

language be a defect in the French-Canadian?

Again, there is a positive reason why the French-Canadian should be loyal to Canada which does not exist in the case of the Canadian in the United States. The French-Canadian can trace his Canadian ancestry back four, five, and six generations. His family tree has its roots deeply fixed in Canadian soil. This element does not exist among the present-day Canadians in the United States.

Looked at in this way, there is little if any ground for doubting the loyalty of the French-Canadian. He is provincial, no doubt. He is clannish also, though not more so than the Scotch or the Irish. He has affections and sentiments which the English-speaking Canadian cannot fully understand, but he is nevertheless as good a patriot as the rest of us. He recognises the prime qualities of the British constitution and form of government with its thoroughly Christian basis, and when he places these in opposition to the less stable qualities of French republicanism and French infidelity, he cannot be otherwise than thoroughly Canadian and strongly British.

THE TRAGEDIES OF LIFE

A FIREMAN grasps the nozzle on a length of hose, walks into a burning building, and is crushed to death. We say "How sad!" and pass on. The other day a C. P. R. engineer at Kamloops was informed by wire that his little five-year-old daughter had been burned severely. He was allowed to detach his engine from the train which was ready to pull out, and run light to his home town of Revelstoke. And what a run it must have been! And no wonder all records were broken. As the father stepped off the engine, he was informed that his daughter had been dead an hour.

These are but instances of the hundred tragedies which daily beset the people of this country—of all countries. Our fierce, swift life demands a daily toll of humanity, a daily addition to the world's burden of sorrow. It is a wonder that the people endure it. Yet they do bear it, struggling onward with fairly cheerful countenances. Yet behind our smiling features lies a grim fear of the tragedy to come, or a dull, dark pain left by the tragedy which has gone.

Perhaps all these phases of our vicarious existence are but to make humanity more human, to keep the world from getting purely selfish and hard-hearted. While it is common opinion that constant contact with trouble and danger and sorrow, hardens people's hearts and reduces the range of their sympathies, it is not necessarily true. Many people who have seen little of life's tragedy, are hard, selfish and unsympathetic; while those who have seen much of it are tender, generous and compassionate. It is just possible that the continuous array of accidents and disasters to human beings which takes up so large a portion of the front page of the daily newspaper tends to weaken our sensibility towards human sorrow and woe. The extent of this tendency is, however, often over-estimated.

An ancient story tells that a great judge, who lay dying, was asked what was the greatest need of the world. He answered, "Sympathy." To a large extent he was right. The dangers to human bodies and human minds have been greatly increased with the advance of science. The introduction of gunpowder, steam-engines, dynamite, electricity, elevators, automobiles and other industrial instruments have increased the dangers to which the human body is daily exposed. Nor has science lessened the dangers from famine, disease, flood or earthquake in a degree which will offset the dangers which it has invented. Consequently, the tragedies of life are even greater to-day than they ever were, and the command to "love your neighbour as yourself" is as necessary as in the days of the Roman Empire. It is an open question if the world is not paying too much attention to industrial and intellectual development, and too little to the lessening of the sum of human poverty and sorrow.

VENEZUELA AND THE NETHERLANDS

SOME twelve years ago, the late Mr. Cleveland played to the anti-British element in the United States by a blustering message to England regarding the affairs of Venezuela. Arbitration resulted in Great Britain obtaining more than her original demand, while Mr. Benjamin Harrison returned from Paris with little to comfort the South American republic. Ever since Mr. Cleveland's strenuous interference, Venezuela seems to have taken a malicious delight in showing how little such championship was justified. This comic opera government is really a despotism with nothing of democratic freedom as Washington or Ottawa would read the phrase.

An autocracy, flavoured with anarchy and assassination, is not

the unusual thing south of the Caribbean Sea and President Castro of Venezuela is a fair specimen of the South American tyrant. He has the vanity of his class and has busied himself in other nations' affairs with an assiduity which would have brought severe punishment before this, had he been arbiter of a larger state. These picayune governments have a splendid fashion of spending money, with a superb disregard of obligation to pay. A Dutch firm made persistent demands upon the Venezuelan government for a sum which had been owing for many months but the blithe dwellers in the tropics refused to notice the impertinent accounts. Then the inhabitants of a Dutch island, some forty miles from the Venezuelan coast, took a day off and stoned the consul from President Castro's careless state. The Dutch cruiser, *Gelderland*, entering Venezuelan waters, magnificently omitted to salute the forts, whereupon M. de Reus, the Dutch Minister to Venezuela, was given his passports and departed for The Hague.

The situation is recognised as acute but the people of the Netherlands are not by any means excited. President Roosevelt, who has good Dutch blood in his veins, will hardly be likely to follow the example of 1896 and espouse the Venezuelan cause. However, the head of the Netherlands is a monarch and it would be curious, indeed, to the demagogues of this continent if such a form of government were to be found on the side of correct business principles while the radiant republic of the south should be discovered as an unscrupulous tyrant. The dismissal of a Minister is not a light matter and although the Netherlands are proverbially slow to wrath, the next fortnight will probably see some interesting cable despatches between the little kingdom near the German Ocean and the republic on the Caribbean Sea.

MEDICAL MARTYRS

THERE is hardly a week which does not tell the story of a medical specialist who has fallen a victim to the very disease which he has made a lifelong study. Such men have a scientific passion, combined with a devotion to suffering humanity, which is not surpassed in any other profession. The "chances" taken in certain callings are in no case greater than those taken by the physician, and the quiet heroism of many a *Maclure* goes unnoted, save by the parish which knows the man by his life-work. The men who fight insidious disease require more courage than those who storm a battery, for it is in the silence of laboratory or hospital ward, uncheered by anything but the innate desire to know and to heal that the medical expert fights the forces which sap life and strength. The healthy throng is hardly aware of the constant fight against dire disease until it is announced that some famous medical authority has succumbed to the very foe he was supposed to have mastered. "Queer that he could not save himself" is the general comment, with little thought for the years of unwavering effort that others might be saved.

TRADES UNIONS AND PROTECTION

IN some ways trades unions are better than a protective tariff. A tariff may not keep foreign goods out; it may only make them expensive. Trades unions sometimes prevent people buying foreign goods even when they are cheapest. From this point of view, the trades union is a great friend of the manufacturer. The latter never admits it, because that might endanger the benefit. He keeps quiet and conceals his delight.

In the recent election in Saskatchewan, the Unions fought against the Scott Government because it had some school-books printed in New York. It was a rush order and the facilities there for such work were better, and no doubt the price was lower. The Union fought so that other governments might be warned against a similar practice. The Canadian book publishers were delighted with the campaign, because it will help them to sell inferior books at higher prices.

The "Courier" believes in Canada for the Canadians and in the spending of Canadian money at home. It is not so foolish, however, as to be blind to the possible exceptions. There is a sane policy of "Canada for the Canadians" and an insane policy of the same kind. The "Courier" does not desire to be considered insane. Canada should manufacture her own materials if possible, but she should not allow any set of manufacturers to have such a monopoly that they will cease to be progressive. Canadian book publishers have been terribly backward. They have been and are to-day producing school-books which are a disgrace to the printing art. If they wish to hold the business, they must learn to do better. The Saskatchewan and Alberta governments have taught them that.