

Reconstruction

What may be termed the reconstructive period will immediately follow this war, and Canada will be affected by it. How she will be affected depends entirely on the spirit of her citizens—if individual selfishness is to prevail, public retrogression will result; if co-operation for the common weal, then public progress will be made. At the present moment, right in the trenches, and back of the trenches millions of the world's best men are thinking of the outcome of this war, and thinking hard. They know that they are fighting to keep the flag of liberty flying, but that liberty must mean something more than what it has meant to too many—liberty to make ungodly profits or excessive wages by the exploitation of the flag. In the Old Country both capital and labour realize this, and never were both so near each other as they are to-day,—each more open and each appreciating the fact that one cannot do without the other. Both have shown a splendid spirit in the face of a common danger, which has resulted in the economic progress of the country, so that when the Imperial Government decided to take over many of the factories and take control of many more, no objection was raised. As a matter of fact, governmental monopoly and control have worked out so well in Great Britain that it looks as though it was going to be of a permanent nature, which will have a strong bearing on both the material and social welfare of the nation. In

other words, the Old Country is already taking the lead in the new democracy that will result as a consequence of the war.

In Canada, nothing of a practical nature has as yet been brought about, or even attempted, to meet the new conditions that will arise after the war, though some good propaganda work for reconstruction has been made in Montreal and Toronto, and this Journal itself prepared and published last year a Preparedness number, and is now preparing a second issue under the general title of Municipal Mobilization and Reconstruction. The government, too, has taken the matter up and a special committee of the Privy Council has been formed to study industrial and economic reconstruction, but Canada has a long way to go before she catches up to other countries. No doubt some of the greatest difficulties to overcome before any practical scheme of reconstruction can be brought about are individual selfishness and apathy—and private interests—that have for long sapped public responsibility in this country. "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," would seem to have been the too general slogan. In the new democracy, each man will know that he is his brother's keeper, and each citizen will feel proud to do his share towards the betterment of his community. Will Canada form part of this new democracy? It is entirely up to her citizens.

LATE TREASURER OF MONTREAL.

Mr. Chas. Arnoldi, the City Treasurer of Montreal, has just retired, after giving forty-three years of his life to the service of his fellow citizens. Such a record is unique in the annals of civic Canada, but what is still better than his long record, is the fact that during his service at the City Hall, Mr. Arnoldi proved himself a good and faithful public servant, succeeding the late Mr. William Robb, who retired a few years back after many years service. Mr. Arnoldi, though getting on in years, has carried out his onerous duties as Treasurer in a satisfactory manner, and now that he himself has retired, we wish him a long period of good health to enjoy his well earned rest.

As an expression of the feeling of the new Administrative Council of the city (of which Mr. Arnoldi was a member), towards the late Treasurer, the following resolution was passed:

"That the Administrative Commission of Montreal regrets to lose the services of Mr. C. Arnoldi, City Treasurer, and one of the members of the commission, who leaves the employ of the city to-day after serving a period of 43 years; that during this time and in all the positions he has occupied, Mr. Arnoldi has given to the city a wholly devoted service, and that his example may be pointed out as constituting a record in the annals of Montreal; that since the creation of the present commission, Mr. Arnoldi has rendered to it valued services, and that in taking leave of him the members of the commission express the hope he will long continue to enjoy good health, and prosperity, and that he will benefit from the rest which he has absolutely deserved."

DAYLIGHT SAVING.

How naturally we have taken to the Order-in-Council to put on the clock by one hour. The getting up in the morning at the same time as usual—by the clock—has so fooled us that we get the benefit of the morning air without that tired feeling that we have when we break our usual custom of rising at a certain time. The bed doesn't pull even. And then that extra hour after work. It is like going home in the middle of the afternoon. What a boon to everyone of us and particularly to those—and they are to be counted by the thousands—who have lots to cultivate. The present government has issued many orders—some good and some bad—but not one of them has had such good effect in keeping the people healthy—and wealthy.

A GREAT RAILROAD.

The annual report of the Canadian Pacific, which was read by Lord Shaughnessy at the recent annual meeting of the company is a record of nation building hardly equalled in the annals of the British Empire. It is the story of big men of vision who backed up a great idea by their fortunes and their credit, and won out. It is more. It is a story of grim determination to get over obstacles well nigh unsurmountable; and it is also a story of continuity of effort that would have broken lesser men. Integrity and concentration would seem to have been the watchwords of the builders of the great railroad and the same watchwords are the keynotes of the administration of today. When we read of such names as Strathcona, Angus, Stephen, Van Horne and Shaughnessy, and see daily their handiwork that crosses this country from ocean to ocean, a feeling of thankfulness and pride that these men chose Canada as their home comes to the mind of each one of us.