

Editorial

Still Troubled

THIS is a time of testing for individuals for governments. It is interesting and profitable to consider how Canadians have endured the test.

The whole world knows how nobly the young men of Canada have acquitted themselves on the field of battle. God alone knows how bravely their wives and mothers have worked and suffered at home. So far all is well.

Yet when one looks closely into business affairs particularly when he examines the treatment of the rank and file by the few who are in a position to exercise control, his heart is filled with misgivings. Matters are no better because it seems impossible to place the blame for many of the injustices which are being practised in the name of trade.

The published market quotations of prices in Minneapolis and Winnipeg are enough to make men wonder if we have a government at all, or if the duty of a government does not extend to such trifles as the regulation of the cost of food. For most of us, these trifles are the very worry of our lives. We have a feeling that if a government cannot find a way of protecting the people, it had better give way to men who can. A war government does not of necessity limit its activities to raising an army and equipping it for active service. To prevent injustice and extortion at home is equally imperative. It is all very well for a food controller to control the distribution and consumption of foods. There is no reason why he or some one else should not be vested with full authority to regulate the price of necessities at such a time as this. The story so far has been one of colossal blundering, and there is evidently no sign that things are about to improve. Must it be that just as it has been necessary time after time to alter the composition of the governments in Britain, France and Italy, it must be equally necessary to do the same here? There is undeniably a feeling that some members are in league with the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian in this case is not of the common people. He is richly clad and lives in a mansion, and he sits on the board of many directorates. To put it very plainly, there is something wholly indefensible in food prices and there is a growing feeling that the matter could be remedied if the right men were in control.

Why We Are at War

THERE is not a single selfish element—so far as I can see—in the cause we are fighting for. We are fighting for what we believe and wish to be the rights of mankind and for the future peace and security of the world. To do this great thing worthily, successfully, we must devote ourselves to the service without regard to profit or material advantage, and with an energy and intelligence that will rise to the level of the enterprise itself.—President Wilson.

The Fuel Problem

THE American mines were short on anthracite. The Western mine owners were quick to seize their opportunity. They went directly to American headquarters and said they could take care of Western Canada. The government at Ottawa was in turn informed that there was no anthracite for Western Canada. Then the Canadian fuel controller sent out his instructions to Western Canadians to send in their orders early for Western coal. The mine-owners of Alberta would not play unless they had a sure thing. Their programme was this: Let the people give their orders to local dealers; let the local dealers send in their orders; then the mines will begin to produce in plenty. Western mine-owners do not live on faith. Neither do local dealers in coal. They wait for definite orders from the people. It was not so with the mine-owners of Pennsylvania, but we have another breed out here. They play a sure game.

Now this whole programme was spoiled by the foolish people. They refused to send in their orders to local dealers and this for two or three good reasons. They had no ready money. They were not accustomed to buying in the spring and summer. They did not feel like paying as much for soft coal as for good anthracite. In other words they felt they were being unfairly treated. It took two weeks to get any explanation from the fuel controller, and then the explanation was far from satisfactory and convincing.

There is a simple way of getting out of this trouble. Let us know definitely how much or how little we can get out of the Canadian apportionment of anthracite, and then let the municipalities on behalf of the people order the supply of Western coal that is necessary. When fall comes, the people will buy, because they must. In the meantime let our councils with the aid of the fuel controllers, get busy on the matter of prices. It is true, as rumor has it, that in these war times, a man is getting fifty cents royalty on every ton produced by two or three of the Western mines, let us put him out of the country as an enemy. If any one else is extortionate let him be dealt with similarly.

But let every worker and distributor and every railway get fair return for services rendered. If necessary let municipalities erect store-houses. But let us not freeze. It is a disgrace to us as a people to have so little ability to manage in a matter of this kind.

Now we are told that the statement in the opening paragraph is untruthful, but it was the only statement that the writer could get from any source that appeared to have any meaning. If any one can give a clearer and surer explanation let him supply it. The Western Home Monthly is anxious to give accurate information, but when those in authority have a charming reticence as if they were afraid or ashamed to tell the whole truth, a journal has to do its best to get information through other sources. Here is something quoted from a paper which speaks with authority:

"Spokane, Washington, is supplied with bituminous coal in lumps and egg sizes at a cost at the mine of \$3.85 and \$3.45, respectively. Bituminous coal in Western Canada costs from \$3.85 to \$4.20, mine run—that is, of no specified size. Special lignite mined in Lewis county, Washington, which is on a par with Alberta coal, is sold at the mine for \$3.85 for lump, as against \$4.25, \$4.96, \$5.00 and \$5.40 in Alberta. In the latter cases, it must be pointed out, there is greater ease of mining—and should therefore be less cost—than in the south. The Drumheller mines, in particular, are gravity workings. The shafts run horizontally above the loading level and no expensive lifting machinery is needed, while the labor of extraction is proportionately lightened."

Does this help us towards a decision?

The Cause

LET but the cause seem beautiful, dear God, If we must die! Make us believe, in truth, It is for all mankind we give our youth—

To stay till end of time the oppressor's rod; That but for us, harsh power would ride rough-shod Through freedom's delicate gardens, and the tooth Of hatred rend our people without ruth: So may we sleep content beneath the sod. But else—; Who knows what gladness here on earth Was destined us, what high and sweet employ? O hard it is that youth should cease to be! For now came love, with a great glad rebirth, To company our way, and now came joy! Not death we fear, but death's futility.

—Paul Scott Mowrer.

How Goes the War?

SINCE last issue there has been a further effort of the German troops to force a road to Paris. At great cost they have gained some ground, but they have lost heavily in men, and in other cases have had to yield positions taken. It is impossible to state just when the conflict in its present form will end. At worst it might mean the fall of Paris, at best it may soon mean a terrific counter-stroke which will recover all that has been lost since the big drive began. Neither of these is likely. Paris is too well defended to yield suddenly, and the allied commanders are too careful of their men to launch an offensive before the enemy has been worn down to the point of exhaustion. The policy of presenting a gradually yielding front will be pursued until it is felt a great counter attack can be successfully carried out without the slightest danger of failure. There is nothing discouraging in the situation. On land and sea things are going well. Only let it be remembered that the war is to be won right here at home. We can beat the Hun at the war game, but we cannot fight profiteers and plunderers that live in our very midst.

The Holidays

IT is a good and wise custom this which gives the children a vacation at midsummer. Education is given all the year round and not merely during the months at school, and in many cases the most profitable education is given out-of-doors during the vacation period. Physical power is as necessary as intellectual attainment. Moral character is developed in the fields as well as in the class room. Only let parents see to it that there is proper supervision. The rest is easy and natural.

An Optimistic View

ONE of our newspapers editorially gives expression to a sentiment that will command respect:

"It is now becoming apparent that the Allied forces were quite as numerous as those of the enemy; all the patter about being outnumbered was camouflage of a very superior brand. The front line—designedly weak—was outnumbered, but had it been best to put all the Allied troops in battle array the forces would have been equal. Then the German rush would have been held, but our losses might have been about as heavy as his; hence, in the end, two exhausted antagonists would have faced each other, a stalemate have existed, to be followed, possibly, by an inconclusive

peace. This would have pre-intimated another struggle within a few years.

"Foch realized there was but one way to defeat the Hun. By holding his lines somewhat weakly, in front of such tempting prizes as the Channel ports or Paris, he foresaw that the greedy foe, hard-pressed for a spectacular victory that should put new heart into the starving masses of the Fatherland, would bring up his reserves and stake all on the hazard of battle.

"Everything has so far happened in accordance with the plans of the great French soldier. The German came on, took towns, carried positions, captured prisoners—and leaves the Allies practically as powerfully effective as ever, while he himself has lost several hundred thousand of his picked troops. His Brandenburgers and Bavarians lie in windrows upon the devastated, useless wreck of a countryside. He has not reached the Channel ports; he has not taken Paris."

Steam Ahead in Education

WINNipeggers are to the fore in leading off a new movement in education. A committee of citizens, headed by Lieutenant-Governor Aikins, has embarked on the task of arousing interest in the idea of a national conference on the character and citizenship aspects of education. The meeting at which the undertaking was inaugurated was presided over by His Grace Archbishop Matheson. At this meeting, among other clergymen present were General Superintendent Chown of the Methodist Church, and Rev. Dr. Baird of the Presbyterian Church. Educational organizations were represented by men like Dr. Daniel McIntyre, Dr. W. A. McIntyre, and President J. A. Maclean. The majority of those present, however, were simply outstanding business and professional citizens eager to signalize the new national importance of education.

These gentlemen decided to organize themselves into a group with a view to working for the assembling of a Canadian National Conference of Education. The intention is to make this conference notable by the presence, in addition to Canadian educators, of distinguished educational leaders from Great Britain and the United States. The keynote of the conference, which it is hoped to hold, will be: How to make education in Canada minister most powerfully to the production of efficiency and character, to the advantage at once of the individual and the nation. The order is a large one, but the contact of bright minds and disinterested spirits may easily produce notable results.

The Winnipeg group has entrusted Prof. W. F. Osborne of the University of Manitoba with the task of arousing interest in this project from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Having visited the principal centres of the Maritime Provinces, Professor Osborne is now at work on this mission in Ontario. It is probable that he will go right through to the coast on the same errand.

Canada is so vast in extent, and so varied in the interests of her people, that a special effort must be made to energize with great common ideals the schools of our various provinces. The administrative direction of Canada's schools will always be in the hands of the provinces, so that there is all the more reason why the national ideals should be made to permeate the life of the school-room. There must be a conscious attempt to develop an informed and responsible patriotism. During this war a French boy of about eighteen was found dead near where some severe fighting had taken place. On his person was found a note addressed to his parents, in which he said: "Oh, can it be that I shall have the honor of dying for beloved France?" The schools of Canada must be consciously energized with such ideas and ideals that the children of our foreign-born compatriots will be brought as speedily as may be to feel something of this same glowing pride in Canada. Such great results are not achieved by accident. No nation is strong unless it is morally united in the pursuit of high and consciously entertained ideals.

It is much to be desired that the interest already evinced in this undertaking may spread throughout the country, and that a great national gathering of citizens may result. It is hardly to be doubted that if such a meeting does take place, measures may be hit upon that will count for the advantage of the nation.

Kultur at Home

FOR a quarter of a century before Germany commenced the war which she confidently looked upon to give her world domination, she imposed on other nations by a false showing of the great advantages and comforts enjoyed by her own people. The actual truth, as now proven from records, is that the German masses have been miserably housed, overdriven and underfed, and that the aged poor have been made outcasts.