neighbour's lad had to be paid; and the question was—How? He might only be working for a few days, and so could not share on a family basis. And at last the farmer decided in puzzled despair to pay him so much a day.

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THE wage system is one of the mistakes of civilisation. It does not pay for work; it pays for the passing of time. We try to make it reward ability, faithfulness, zeal, effectiveness generally, by paying some men more than others; but an employer has to be in pretty close touch with his employees to apply this system with discretion. The wage implies an overseer or some sort of slave-driver, else the wage-taker will follow the natural instinct of all human beings to get the best of a bargain. And that is a proper instinct. Men should always try to get as much as they can for as little as possible. That is the secret of all commercial progress. Now the wage system runs counter to this instinct, and establishes an artificial standard of honesty under which a man is asked to give more than he need for the price that is paid him. Then the wage system causes most strikes. Put workmen on a fair basis of profit-

sharing; and you could not drive them to reduce their own profits by tying up the works with a strike.

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HOWEVER, we have got a long way from Sir Wilfrid's holiday. After his holiday, he is to address a number of meetings in Ontario. Prior to most elections, Sir Wilfrid makes an appeal to Ontario; and usually Ontario has not responded very warmly. This year, however, he makes his appeal under new conditions. There will be no discredited Liberal Government in Toronto to harden the hearts of the people against every Liberal leader. He will be more in the position that he occupied in 1896 when his tour through this province aroused great enthusiasm. Certainly he is the best public tribune that the country contains. His platform appeal is far and away more effective than that of any other man in Canadian political life. He is our one moving orator. We have other convincing speakers, logical debaters and masters of platform humour; but we have in political life only one orator, and he is the Prime Minister of Canada. Whether or not Sir Wilfrid will attract votes by his tour, he will infallibly attract listeners.

W. J. M. porte

SIDNEY KIDMAN, the Australian cattle king, is now in London on his first visit. He probably owns more of the British Empire than any one other man. At fourteen he was earning \$2.50 a week and now he has 49,216 square miles of land standing in his name. He began life as a teamster and gradually worked his way up until he was the largest horse dealer and cattle owner in Australia. He owns 100,000 cattle and 10,000 horses, but is not quite satisfied with his business methods. He says that he is coming to this continent to try and get a job on a ranch as a cowboy so that he can find out the inside of the American methods.—*The Argonaut*.



Lady Garneau, wife of Sir J. George Garneau, Mayor of Quebec, who was one of the recipients of Tercentenary knightly honours. Lady Garneau presides over one of the most charming homes of Quebec and is deservedly popular in social circles.