

FUTURE CANADA---WHAT?

(By Herbert Fiddes, Kamloops, B. C.)

It does not require a long memory to realize that the world has been passing through a series of stages, each with its own individual characteristics. Just prior to the war, from every pulpit and at every street corner were heard denunciations against the Selfishness and Greed of men. It was the age of the "Get-Rich-Quicks." It was an age when Self predominated. People were absorbed in their own interests, and in grabbing the riches of the world, and worried not about their brothers' weal. Suddenly the world was ablaze. "War! War!" was the cry. Young men stirred by adventure and patriotism, jumped to arms in defence of their country. Months of bloody warfare passed into years, and the strain upon the country began to enter every home. The deeds of heroism stirred men to their soul's depths. The cry on every side was "Sacrifice." Women's fingers grew swollen and weary knitting socks, and men were urged to give! give!! give!!!—"Give until it hurts." There were still those in the great upheaval that clung to the old cry of "Self," and tried to close their ears to the shouts for "Sacrifice." Pressure was brought to bear, and many a "tight-wad" was forced to sacrifice by the power of public opinion. In many cases the new sensation of giving and its resultant pleasures, grew upon them and they entered wholeheartedly with the crowd who shouted "Sacrifice." Then on that glorious day when victory smiled, and the enemy cowered, and the "cease fire" notes were sounded, the world lay back—lost in the re-action. The need for working at high pressure was no more. Men and women were at sea, unable to find their bearings. Now hours hung idly on their hands, and the joys of loved ones returned, tested their over wrought nerves, and they simply had to find an outlet. It was found in pleasure. This we might term the age of "Sensation." It was then that dancing and other means of amusement reached their height. People craved for sensation! sensation!! Just as a boy must find an outlet for his surplus energy, so must the people find an outlet to their over-wrought emotions. These took various forms, so that the world seemed to have gone pleasure-mad.

But gradually the world adjusted itself to the new conditions and it appears to the writer that the craving for sensation is passing. No longer do the wild "jazz" and "bunny-hug" hold sway. Dances are more normal—more sedate. Men are turning their attention to other things. The lessons of the war are not altogether lost. Men are realizing that they are their brother's keepers, and that no man can live unto himself. All around us are springing up clubs with "Community Service" as their aims. We have Rotary, Kiwanis and Gyro Clubs. These are composed of men who realize that man is not a selfish individual, but must take his part in helping and remodeling the conditions of the world. We are coming into the age of "Service."

It will be a long and often disheartening task to educate many of our men to the realization that they owe a debt to the world. Too often do we hear that the world owes men a living. We owe the world our best.

In the great task of readjustment there are those who will talk, and few who will act. When there is a piano to be moved there is always someone who will grab the piano stool. The world is still full of piano stool grabbers. The world needs big men who will undertake a man's job.

The character of a nation is the character of its individuals. We can make Canada what we will. Environment is subject to man's will. We create our environment. Too often do we allow our environment to create us.

Ancient Greece craved for countrymen who would excel in philosophy, and athletes who would win the great races. To this end she trained her youth. The result was her men were fleet of foot, and she has left a legacy to the world in the names of Socrates, Aristotle Plato and others. Rome wished a nation of stern soldiers, and she was rewarded. In after years Germany wanted a nation of soldiers. She trained her youth, and grew to be the most formidable nation in the world.

The trend of times is upward. First we had Self, followed by Sacrifice, Sensation and now Service. But as stated above the nation will be just what we make it. It will be great as we are great, religious as we are religious, strong as we are strong, commercially inclined as we are so inclined, educated as we view educational standards.

The secret of a nation's power lies with her young people. As we mould the minds of our boys and girls so we will mould the minds of our future Canada. How careful should be parents, teachers and others who have to deal with the young as they view the great influences and mighty responsibility that are theirs. We—each one of us—are nation builders.

Therefore—"Fix the goal you wish to gain,
Then go at it heart and brain,
And, though clouds shut out the blue,
Do not dim your purpose true
With your sighing.
Stand erect, and, like a man,
Know 'They can who think they can'—
Keep a-trying.

Had Columbus half-seas o'er
Turned back to his native shore,
Men would not today proclaim
Round the world his deathless name,
So must we sail on with him
Past horizons far and dim,
Till at last we own the prize
That belongs to him who tries
With faith undying;
Own the prize that all may win
Who, with hope, through thick and thin
Keep a-trying."

Meeting Provincial Needs

The great increase in the number of telephone stations in this province means that the telephone subscriber is able to reach many more people by wire, and consequently his service is of greater value. During the past year or two, expansion has been marked in all parts of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, but adequate facilities have been installed, both in regard to outside plant and inside equipment, to meet the needs of the various communities. The object of the company is to give a telephone service second to none. The B. C. Telephone Company, being a British Columbian concern all through, has a real interest in provincial progress, and every effort is made not only to meet the needs of development, but to anticipate them.

British Columbia Telephone Co.