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**W**HEN King Albert of Belgium—that heroic and democratic leader of a free people—was handed his official regalia in 1909, his speech from the throne announced a new national ideal—the ideal of the democratic state. Even the language of that historic speech expressed this ideal, for he spoke in the Flemish of the poor as well as in the French of the official and educated community. He declared that “the intellectual and moral forces of a nation are alone the foundations of its prosperity.”

Martin Luther spoke to the same effect nearly four centuries ago, and the sentiment has become common as a copybook heading. But when the King of Belgium reiterated the thought, he used more than language. He personally threw himself into the purpose of materializing that thought in the conditions of his people. He knew that his country, though small geographically, was pregnant with untold wealth in possibilities which were being neglected and allowed to leach into a channel that was simply draining away the commercial life-blood of the little state.

At that date, Belgium had a great overseas trade, and the second port in Europe; but its merchandise was carried in foreign bottoms, chiefly English and German. King Albert saw in this not merely a source of commercial weakness but a far more tragic prospect, which reached a climax less than five years later.

To change all this and, if possible, avert the impending calamity, he set himself to emulate the

## Our Coming Statesmen and Stateswomen

*The following appreciation of the work of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Manitoba, has been compiled from material supplied by Mr. S. T. Newton, Superintendent of the Extension Department, Manitoba Agricultural College, from the editor's own observations at different points of the province and from the enthusiastic testimony of leading men and women of the farm homes who have been watching and encouraging in their own districts the fine work that is in progress among the young folks.—Ed.*

example of Peter the Great, but with a far nobler purpose. As we all know, he assumed the disguise of a newspaper reporter and travelled all over the world to obtain

with a manhood strength of ten times that of the little “cockpit of Europe.” But the day is not lost to her; it is only deferred. No “power” on earth can ever con-

tinguished among those personalities which have been forced into prominence by the catastrophe. The moral grandeur of the man has few parallels in the world's history, and every precedent guarantees to him and his people the very best that heaven can bestow in recompense.

King Albert's raw material consisted of just what we have to work upon in Canada—agriculture and minerals, with, of course, the immense advantage of an “old established business” in the big population of skilled labor that manufactured her products on the spot. But one of the first planks in this man's programme was the amelioration of the children of his people. “It is from the narrow

circle of family regards we are taught to serve the larger family of mankind,” said Macaulay. King Albert verily graduated in this fine school, for when this simple, unassuming citizen king ascended the throne, he did so as a great British statesman has written, “with his wife and children.”

Canada holds, as we said, about the same population as Belgium contained prior to the war, but she has a “house” with a garden to develop her family in, nearly 330 times the size of Belgium. That

is to say, something like three hundred and twenty-nine Belgians could be accommodated on the land surface of the Dominion of Canada, and there isn't and never will be a hostile foot at liberty on her soil if its hostility is known to the next man on the street.

Canada is governed by the expression of her own free people,



Articles made by the boys at Gladstone Short Course. The Club Officers are seated in front

the information and experience at first hand which would fit him for the great task he had in hand—the conservation and development of his country's resources.

What Belgium might have attained under this noble and virile impulse but for the aggression of Germany, need not be discussed. Her chances were outclassed by nothing of the kind even in States

quer or subdue a people with a leader like that. If the curtain for a time has fallen on its tragedy; if the barbarians have tunneled the land like a rabbit warren and turned it into a fortress, there is no finality in that.

As the ruin of Belgium stands out in pathetic relief from the general tragedy, the figure of King Albert is still more dis-