

AS SEEN BY OTHERS

A National Board of Health.

Municipal Engineer.—The necessity for broader and more comprehensive views of sanitation is being realized more strongly and generally each year. It is now realized that no villages are so small or cities so large as to be independent the one of the other in sanitary matters. . . . The general government, through a competent health department, should collect such data, disseminate such educational information as is needed, and advise the necessary legislation. The formation of such a health department or bureau is urged more and more strongly upon successive Congresses, and will in all probability become a reality ere long. A "Committee of One Hundred" eminent citizens of the United States, which has now far outgrown that number, is striving intelligently and persistently toward this end, and deserves the support of all who realize the urgent desirability of a national health board.

The Stranger Within Our Gate.

The Monetary Times.—Canada has been labelled a country wherein a man may be given a fresh start in life; which is good so far as it goes. But there are thousands of men, largely of the class handled by the charitable agencies, who would never do well in whatever land they were placed, with whatever opportunities blessed. Ambitionless, they are irreparably divorced from labour. Their heads may be raised above the waters of careless indifference by the hand of philanthropy, but they sink again. . . . It is unfair to shift the social problems of an old country upon the shoulders of a new. Canada welcomes any flesh that is adaptable. No lady can witness with equanimity her house sheltering the undesirable. Neither can the Lady of Sunshine and Snows. The Dominion Government must force its wise policy of selection whatever storms of protest be raised by a handful of idealists. These protestations are sentimental; they last a day. The harm wrought by a lax supervision of immigration is real; it multiplies with the years.

Industrial Education.

The Toronto Star.—The time is ripe for the Dominion Government to appoint a commission to inquire into the matter of industrial education. The country has entered upon an era of industrial development. It has magnificent industrial resources, including mines, forests, and water powers. In industrial education it lags behind the rest of the world. This is disadvantageous in many ways. It hinders the industrial progress of the country. It is a source of anxiety and discouragement to manufacturers. It tends to keep the mechanics of Canada in subordinate positions and to prevent them and their sons from rising in their callings. Two-thirds of the best positions in Canadian factories to-day are held by men who have been trained outside of Canada. The urgent need for industrial training is further shown by the fact that in Montreal and its vicinity the sum of \$100,000 is sent to Pittsburgh for correspondence courses of industrial education.

The Far North.

Victoria Colonist.—We will all shortly be writing "Churchill, Manitoba" as a result of that important harbor on Hudson Bay becoming a part of the province mentioned, as provided for in the measure for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba, which will soon be presented to Parliament. And it imposes no strain on the imagination to understand that the possession of Churchill will ultimately add materially to the prestige of one of the chief provinces of the Dominion, already famed as "The Granary of the Empire."

Preserve the Forest.

The Montreal Star.—Our forest, in a word, should be regarded as a permanent storehouse of wealth, to be replaced

as rapidly as it is drawn upon. We should treat it as a bank account, and not as a spendthrift's heritage. It should be conserved; and, if this forces up the price of wood products on the Continent, so much the better for the nation which possesses a practical monopoly of the supply. The forest reserves of Quebec ought to pay our provincial taxes for us without drawing a cent of capital. That is, the revenue from the annual rental of our limits should do this. We have been permitting ourselves to be plundered in the past; and it is high time to call a halt.

Engineering a Profession.

Power.—If the engineer really believes that he is more than a manual worker, it is up to him to make good his claim when he is given an opportunity. If his means of livelihood require the exercise of brains rather than manual skill, he is entitled to be styled a professional to the same extent that any other brain worker is. But if it is shown that in the vast majority of instances he is simply a skilled manual worker, or a good foreman in charge of other workers and mechanical appliances, his claim to professional titles falls with the usual dull thud. Just what an engineer makes of himself he will be. He can by his attainments elevate his vocation to the dignity of a profession, if he will; or he can sink it below the level it occupied in the beginning, when an engineer was regarded as one of the necessary and attendant expenses of a steam plant, which must be kept as low as possible. Men are honored by other men for what they are rather than for what they do.

Obstruction.

The Canadian Mining Journal.—It is a sad fact that the only lethal weapon in the possession of His Majesty's loyal Opposition at Ottawa is that double-bladed axe obstruction. By the exercise of certain prerogatives all votes of supplies can be blocked. And at present they are being blocked.

Whether this is "good" politics, "bad" politics, heroism, or original sin, we stay not to inquire. But we linger to notice that the work of the Geological Survey has suffered delay already and may be altogether hindered if the deadlock is continued.

Hence we most respectfully (but insistently) submit that the interests of the mining industry (an industry peculiarly susceptible to chills, fevers, and vapours) must not be sacrificed even for the good of a fighting Opposition.

All of which emphasizes strongly the fact that important branches of the public service, especially the two branches of the Department of Mines, should be removed entirely from the zone of political disturbance.

Independence in Journalism.

The Railway Review.—Because journals devoted to railway interests have always advocated what they believe to be the rights of railway companies, and have withstood the attacks of demagogues and the unjust complaints of shippers, many readers have come to look upon these papers as standing by and upholding all practices of all railway men. That this opinion is unjust would clearly appear from an examination of the editorial pages of the Review for the past twenty-five years or more. A "lick-spittle" is beneath contempt. So is any periodical which professes to be devoted to expression of opinion, but allows its opinions to be warped by their effect on advertising or subscription patronage. There is nothing more certain than that a newspaper, technical or otherwise, which has no independence in thought and action cannot command the respect of others, nor any real self-respect. It should speak the right as it sees it, and should take good care what kind of spectacles it looks through, so that its vision be not warped or dimmed. Men may feel hurt and may protest; but they will read it and respect it and gradually come around to its point of view.

Government Railways.

Hamilton Herald.—What is being done by almost all the governments of Europe should not be beyond the ability of a Canadian government. In almost all European countries the railways, the telegraphs and the telephones are owned by the state and operated solely with regard to the public welfare.