

## The Educational Page

IN the titanic struggle now on in Europe, on the issue of which the world hangs breathlessly, society is being shaken to its foundations. If democracy wins, as it must, a new social order must and will unquestionably arise—a democracy in spirit as in name. In the working out of this new social order, readjustments, social, economic and educational, as undreamed of as was this Armageddon in the pre-war days, must be made. This will call for the largest tolerance, the widest sympathy, the keenest insight and the profoundest wisdom of our best thinkers and our practical educationists.

It is a hopeful sign for the future that already the trend of thinking on educational lines is toward increased demands for broader and more general education for every citizen. It is particularly gratifying to note that both the American Federation of Labor and the Workman's Educational Association of Great Britain, the latter an affiliation of one hundred and sixty or more societies, after many conferences and long study of the problem, have concurred in the general demand that all facilities for the highest education the state affords be made possible for and at the disposal of every child. More gratifying still is the fact that they agree with the best educators that much broad cultural training should precede the vocational.

It is hardly necessary to say that this points to a new and fuller community life in which the ideal of social service will displace the individualism and materialism that have characterized the present social order, and that out of the present

chaos must arise, nay, has already arisen, the new and wider ideal of world brotherhood.

This will surely mean great and sweeping changes in much of our educational work. History will gain a new and vital interest and significance. Sociology must become the common possession of all. Everything that interests and affects the lives of the nations with whom we have recently formed new and lasting friendships, cemented in blood, will take on a new value for us. Preparation for all this should be well in hand now. In view of the tremendous potentialities of the schools of the nation in influencing in the broadest possible way our great foreign population, in informing the whole citizenship of Canada on the great industrial problems and instilling true and enlightened ideas of duty to the state, it would seem not unreasonable to have at the present moment an educational commission at work from one end of Canada to the other. Much preparation is always necessary before any sweeping change, in order to get the best results with the least friction.

The slogan adopted by a recent national conference of teachers in the United States was, "Not only to 'carry on' as usual, but to do extraordinary things to meet extraordinary conditions." When we hear that at the recent woman's conference at Ottawa the statement was made that a thousand schools in Alberta would be closed this year unless a supply of teachers were obtained from outside provinces, and when we recall the intensity and proportions of the recent struggle in Saskatchewan by which an alien