

## Editorial

### The World Charter

**I**N the year of Our Lord 1215 there was presented to a tyrannical ruler of England a paper to which he was compelled by an outraged people to affix his signature. This was the great charter of England. Some centuries later there was drawn up in the Republic to the south of us a grave declaration which still further insisted upon the rights of the common people to self-government and self-control. This is known as the American Declaration of Independence. It is fitting that two representatives of these two great nations should, within a short week, set forth in clear and unmistakable terms, the articles of the great world charter, which a humbled Prussianism will be compelled to sign as a guarantee of the future freedom and happiness of humanity. It is eminently fitting that Premier Lloyd-George and President Wilson should have been the spokesmen for the two countries. It was Winston Churchill who said before the American Luncheon Club in England:

"It is a very happy thing that at the present moment two Anglo-Saxon democracies should each have found a leader, who by the march of events and their own great qualities, have so far surpassed their contemporaries as to acquire the right and power to speak without challenge in the name of the nations as a whole. They also command that paramount authority without the responsibility of which and without the fortifying of which no safe nor sure path can be found or be followed."

When one reads the two addresses and the crystallized statements of the two great democratic statesmen, he perceives how united they are in thought and feeling; and when he compares their utterances with those of the spokesmen of the Central Powers, he has reason to congratulate himself that he belongs to a race that can speak openly, frankly and without dissimulation.

In after years these articles of world liberty will be learned and known by every school boy, and they cannot have too wide a circulation among the people just now. If there is any one in the land who cannot subscribe to the doctrine, let him get away. The destiny of Anglo-Saxons is to be free. Those who love freedom will welcome these expressions from men who owe their positions, not to heredity, but to the votes of the people.

Here is the British demand. Read and consider. Then make your resolve and sign your name.

"We are fighting for a just and lasting peace, and we believe that before a permanent peace can be hoped for, three conditions must be fulfilled. Firstly, the sanctity of treaties must be re-established; secondly, territorial settlement must be secured and based on the right of self-determination or consent of the governed; and, lastly, we must seek by the creation of some international organization to limit the burden of armaments and diminish the probability of war. On these conditions, the British Empire would welcome peace. To secure these conditions, its peoples are prepared to make even greater sacrifices than those they have yet endured."

Here is the American charter. Read it, too, and you can surely sign it. It is a model of clearness and conciseness and it breathes the soul of liberty. It is no wonder that the President closed his address with these words:

"The moral climax of this, the culminating and final war for human liberty, has come, and they (people of the United States) are ready to put their own strength, their own highest purpose, their own integrity and devotion, to the test."

The president presented the following as necessary elements of world peace:

1—Open covenants of peace without private international understandings.

2—Absolute freedom of the seas in peace or war except as they may be closed by international action.

3—Removal of all economic barriers and establishment of equality of trade conditions among nations consenting to peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

4—Guarantees for the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

5—Impartial adjustment of all colonial claims based upon the principle that the peoples concerned have equal weight with the interest of the government.

6—Evacuation of all Russian territory and opportunity for Russia's political development.

7—Evacuation of Belgium without any attempt to limit her sovereignty.

8—All French territory to be freed and restored, and reparation to be made for the taking of Alsace-Lorraine.

9—Readjustment of Italy's frontiers along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

10—Freest opportunity for autonomous development of the peoples of Austria-Hungary.

11—Evacuation of Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro, with access to the sea for Serbia and inaugura-

tion of economic and political importance and territorial integrity of the Balkan states.

12—Secure sovereignties for Turkey's portion of the Ottoman Empire but with other nationalities under Turkish rule assured security of life and opportunity for autonomous development, with the Dardanelles permanently opened to all nations.

13—Establishment of an independent Polish state, including territories inhabited by undisputed Polish population with free access to the sea and political and economical independence and territorial integrity guaranteed by international covenant.

14—General association of nations under specific covenants for mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to large and small states alike.

### The Canadian Railways

**T**HE ruling of the Railway Commission of Canada came as a surprise to the people of the west. Fortunately there is a power above the Commission and this power must, in the long run, adjudicate and find a remedy. Never was there a more opportune time for a government to straighten out tangles. One of the worst tangles is that which has to do with transportation. The people of Canada

### The Laughter of the English

(From the New York Sun)

England, we know thee better now;

Unuttered all thy sorrow;

Thy humor wears the stern day out

And mocks the grim to-morrow.

For while the world said, "Let none

smile;

There is no mirth hereafter!"

The "golden lads" of Shakespeare's land

Outfaced their doom with laughter.

We guess what inward throes must shake

The stout heart still unbroken.

What griefs lie in the silent deeps,

What agonies unspoken!

But all the world hears is the quip

That flouts at panic's rumor.

Where toff and cockney carry on

In high intrepid humor.

Simple and subtle is thy mood—

Not honoring Fritz to hate him!

Leaving him puzzled at thy jests,

The scorn wherewith ye rate him.

England, we know thee better now!

Through all the years hereafter

Shall thy name, England, ring for us

A chime of valiant laughter.

have built the roads, endowed them, have generously donated to their support, and have turned into the coffers of the magnates who controlled the stock, enormous sums annually. Now they are to have their reward—the privilege of paying increased rates.

It is the duty of a government to exercise supervision over all the great activities of a people. There is no reason why it should not control transportation. During the war at least, production, manufacture, man-power, wealth of every kind, should be conscripted. Why should not the railroads here, as in the United States, be brought into service? It may be, indeed, that one of the richest by-products of the war will be the nationalization of the railway system. There are certain natural monopolies which the state should control such as defence, postage, administration of justice. Is there any reason why transportation should not be considered as one of these monopolies?

### All Round Conscription

**T**HE suggestion made in these columns last month that alien labor should be conscripted, and the price of wages fixed, has been repeated in many quarters. There is no good reason why a soldier should receive a dollar and ten cents a day for service in the trenches and an alien four dollars a day in the harvest fields. Nor is it fair for farmers who receive such a good price for their grain to pay only a dollar and ten cents a day to workmen. The right idea is to fix a reasonable rate for the farmer to pay, but to have a fraction of this amount revert to the public treasury. There is a pretty general feeling, anyway, that the price set for wheat is too high, unless a portion of the proceeds is used for the prosecution of the war. The war has added a dollar a bushel to the price of wheat. Why should the farmer not return a fraction of the amount for

national defence? The economic questions pertaining to the war are far from settled. That which is true of farming is equally true of labor. Adjustment is not easy, but we cannot afford very much longer to let each man go as he pleases, without regard to the rest. All-round conscription is a good rule, and it should apply to all people and all interests in all provinces of the Dominion.

### The New Education

**I**N British Columbia, the Minister of Education has called a conference to deal with the programme of studies and other matters. It is felt that the schools are following tradition a little too closely, and that the times demand radical measures. The Victoria Colonist puts it in this way. "The world is a changing world. The rising generation must not be wedded to stereotyped educational methods, but must expand with the times. This war is an education in a variety of branches of human knowledge, yet by our public school system there is only a circumscribed opportunity of taking advantage of the book which it unfolds. We do not want our children to be Prussianized by making a fetish of technical education to the exclusion of knowledge which shapes the character and determines the future type of our citizenship. These are some of the aspects of educational reform we hope the present conference will consider. Above all, in the curricula of the future the utmost attention should be paid to such studies as build up and develop character. That is the conception of education in following which the teaching profession can do its noblest work."

These words might well be considered by men and women in all the western provinces. If, on the one hand, there is a temptation in the University and among certain people to perpetuate old forms and to emphasize old studies, just because they are old, there is no justification for rushing to the other extreme and emphasizing altogether what is called the practical and the technical. For this is a short-sighted policy in every way. The best help a child can get towards any calling is training in right living. That being given him, all the rest is easy. And for children under fourteen years, which includes nearly all of them, technical training is impossible in any case. The Colonist has said something worth while.

### Sowing and Reaping

**A**S we sow we reap. Germany for years preached the gospel of force, hate and terrorism. She is reaping the harvest. Russia for centuries suffered under the iron rule of despotism. She is paying back the price in blood and famine. England, through mistaken generosity, gave away Heligoland, and now she has full opportunity to regret her error. So we, too, in Canada have sowed the seeds of political, religious and racial discord, and are now garnering the grain. Now is the time to undo the mischief of centuries. From our statute books should be eliminated every word which suggests distinction of race or creed. It is time that one should be glad to exhibit anywhere the badge of his citizenship containing upon it a word without a hyphen. The man who will in these days attempt in legislation or otherwise to keep alive racial, religious and political distinctions, is lacking in patriotism.

### Brothers All

**I**F there is one thing the war is going to do, it is to cement the friendship between Americans and Canadians. There is no Canadian who will not feel his heart throb as he reads the messages of President Wilson, and who will not glory in the liberality and enterprise of the great people south of the boundary line. In like manner, they have hearts very warm towards Canada. What could be a finer tribute than this from the New York Globe. Read it and be worthy of it:—

"Little in ancient or modern annals surpasses the virtue displayed by Canada. For forty months Canada has been sending across the sea her noblest and best. No like population in the world has excelled her in soldiers recruited, and the mighty contribution has been made without resort to conscription. She prized her soul more than her body, and with splendid chivalry, long before this country came in, she has been fighting our battle, the battle for freedom of the world, for a civilization based on right and not on might. The free democracy of the United States salutes with admiration the free democracy of Canada. Across our border dwell a people at once pacific and heroic. Such a people and the government they create to execute their will we can trust. We need no forts to guard the frontier. We dwell at peace with a good neighbor whose essential purposes are our own. God grant that in the history of the next three years, if the period of sacrifice is thus prolonged, we shall show a nobility of mind and an energy of the spirit equal to our brothers of the north."