

schools to accommodate the increased numbers of pupils. This new interest in the Indian has arisen out of the share he has taken in the war. It is an attempt to crawl out of the rut into which the Indians and the work among them have gone into more or less. It seems good policy, but were it not it is a promise of movement, and that were better than continued sameness of routine work year after year.

How does it affect the Indian's outlook on life? For the first time since the Treaty of 1876 the Indian has stood side by side with the white man upon the same plane and with equal chances. When death confronts, man stands with man as man, and if he be brave and efficient his name will be made. The war supplied this opportunity. The Indian feels that he has done a man's work and he will never again be content to stand aside, giving no voice to matters that affect him. The spirit of unrest has taken hold of him; it has stirred up in him desires he never felt before. He chafes under the circumstances which render him dumb before the public; from the Atlantic to the Pacific a feeling of brotherhood and the need of union has arisen among all the scattered Indian people. Tribes far removed from each other, unknown to each other and uninterested in each other now correspond and exchange opinions. The more civilized Indians of Ontario are imparting their broader outlook and greater progressiveness to the rest. A league has been formed, and most of the eastern reserves and many from British Columbia have eagerly joined. The Saskatchewan reserves are joining, as are those in Manitoba. A provisional constitution has been drawn up. The tone of it is good, wise and temperate. It has as its keynote earnest co-operation with the Government and loyalty to the persons of King George and the Royal Family. Its aims are the following: Better educational facilities appropriate to Indian needs; enlightenment on matters of health, especially with regard to tuberculosis and kindred diseases; the perpetuation of the memory of those of our nation who died in the field of battle while fighting for the cause of humanity and the protection of the families they left behind; mutual help and encouragement towards the improvement of ourselves in all departments of life; etc. It also calls for representative meetings of Indians to be held from time to time in some central place for the purpose of discussing ways and means whereby we may raise ourselves above ourselves; also that a committee of the House of Commons might be deputed to meet our representatives whenever any legislation important to ourselves is being made; also that we hold fast as a nation to those privileges given us as conditions to our surrender of all claims to the country in the various treaties made with us in the past, and lastly that we encourage each other and help each other to co-operate heartily with the Government and the Canadian people in the work of reconstruction, and also in their efforts to better the condition of the Indians. The tone of this preamble to the constitution is good, but apart altogether from it all and apart from the fact of its turning out to be either a success or a failure, it is an outward and visible sign that our ambition to become something more than a dependent race has taken hold of the Indians. Aspirations to be something higher than they are now have taken hold of them, and I hope that the Government, instead of discouraging the League, will welcome it and guide its workings along proper channels. Far better