

many who will be willing to take up land and follow the pursuits of agriculture. But the experience, already had does not promise that any large proportion of the returned men will be so inclined. It is becoming evident that in the consideration of the problem of the returned soldier we must not count much on making a farmer out of him. He will desire employment in other lines. And that makes the problem more difficult.

Canadian and Australian Loans

AUSTRALIA has refused to adopt conscription of man power, but is applying the principle in other things. The electors, it will be remembered, had the question of conscription for the enlistment of soldiers twice submitted to them, in the form of the referendum, and in each case the majority of the voters opposed the system. Hence the Hughes Government, while strongly favoring conscription, have felt obliged to make the best of the old voluntary system. But money as well as men is needed, and for this purpose, without inviting any opinion from the electorate, the Government are resorting to what is something like conscription of wealth. Mr. Watt, the Treasurer and acting Premier (Mr. Hughes is still in England) has brought forward a bill to oblige those who have means to invest in the Commonwealth's war loans. He has explained that the Government, not wishing to have to rely on further assistance from the Imperial Government, must assure themselves that the needed money for the war shall be obtained at home, and feeling that many who were able to lend had not subscribed, while others had not subscribed enough, they have decided to make investment in the war loans compulsory. All persons whose taxable income exceeds £250 sterling are to be compelled to subscribe a sum equal to six times their yearly income tax. Those who fail to subscribe will subject themselves to penalties.

In Canada, fortunately, it has not yet been found necessary to resort to compulsion of this kind. The Canadian people have done wonders, already in the raising of money for the war. Another Victory Loan is coming out immediately. The Government are relying on the patriotism of the people and the profitable character of the investment to make the loan a success.

Canadian Divorce Law

THE proceedings of the present term of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, sitting in London, will be watched with attention by all who are interested in the question of the Canadian divorce laws. While it has been acknowledged that, in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia, divorce courts established before Confederation have been continued, until very recently it has been assumed that in Ontario, Quebec and the prairie provinces there have been no such courts, and that consequently those who had good cause for seeking the severing of matrimonial bonds could find relief only through the slow, costly and in many respects objectionable way of obtaining a special Act of the Parliament of the Dominion. A few months ago, however, to the surprise of most people, in a case that arose in Manitoba, the Supreme Court of that Province held that it was endow-

ed with the power of granting divorce. In the constitution of Manitoba there is a provision of a general character applying to the Province the laws of Great Britain in matters not otherwise dealt with. The contention was raised that under this general provision the Manitoba court became possessed of the authority of the English divorce court. This new presentation of the question was in the end upheld by the Manitoba court. As the language of the Manitoba Act was followed in the creation of the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, it followed that if the Manitoba decision was sound there were divorce courts in those provinces also. But the new jurisdiction thus claimed for the courts of the prairie Provinces is not admitted by all. The decisions which recognized the existence of divorce courts in those Provinces are appealed from, and the whole question is to be reviewed before the Judicial Committee in London.

From the point of public convenience it is much to be desired that the right of the prairie courts to grant divorce shall be applied, as that will relieve the Dominion Parliament of a large part of a very disagreeable duty, leaving divorce bills from Ontario and Quebec only to come before Parliament. What would best meet the situation is the enactment of a general divorce law for all Canada. But for various reasons that is not likely to be brought about.

His One Chance

ABOUT the most decent thing that the German Kaiser could do in the present crisis is to place himself at the head of his armies in France, and give up his life in the conflict, as so many thousands of his devoted subjects are doing. Defeat and humiliation for him are inevitable. If he lives he will be deservedly hated by the whole civilized world as the chief author of the dreadful war. If he should fall while leading his troops, he would be credited with courage at least. But he is little likely to take that course.

Learning from Experience

ALONG with many things that the Germans thoroughly understood were a few things concerning which they were deplorably ignorant. They have had to obtain a knowledge of these things in the school of bitter experience. They did not understand the spirit of the British people in the mother country. They believed that the inhabitants of the United Kingdom were so given to the pleasures and profits of the time that they would not consent to engage in war. There was a rude awakening for Germany on that score. When it was found that Great Britain would participate in the war, the Kaiser's advisers easily persuaded themselves that the "contemptible little British army" was of no account. The Germans know better now. When the condition of the Overseas British Empire was considered, the Germans looked for revolt against the (imagined) tyranny of British rule. The armies of the Dominions and India that soon faced the Kaiser's soldiers opened German eyes. When the possibility of the United States coming into the war was thought of, the German leaders spoke contemptuously of the efforts of a non-military people, thousands of miles away from the scene of the war. Nearly two million American soldiers standing against the German army in France, some of them pressing the enemy back to the Ger-

man territory they had left, give the Kaiser's Government a new conception of American patriotism and power. And now the Kaiser's representatives, Chancellor Maximilian and Secretary Solf, are found on their knees before the American President, praying for peace and forgiveness. The Germans can learn, but the severe school of experience is often necessary to enable them to understand things.

A Polyglot Boarding-House

Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt addressing his fellow countrymen the other day declared that "the United States must not degenerate into a polyglot boarding house among the nations." It is significant that among the leading public men and publications in the United States and Canada there is a growing tendency to look very closely into this whole immigration question.

In the past both the United States and Canada opened wide their doors, and told the world that this continent was the home of the oppressed and the refuge of all. The result of these wholesale invitations was to bring in millions of foreigners to the American shores and hundreds of thousands of the less desirable Europeans to our coasts. With their coming has developed all sorts of questions regarding language, religion and social and political ideals.

In Canada there are hundreds of thousands of foreigners in the West grouped in congested colonies where the people are slow to learn English and still cling to their old customs and ideals. Since the outbreak of the war, four years ago, thousands of these men have had to be interned, while tens of thousands of others are observing a very indifferent neutrality. It will be far better to hereafter go slow and hand-pick our immigrants, than to people the country with an influx of men deficient in the spirit of patriotism and of service. Quality is more important than quantity.

The Age of Giving

THE response made to the many worthy appeals launched by patriotic and philanthropic bodies is both pleasing and remarkable. We are all familiar with the nation-wide Y.M.C.A. campaigns which secured millions of dollars as well as the Patriotic and Red Cross campaigns in the earlier days of the war.

Within the past few weeks we have had campaigns for money to relieve the wives and dependants of the merchant marine; a drive for funds for the Overseas Huts of the Knights of Columbus, a campaign for the securing of \$300,000 to build a permanent home for the Khaki Club, while street fairs, bazaars, bridges and lesser drives are almost of daily occurrence.

There is an old saying, that we learn to do by doing; it seems equally true that we learn to give by giving. The generosity of the people in this country has been severely taxed during the past four years, but the calls made upon the purse strings of the country have been more than met. The objects, of course, are all worthy, and those of us who are left behind feel that we cannot do too much for the men overseas or for those depending upon them. By giving one's interest in an object is increased; from this point alone, not to mention the good a contribution does, the many appeals have been of value.

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