



THE PHILOSOPHER

There is a note, it might almost be said, of pathos in what the New York Times has to say of the inflow of farmers into Western Canada from across the international boundary, and of the large number of these settlers who have become naturalized Canadian citizens.

NEW CITIZENS FROM OVER THE LINE.

No less than 7,000 Americans were naturalized in this country last year, and the total number naturalized during the last half dozen years is over 40,000. Says the New York Times: "It is easier to understand this American emigration than to reconcile ourselves to it, and the hardest thing of all is to believe that whatever the reason the feeling of American citizenship is weakening." It would hardly have been thought possible, it says, that 40,000 Americans should become naturalized Canadians. In reply to the New York Times it is only necessary to point out the obvious fact that since the settler in Canada from the United States need not be naturalized unless he himself sees fit, his own action in becoming a naturalized Canadian is convincing evidence of his conviction that Canada is a good country to live in, and that there is no reason why he should not enter into the fullness of the rights of Canadian citizenship. He finds in Canada a plan of government which does not violate any of his democratic principles; on the contrary, it is more direct than that of the United States in its submission of the executive authority to the will of the people. He also finds that the law of the land is effectively enforced, that justice is secured to every man, that life and property are protected, and that punishment follows surely upon violation of the law.

What shall a man give for his life? The past month has seen several immensely wealthy people sell their lives for furious speed in their automobiles. The summer's long record of dreadful fatalities ought to teach automobilists everywhere that safety and not speed is the thing to be desired.

THE MANIA FOR SPEED.

It is the old problem of using and not abusing the good things of life, the lesson that we are all slow to learn, and the favorites of fortune perhaps the slowest of all. There are people who tour at will, always at a moderate speed, and with consideration for the safety of others. They derive pleasure from their moderate and sensible use of their automobiles; the pity is there are not more of them. They are the philosophers of the automobile fraternity. No burdens rest on their consciences. Speed-madness brings death either to the speed-mad or to the innocent victims of their mania. The appeal to reason which governs ordinary conduct leaves that mania untouched. The difficulty of enforcing speed laws on lonely highways and in the night time is a most serious one. If the fatalities in the United States and across the Atlantic which have been so frequently reported in the newspapers of late—nor has Canada been exempt from them—should shock some of the more callous everywhere into the exercise of self-restraint, the deaths will not have been in vain.

The cornerstone of civilization must be respect for law. Free government is only possible where people have confidence in the lawful methods of punishing crime, and where they are restrained from interfering with the processes of their courts, both by confidence in their justice and by fear of their punishments when the courts are defied or the laws are broken.

THE BEAST IN MAN.

During the past month there have been lynchings and other outbreaks of violent lawlessness in the neighboring country. The worst and most prolonged was at Springfield, the home of Abraham Lincoln and where his tomb is. Nothing can account for such scenes as those at Springfield, where mob fury had to be restrained by fear of the bullets and bayonets of the soldiers, except the beast in man, the blood-lust that is the remnant of savagery. The better class of the population there, as elsewhere, had no part in the outburst of murderous passion. Such outbursts come from the baser element, who promote and prolong them as an

excuse for pillage and an outlet for their latent savagery. The emergency brought forth, as such emergencies always do, fine proof of the high qualities of humanity, as witness the heroic conduct of the sheriff and the rapid and effective display of military force by the citizen soldiery. Thank heaven, we can truthfully say that Canada has never had a lynching, nor any outbreak of the spirit of loot, rapine and murder. But our satisfaction must be tempered by the thought of the hoodlumism of some of the men travelling westward to work as harvest hands. Ordinarily decent at home, these few men disgraced themselves by their outrageous rowdiness on their way to the West. Effective steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such outrages in the future.

The month that is past has had more than its share of happenings in the world which are likely to be of historic importance and which furnish food for thought to every mind which is interested in the developments of the world's progress.

HUMANITY MOVES ONWARD.

From Russia, Turkey and Persia has come notable news of the progress towards self-government of peoples that have for centuries submitted with hardly a murmur to the rule of the autocrat and the despot. The peoples in those lands are thinking new thoughts. China is taking the first faltering steps in the direction of constitutional government. On all the continents humanity is moving forward.

In Turkey the past month has seen, as part of the introduction of the new regime, the disappearance of the veil which for ages has hidden the faces of the Turkish women. The veil came into Turkey with the Mohammedan religion, its use being commanded by the Koran.

WOMEN IN TURKEY.

While the women of Europe and America have had increasing recognition of their rights, the women of the East, in Turkey, Arabia, India and China have for centuries lived the bare, helpless, monotonous lives of slaves, or playthings; if of the lower classes, slaves driven to labor; if of the upper, none the less slaves, used as playthings and thrown aside for others more pleasing. The men of Turkey have just been granted the suffrage. How long will it be before the women are demanding it, too?

An item in the day's news a couple of weeks ago was the death in the vicinity of Winnipeg of a son of Louis Riel, the man who twice headed the forces of rebellion against Canadian authority in the West. The first Riel rebellion, in 1870, might have prevented the area that is now Western Canada forming part of the Dominion; the second might, at the worst, have stirred up Indian and half-breed trouble that would have retarded the progress of the West. Both seem as remote from the actualities of today as the warfare between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Fur Company a hundred years ago.

A REMINDER OF THE PAST.

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In many ways the most wonderful event of the month—it might even be within the mark to term it the greatest onward step of the age—was the successful flight of Count Zeppelin's airship from the Lake of Constance to Mayence and half-way back.

AN EMPIRE'S AERIAL HOPES.

That is to say, as far as from Winnipeg to Regina and half-way back. The Count brought it to land, and leaving it insecurely anchored, went off to have luncheon and get some extra gas cylinders, and a sudden storm blowing up, it was wrecked. It could carry sixteen people, and, when in the air, was under complete control, ascending or descending, and going this way or that, as the man at the wheel desired. The extraordinary interest taken by all Germany in Count Zeppelin's work in aerial navigation is a military interest. Britannia rules the waves; Germania wants to rule the air. This feverish desire to make the most of whatever military advantage there may be in the perfection of aerial trans-

portation is nothing short of tragic. The stories of how Germans in all parts of the Kaiser's Empire burst into tears when they heard of the destruction of the Zeppelin airship are more than melancholy, they are sinister in their significance. They seem to reveal the state of mind that regards the frantic pursuit of new and novel engines of war, to drop down dynamite like rain upon armies and fortresses and cities and ships, as the highest function of a nation. The hope of humanity, on the other hand, must be that the cruise of the ill-fated Zeppelin airship marks a long stride forward in scientific and industrial progress in the history of the race, and that the development of aerial navigation will create conditions tending to make war more than ever a folly and a crime.

Following the widespread disastrous fire in the Crow's Nest region came news of a conflagration in the forests of Vancouver Island, in which millions of dollars' worth more standing timber went up in smoke.

DESTRUCTION OF FOREST WEALTH.

If this sort of thing continues the lumber dealers will not have to resort to fiction when explaining why the price of lumber soars. It is announced that patrols are to be instituted to secure the preservation of the nation's forest wealth from destruction by fire. This should have been done earlier. The value of the timber destroyed in two or three forest fires would more than provide for the adequate protection of all Canada's forests for many years.

A great deal has been printed about an alleged new variety of wheat said to have been found five years ago in Alaska by Abraham Adams, an Idaho rancher, who was gold-hunting. The story is that he found a small patch of wheat in Alaska, originating

FABULOUS WHEAT FROM ALASKA.

"perhaps from seed dropped by a prospector, a native, or even a passing bird—at any rate it had survived, and drawn strength to live from that climate." He took home one head, according to the story, and from it gathered a crop of seven pounds of grain on his Idaho ranch; and planting the seven seeds, the second yield was 1,545 pounds—220 bushels to the acre. So goes the story; the wheat being said to be suitable for growing in any part of the continent, to withstand heavy winds and even hailstorms, to grade up to No. 1 hard, and to produce superior flour. Officials of the Department of Agriculture at Washington have sent out a bulletin which says:

"We know nothing about this wheat, except that we have seen a sample and have identified it in response to a request from a person in Idaho. This kind of wheat has often been grown in the mountain region, and is commonly known as 'alfalfa' or 'seven-headed wheat.' It has a composite head. Therefore we have not known of any instance in which the wheat yielded sufficiently more than others to be particularly valuable for that reason. On the other hand, it has usually given evidence of not being a good milling wheat, but I know nothing about the yield of this particular strain, and it may be something better than the ordinary."

In addition to this, Mr. B. T. Galloway, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, has published a warning against "too ready acceptance of the reports regarding the enormous yield of Alaska wheat obtained by Mr. Adams, of Idaho, at least until after the Department has investigated this matter." This investigation is now being made. Meanwhile, relatives of Mr. Adams, of Idaho, who live in Minneapolis, announce that they have made a thorough investigation, and declare that Mr. Adams' story is all right and the officials at Washington are all wrong. We can all afford to wait and see.

Of those who were summoned in August from the life of this world, surely no one could look back upon a worthier life's work than Ira D. Sankey. It is more than thirty years since his famous partnership with Moody began, and such songs of his as "There Were Ninety and Nine" and "When the Mists Have Rolled Away" took the world by storm. Their hold is not in the least diminished. In point of homely sincerity, simplicity and kindly sympathy for erring humanity, the Sankeys hymns stand unrivalled. Musical dilettanti sneer at his tunes; superior people sneer at anything which easily stirs the emotions of the mass of humanity. But in the face of the living force of Sankey's hymns, it is absurd for superior people to deny them artistic merit. In the musical expression of evangelical fervor, Sankey stands alone; his hymns are a continuing force. In his last years the hand of physical affliction was laid heavily upon him, but he bore his blindness and shattered nerves with cheerful resignation, and in his darkened hours he was able to look back upon a life of more than usual account and a talent put to its noblest use.