

CO-OPERATION

Once again it is necessary to point out that the aim of Bolshevism, the I.W.W. and the O.B.U. is to divide the people of the world along industrial rather than national lines. At present the world is divided into nations, each comparatively free to determine its own destiny, and the whole tendency is towards peace as guaranteed by a Free League. The aim of the turbulent classes is the complete overthrow of national aims and ambitions and the division of mankind into warring groups, in which the ill-defined group called labor is in one class and all the rest of the human race in the other. Anyone who considers the alternative presented, will not hesitate to cast his influence in favor of the present alignment of mankind into nations.

The evil of class rule is evident from a consideration of its effects in smaller organizations with which we are all interested. Consider a family in which the children are lined up against the parents—the consumers against the producers; or the boys against the girls or the servants against the husband and wife. Or consider a school in which the teachers and the pupils are in continual warfare, or a store in which each department is warring with the others. Or think of the religious life in a small country town with five jarring congregations struggling for supremacy. Class division, class legislation, class alignment are fundamentally unsound and unjustifiable. Class warfare of necessity promotes discord and ill-will—and is inimical to peace and prosperity. Further than this the class division on the basis proposed is altogether bad. Society is not divided into labor and non-labor. Not only do some of the so-called capitalistic class work infinitely harder and endure greater privations than members of the laboring force, but there is a great body belonging to neither of these classes which does perhaps more for society than either and which during these days is in worse position socially and financially than either labor or capital. Even should there be a war to the death between capital and labor and were the latter completely victorious there would immediately come a new struggle in which the middle classes would be arrayed against the new masters.

No one need present arguments to show that capitalism unrestrained is a great evil. The history of the world and the history of our own country bear witness to it. Nor need there be any hesitation in asserting that the unrestrained rule of labor would be equally disastrous. The doctrines and practices of leaders of labor are sufficient condemnation. The one crime of "lying down on the job," openly advocated and openly practised by many who are now working for a daily salary, is enough to condemn any organization. The only way to redeem a cursed world is through honest and intelligent work. Idleness is the gospel of despair. It is a known fact that workmen to-day do not average sixty per cent of the work they used to give and their pay is often one hundred per cent more. It is no wonder that there is increased cost of living. And the burden falls every time upon the middleman. So, it is clear that if there is to be a class war, the middleman will ultimately settle it. Labor may win out with capital, but the ultimate victory will lie with the large unorganized class in between, that has not yet spoken at all.

But it would be unfortunate in the extreme if society attempted to adjust its differences by way of conflict. It is not the rational way, nor for that matter, the Christian way. The law of success and the way of all fairness is co-operation in the spirit of love. A gentleman remarked the other day: "I have never yet heard a rank capitalist nor a labor leader who spoke to his audience in the spirit of love." Was he right?

One thing is certain. This country will never attain to greatness unless the discordant elements agree to live together in the spirit of co-operation. Each man must look, not merely upon his own affairs but must consider the concerns of his neighbor. Among those who lack patriotism in every land are the capitalist who thinks only of his own enterprise, the laboring man who considers only his own union, the producer who thinks only of his own industry,

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the director of great enterprises who ignores the public good, the politician or the religionist who sees not beyond the circle of his own immediate influence, and no man can excuse his disloyalty to the whole of society of which he is a member, on the ground that he is at least loyal to himself or his family, or his class, or his creed. The selfish man and the class advocate are alike unworthy of the confidence of the nation.

FIFTY YEARS OLD

Manitoba has just celebrated her fiftieth anniversary as a province, and she has good reason to be pleased with the record of her progress in that short time. The rural district has changed from unbroken prairie to a succession of beautiful farms, and the capital city from a hamlet to a metropolis known to all the civilized world.

Among the things of which Manitoba is justly proud are her educational institutions, her financial and industrial concerns, her transportation facilities and unrivalled water power. The City of Winnipeg is known for its beauty, its enterprise, its varied activities, and the many thriving towns are centres of trade and industry. Altogether the growth of fifty years is remarkable.

There have been ups and downs in the experience of the province. There have been errors of omission and errors of excess. On the whole private enterprise has been more successful than public. Industrial concerns, giving employment to hundreds and thousands of people, have developed from very small beginnings. And this is merely an illustration. Banks, railways, stores, shops, have the same story of progress to relate.

In the field of public effort there are to be mentioned the operation of the power plant, the construction of the pipe-line, the opening of Red River for navigation, the building of the Agricultural College, and the new parliament buildings.

Naturally conditions have changed since the early days. It is no longer a province in which the majority of the population has come from Huron, Bruce and Lanark, but people from all lands, speaking their own tongues while yet learning to use the language of the land, are settled side by side—a polyglot population with differences to settle and common ground to find. It will all take time and patience, but if the future is to be measured by the past, then there is nothing that is not possible in this, the oldest of the four western provinces. Long life and prosperity to Manitoba.

THE DANGER OF WEALTH

There never was a nation which got its wealth too easily from the soil that ever attained to excellence in literature, science or morality. This sentiment is set forth by a recognized authority in the study of history. Spain is a classical illustration of a nation that went to decay because of excessive wealth. The decline of Rome is due in great measure to the ambition of her people to excel all others in luxury and extravagance.

What is true of nations is in a measure true of individuals. The making of money is often followed or accompanied by decline in morals or intelligence or by a lowering of the standard of family life.

When a man becomes suddenly wealthy he is inclined to take himself too seriously. His advance financially means often an advance socially, and naturally there is an assumption that an advance intellectually and especially in power of judgment may be taken for granted. There is nobody so ready to assert himself so vigorously, especially on matters about which he is only half-informed, nobody with quite the same self-assurance and pomposity. This is the danger of wealth, but it is not a necessary accompaniment. Fortunately the majority of those born in poor circumstances on acquiring wealth,

retain their simplicity and naturalness. They do not ruin themselves by false ambitions, nor render themselves obnoxious by their manner and speech and pretensions.

And it is quite refreshing to see a man tone himself up to suit his highest. If his first gain is in the financial field, it is good to see him trying to measure up socially, intellectually and otherwise. But it should never be taken for granted that wealth is naturally accompanied by spiritual or intellectual endowments. This is where many people err.

There are two classes who since the outbreak of the war have bettered their conditions financially in a marked way. It is interesting to note how these are striving to measure up. Labor and the farming community have come into their own. Strangely enough each party has begun to show political ambition. In as far as this is a sign that they are trying to assume political responsibilities in keeping with their new standing in the community it is good. If, in any case, it is but an attempt of wealth or organized power to assert itself simply because it is wealth or organized power, because it has selfish ends to serve, it is wrong and will prove disastrous to the commonwealth.

A good rule for those acquiring wealth or power is to cultivate as fully as possible the grace of modesty, while they endeavor, by study and reflection, to fit themselves for the increased responsibilities which wealth imposes. The man of wealth and comparative leisure who is well-informed and who possesses public spirit may be of the greatest help to his community.

The finest opportunity of wealth is to bring joy and happiness to others. Ruskin has somewhere urged men to make all they can, provided they are willing at the same time to spend or give away all they can. All life has two elements—the sensory and the motor. Man is born to receive and to express. The financial man is no exception. The danger is that he become satisfied with merely making and hoarding. He has a hard time to escape selfishness.

THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

With September school opens. Thousands of young people are entering upon courses of study which, if rightly pursued, will develop their intelligence and moral qualities and fit them for their life as home-makers and citizens. The following words from one of the most recent books on high school education is good reading, both for boys and their parents. It contains what everyone who has attended school and who afterwards went into business life will consider as excellent advice:

"Unless any boy at the beginning learns to work regularly, he will have a hard time to learn later. It is impossible to play the ant if one has for a long time played the grasshopper.

"The best student I have ever known, put in few hours at his work, but he studied every night, and when he worked his whole mind was given to it. He did not let anything come between him and what he was doing, and when he was through he stopped and put his work away.

"Social training, association with man, is a very desirable thing. The boy who omits all social life makes a mistake, the fellow who devotes too large a part of his time to it is mushy.

"I had to pass," a boy said who was caught cribbing. The boy made a mistake. He had not to pass, unless he could do so honestly. He who gains his grade through cribbing is little better than a common thief.

"In more than ninety per cent of the fellows I have known in school or college, the success of these men could be measured by the grades they received while they were in the high school or college."

WESTERN EXHIBITIONS

With the advent of August the people of the West find themselves well into the exhibition period of 1920. The large shows already held have all proved highly successful, and great advances have been noted in the case of each, the attendances having been beyond expectations.