



What the World is Saying

American Capital in Canada.

The United States Department of Labor and Commerce has been investigating Canadian prosperity, and discovers that during the first ten months of this year 25,000 Americans emigrated to Canada. Most of them have bought farms in the Canadian Northwest, and will compete with American farmers in growing wheat for British consumption. The wealth of these new settlers is declared at \$10,000,000. The expert of the department says "the United States will not be seriously affected by the loss of these thousands, as hundreds of thousands have come to the United States from the Old World during the year." He adds: "The chief contributing cause to the building up of Canadian industries has been the United States capital. In the case of many industries substantially all the capital is from the States, although the companies are Canadian corporations." The migration of capital, we are told, is based upon the resolve of American manufacturers that Canadian tariff laws shall not keep them out of the profitable markets of the Dominion. Its population is small, but its consumptive capacity is great. Canadian imports last year were \$259,000,000, or \$47 per capita.

John Burns, the Labor Minister.

John Burns is the first workingman Cabinet Minister, and on that account is engaging notoriety. His career has been irreproachable, and few have uttered a word of anything except commendation. For years Mr Burns has lived in a small house at Battersea on a salary of \$750 a year. He is very abstemious, neither smoking nor drinking. He works twelve hours a day at his County Council and Parliamentary duties. The position given him by Campbell-Bannerman is a merited reward for long and intelligent service. The salary going with the office is \$10,000 per year. Burns has never truckled or fawned to the great; nor have the temptations of parliamentary life ever found him weak enough to lose his robust manhood. He is already making a stir in his new office. He arrives on a bicycle at 9 a.m., to the great consternation of officials who are accustomed to begin work at 10.30. His friends predict for him great fame as a reformer, but his enemies say he cannot hold up against the big permanent officials of his department.

The Cold Bath Condemned.

One by one our cherished fads are relentlessly torn from us by the hand of an omnipotent science. The cold bath is now to go, so says Dr Carleton Simon of New York. "There is much said relative of cold baths as a 'hardening' system to inure the body against colds. I believe the cold bath, taken in the ordinary house, is far more of a menace to health than a possible benefit. Nothing could be worse than to get out of a warm bed, walk through cold rooms, and then to immerse the body in cold water. The body is by this process completely chilled and the proper reaction prevented. The cold bath idea is a grave error in its general application. Men of robust health with a good supply of blood may find the cold bath beneficial. To the great majority of people living the sedentary life in the city it is highly injurious. Speaking of baths in general, it is far more beneficial to take hot baths, and far less dangerous. In winter these baths taken three times a week, before retiring are sufficient." Millions of the human race will take much comfort from these words.

The Decline of the Stage.

The death of Sir Henry Irving has raised the question of his successor. A number of names have been mentioned, but each in its turn has been discredited. All this talk has given rise to

much discussion of the stage and the drama. "The New York World" is very severe in its strictures. It says: "The disgrace of an intellectual institution that should be a great force in educational and social progress, is that no living English-speaking actor can fill the shoes of a dead idol of only medium ability. The English drama is futile and decayed, the theatre is weak, purposeless and inept. Our English and American dramatists are as bad as the actors for whom they write. They have reached the bottom of the decline. Their plays show no earnestness of purpose. They are content to supply frivolous entertainment or to feed sensationalism by morbid clinics of social disorders. Most of them have reached the limit of their creative ability when they have dramatized one of the six best-selling novels." This is severe, but most of the critics endorse this view. Society scandals and nasty club stories seem to be the stock productions of our modern playwrights.

Manual Training.

It is seldom now that one hears an adverse criticism of manual training. The system has convinced every doubting Thomas, who is not also a bigot, of its educational value. During the years of its development, it has been seeking to define itself to itself, feeling, as it were, after a solid footing upon which to stand and do its work. It has found its ground at last. Calvin M. Woodward, in the Outlook, a pioneer of the science, gives the best definition of it we have seen. The object of manual training is mastery—mastery of the external world, mastery of tools, mastery of materials, mastery of processes. Only recently have the mechanical arts been studied, analyzed, and arranged in logical order for the purpose of being taught. It was formally assumed that the only way to learn the use of tools and to master materials and mechanical processes was to go into a shop as an apprentice, or associate one's self with workmen engaged in the execution of ordinary commercial work. The idea of putting the mechanical arts into a school and teaching them step by step was a new thought, just as it was a new thought when law, medical, naval, and military schools took the place of the court room, the doctor's office, the deck of the ship and a military camp."

Is Ireland to have Home Rule?

The persistency with which the advocates of Home Rule have prosecuted the theory, seems likely to be rewarded with victory, at least, so some political prophets aver. There are hints from semi-official sources that a near approach to home rule for Ireland is accepted as inevitable by the new Cabinet in Westminster. The Chicago Tribune says: "If it is, it will not come as a result of any new or urgent demand on the part of the present Irish members of Parliament, but as an outcome of all the agitation of the past, which has familiarized the English mind with the idea. English opposition has been simply worn out by the continual injection of the Irish question into sessions of Parliament which might, in English opinion, take up more important topics. The effect of time in allaying the bitterness of opposition to progress has often been noted. The time may come when young Englishmen studying their country's history may wonder that home rule was ever a burning question."

Are there too many Universities.

"How long the people of the Maritime Provinces will continue to pursue the insane policy of maintaining or trying to maintain half a dozen Universities imperfectly equipped, and inadequately supported, instead of one strong and thoroughly equipped institution, around which all the religious denominations might rally, and

with which their theological schools might be affiliated, it is hard for any ordinary mortal with prophetic insight to see." In these words the Presbyterian denounces the present educational policy of the lower provinces. The position taken is a good one for any province. These are the days of specialism, and only a great University, properly equipped and conducted, can meet the new demands. Canada has many Colleges, but only one or two seats of learning which can be called Universities. Our bright students are forced to go to the United States, England, or Germany to get the special training they seek. The small college is a necessity, and must be maintained, but the great University is also a cry we need.

The Universities and Football.

Columbia University has discarded football. The remedy is a severe one, and has been regarded by many as even drastic. The case must have been desperate when a College like Columbia put an end to a sport so popular. President Butler says Columbia cannot reform the game or dictate how it should be played. Football has very largely ceased to be a sport, and has become a profession. It demands long training, complete absorption of time and thought. It competes with the regular studies which a college professes to teach, and wins in the competition. Professor Butler explains, "Throughout the country it has become to be an academic nuisance because of its interference with academic work, and the academic danger because of the moral and physical ills that follow in its train. The large sums received in gate money are a temptation to extravagant management, and the desire for them marks the game as in no small degree a commercial enterprise. The great public favor with which even the fiercest contests are received is not a cause for exaltation, but rather for a profound regret."

Church Union.

The conference of Churches recently held in New York was a sight which our forefathers would never have dreamed of seeing. The purpose of the Council was to discover how deep was the sentiment of a union of all bodies of Christians. The feeling seemed to be that union was possible and desirable, and that at an early date. Professor Goodwin Smith in brief form has expressed the general opinion of the Convention when he says: "Why should there be three churches in one village, each with a miserably paid pastor, when Christian principles and hopes are common to all congregations, and nobody cares for the dogmas which formally divide them from each other?" But is there not another side to the question, a side which gets scant courtesy from these latitudinarians, namely, that of those who cannot give up their convictions at the whistle of these so-called broad-minded ones. There will always be dissenters, because all religious truths cannot be run into one mold. No one denomination can hope to gather into its fold all the people; therefore the man who cannot join the confederation are not to be despised because they cling to the idea, that they must be true to truth that to them is fundamental, and erect a meeting-house in every village to teach the truth.

The Sins of Respectable Society.

A writer in the Atlantic Monthly calls attention to the sins which are committed by modern society. Sin has become subtle in its expression. The days of bludgeon and the knife are for the most part past; sin has become respectable. He says: "How decent are the pale slayings of the quack, the adulterator and the purveyor of polluted water compared with the red slayings of the vulgar bandit and assassin. What an abyss between the knife-play of the prowlers and the law-defying neglect to fence dangerous machinery in a mill or to furnish cars with safety couplers! The perpetrator of these sins is as respectable as the sin. He wears immaculate linen, carries a silk hat and a lighted cigar, sins with a calm countenance and a serene soul, leagues or months from the evil he causes. Upon this gentlemanly presence the eventual blood and tears do not obtrude themselves. This is why good kindly men let the wheels of commerce and industry redden, rather than pare or lose their dividends." The article is extreme, but much of it is true. The tendency of modern society is to call sin by some other name. But the end seems in sight. Corporations, factories, and loan societies are being weighed in the balances.