

The Philosopher

The Future of Canada

The Philosopher has pleasure in quoting from a speech made by Lieutenant J. A. Stevenson, formerly a well known Winnipeg barrister and later editor of the Great War Veteran Magazine. Speaking about Canada's future, he says:

"What will be the future of this new Canada, and what will be its relations to its nearest and dearest friends, Great Britain and the United States?"

"For the last century the most permanent and troublesome factor in Canadian politics has been the inveterate prejudice against the United States, inherited by many Canadians from United Empire Loyalist ancestors. Time and again it has been skilfully traded on by interested protectionist groups to defeat all efforts for closer trade relations; the 1911 reciprocity election was the last and worst example. Toryism and reaction in Canada have always fattened on the anti-American sentiment. Of the two historic parties at Ottawa, the Conservatives have always laid special stress on the Imperial tie and British connection, with the strong reservation of local protection, while the Liberals have been the North American party, insisting at all times on Canadian autonomy and consistently advocating closer trade relations with the United States. To-day, the common sacrifices on the battlefields of Europe have forged new ties between the two North American democracies, which bid fair to endure and to repair the stupid blunders and bickerings of the past. Never has there been such free and wholesome intercourse between the two countries."

"All these bonds of communion and intercourse cannot fail to modify appreciably and to exercise an excellent influence upon the future relations of the two countries. Exactly what, however, those relations will be is an interesting speculation. If the League of Nations comes to fruition, it is safe to assume that Canada will insist upon having separate representation at its board and will decline to enter as a fractional subdivision of a unified British Imperial sovereignty. The continuance of Prussia as an autocratic military despotism was the only force that could have welded the British Commonwealth into an organic union, and now that the German menace may be assumed to have vanished, the case for Imperial centralization loses all its force. The reasons which will impel Canada to a fuller assertion of her national individuality are various but clear. There is an underlying sense that she has too often in the war and during the past been treated by the Mother Country more as a vassal than as a sister state; there is a feeling of new pride and self-dependence generated by her soldiers' valor; there is a recognition that the internal cohesion which Sir Wilfrid Laurier strove for and which Premier Borden has needlessly impaired, and which is to-day Canada's most serious need, can best be secured in an intensification of Canadian nationality and a more completely authoritative Canadian Parliament. We may, therefore, expect to see Canada emerge in the next decade as a full-fledged sovereign state, subject to the limitations imposed by the League of Nations if that comes to pass."

The Men Back from Service Overseas

In an inspiring message from General Sir Arthur Currie, the commander of Canada's field army, which is published by the Canadian Repatriation Committee, there is an appeal for co-operation by all Canadians in the work of reabsorbing back into civil occupations the men returned from service overseas, which must find a response in every true Canadian heart. "The dangers, sufferings and losses shared in common," writes General Currie in regard to the returned soldiers "have lowered the barriers between the classes, broadened the outlook on life, and created an atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect, understanding and sympathy. The citizen soldiers have learned the value of individual initiative backed by sound judgment, and they have learned also that organization and discipline, by measuring the task to the strength and capacity of the individual, by preventing waste and assuring mutual support, yield much greater results than scattered efforts. The qualities which made the Canadians such good soldiers at the front are the qualities essential to good and progressive citizenship in a free country. It is for every Canadian to do his part in helping to turn them to the best account."

Unrepentant Germany

From the very moment Germany began the War, confident that German might would achieve world dominion and make itself master of human destinies, all the journalists and professors and other exponents of Kultur in Germany justified everything that Germany did on land and on sea. The intellectual leaders of Germany are now busy explaining away Germany's defeat, and attributing it to defects in the political and military leadership, while at the same time proclaiming as boastfully as ever the superiority of the German people to all others, and predicting that the future will see that superiority demonstrated! There

is no evidence of any change of heart in the German people, or of any realization by them of the fact that the victory of the Allies is the victory of right and freedom and justice over outrage and ruthlessness in violation of all right and justice. There is no proof that they are repentant, or ashamed, and would not again ravage other lands and spread outrage and destruction ruthlessly, if they could. On the contrary, there is every indication that they are still as convinced as ever that Germany had a perfect right to begin the War as it did, and to carry on the War as it did. That is the problem which confronts the Allies in dealing with the defeated, but still self-vaunting, German people.

Misjudging France

Before the War, there was altogether too general an opinion abroad throughout the world that the French were a frivolous people, occupied chiefly with pleasure and immorality. That misjudgment did a grave injustice to a great and noble people, who are not long-faced and solemn, it is true, but who have a profound devotion to the family life, and who have seriousness, for all their outward gaiety, and fortitude and industry and self-denial and many other virtues. No people not morally sound could have done what the French people have done in the War. All the world knows the truth about the French people now. But there seems to be some little danger of a wrong opinion getting abroad now in regard to their attitude towards some of the soldiers of their Allies. In some newspapers in the United States there are stories of American soldiers being overcharged in France and not treated cordially. It is worthy of note that such stories are calling forth denials in great numbers from men back from France. To blame the people of France because of some instances of individual overcharging would be to misjudge them grossly and inexcusably. The Philosopher has talked with many Canadians back from France, and this is most emphatically the testimony of them all.

To Protect the Public Health

There is a growing urgency of realization in the minds of all thinking people that there should be an adequate state system of medical and nursing aid which will provide a force of highly trained men and women filled with the enthusiasm for service, and guaranteed adequate remuneration for their service, who will be a fighting force always ready to be sent where they may be needed. The principle that the care of the public health is the duty of the State is one which no longer needs any argument in its support. During the past half year a visitation of the epidemic of influenza has shown in a sufficiently tragic manner the total inadequacy of medical and nursing aid in the rural districts, to say nothing of the centres of population. Too high praise could not possibly be given to the noble efforts of doctors and nurses to save life during this epidemic often at the cost of their own. Innumerable men and women outside the ranks of doctors and nurses have in like manner proven themselves Good Samaritans indeed. The decision to establish a Dominion department of public health is a wise one. That department should be co-related with the health work of the different provinces. Provincial governments have shown great service in striving to cope with the needs of medical and nursing aids in the rural districts, but more needs to be done. For medical men work in regions which are but sparsely settled and where the distances to be travelled are great and so hard, and the pecuniary results are small and uncertain; the absence of hospitals, too, where greater experience can be gained, is the effect of the tiring medical man from settling in such districts. The same holds true with regard to graduate nurses, for whom there is a vast difference between working in a town, or city, with modern conveniences around her and working in a homesteader's shack in a remote and sparsely settled district where she can have neither comforts nor privacy.

Another Book on Eugenics

From Boston there comes to The Philosopher's table a book entitled Applied Eugenics. As a rule, writings on subjects of that kind are visionary and uninteresting. This book, however, has some interesting pages, notably in the chapter in which is discussed the question of "social contacts for young people." It is set forth that seventy-five married couples, taken at random, were asked where they first met, and that their answers were as follows:

At church.....	32
At school.....	16
At college.....	3
In private homes.....	17
At dances.....	7

The average of marriages among college graduates says this book, is "lamentably low". Among the things advocated by the book are taxation of bachelors, abolition of child labor, compulsory education, vocational guidance and training, mothers' pensions and sex hygiene laws. It also advocates somewhat elaborate legislative restrictions in regard to marriage, many of

which are admirable, but of some of which it is to be said that they would be found difficult of enforcement. Would any young man of spirit consent to parting forever from the girl of his choice because her great-aunt died in a lunatic asylum?

A Tale of a Scotch Bull

When The Philosopher was at the Brandon Winter Fair a couple of weeks ago he was fortunate in having for a companion The Professor, who as they strolled about viewing the animals on exhibition, told him many interesting things about the development of the different breeds of domesticated cattle. One curious thing which The Professor mentioned was in connection with the bulls bred for use in the brutal national "sport" of Spain. That breed of Spanish cattle, he said, resembles in many respects the Channel Island breeds in which the cows are so famed as milk-producers, such as the Jerseys and Guernseys. It appears, however, that the Spanish bulls that are used in the bull-ring are of a special breed, which has a special peculiarity. Only the bulls of this special breed can be played with and dazzled and made to run hither and thither by the waving of the matador's red cloak and by red streamers. A Scotch bull was once taken by sea to Seville, and introduced into the arena during a "bull-fighting" festival, at which there was a great assemblage of spectators, to witness the achievements of some of the most celebrated toreadors of the day. The Scotch bull paid no attention whatever to cloaks, red or otherwise, or to streamers, or to any of the other distractions used to make the Spanish bulls tire themselves in futile charges and rushes. The Scotch bull, with a businesslike disregard of all these things, went straight for his man every time, and soon had the arena all to himself.

To Protect the Unwary

The newspapers in the United States are telling with increasing frequency of the activity of swindlers who are busy with schemes to get hold of the war bonds of unwary people whom they can gull with their glowing, fraudulent representations. Many of these cheaters' schemes are extraordinarily ingenious. Some of them are so skilfully designed by lawyers who thus devote their cunning and craftiness to criminal purposes, as to be within the letter of the law. The victims of such schemes are left without practical recourse. Agents of the United States Treasury Department on the trail of these swindlers in the northwestern States have come upon evidence of their plans to extend their operations into this country. They put their "salesmen" through courses of training to make them expert in their work. There is need of repeated warnings to holders of Victory Bonds to be on their guard against glib talkers who try to persuade them to turn over those valuable Dominion securities, whose value is rising, as part, or the whole, of an "investment" from which the glib talkers promise glitteringly high returns. Especially is it necessary to be wary when such plausible individuals are strangers. There are many men abroad on the face of this continent who have the qualities of the fox and of the wolf highly developed, and are on the prowl, looking for victims. They figure that the unprecedented developments of thrift throughout this country and the United States on the part of millions of investors in war bonds should furnish them unprecedented opportunities for their swindling operations. The Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments might well do some publicity work for the protection of the unwary against these confidence men.

A Marriage Question

In 1882 the Parliament of Canada passed the Deceased Wife's Sister Act making it legal for a man to marry the sister of his deceased wife. A question of interest in this connection recently came up before the Court of King's Bench in the province of Quebec, and curiously enough, was left undecided in the judgment given. The question is this: Is it lawful for a widow to marry the brother of her deceased husband? The validity of such a marriage was challenged in the case referred to, but in the course of the trial before the court of first instance it was established that, at the same time the woman married her second husband she had no certain knowledge that he was the brother of the first. The Court of Appeals took into consideration this lack of knowledge and decided that the marriage having been made in good faith, or the part of the woman, is valid and binding. But suppose the woman had known that her second choice was the brother of her first husband, then what would have been the standing in law of her second marriage? This question stands unanswered. It suggests another one. When parliament, twenty-seven years ago, was passing the Deceased Wife's Sister Act, why did it not give a widow as wide a choice in taking a second husband as it did a widower in taking a second wife? When Parliament declared it lawful for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister, why did it not also declare it lawful for a woman to marry her deceased husband's brother? Was the omission an oversight, or was it intentional?