The Weekly Monitor

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CIVIC PROBLEMS AND THE IMMIGRANT

(By J. M. Shaver, Fort William)

(Synopsis of a paper given at the Canadian Public Health Association Congress, Quebec, September 13th and 14th.)

About ninety-five per cent of our non-English speaking immigrants came from rural districts, a large percentage of whom have lived in huts nestled in the many small villages throughout Southern Italy, Austria, Russia and the Balkan States. These people are only beginning to struggle out of absolute illiteracy, the state of which may be realized when we consider that the Ruthenians just two years ago celebrated the centenary of the birth of Taras Chevenhenko, the Chaucer of the Ukraine. This simple rural life of poverty is so marked that meat is only to be had for a meal or two at pig-killing time, when the landlord is kind enough to favor them with this taste of luxury, and the indulgence in liquor of any kind is generally limited to celebrations such as weddings and christenings. The women work in the fields beside the men, and are generally of excellent physique. It is in many cases a survival of the fittest, but the fact remains they are "fit."

One cannot imagine the change that these people are forced to undergo when they are immediately thrust into the complicated life of our cities with little or no restraints of the homeland. Generally the men come first, and are thus away from the influence of mother, wife or sweetheart and often the new atmosphere breaks the influence of the Church itself. Then there is the fact that the newcomer has not yet formed a community interest. He is, for the present a transient. The morals of the community are not his "stake." In fact our whole attitude toward him is apt to discourage any community spirit he might have lurking somewhere in his anatomy. In the first place, he is treated as merely a commercial asset. We get work out of him and pay him as low as the labor market will allow. We swear at him when he doesn't understand English, until he thinks swearing a marked Canadian characteristic, and he goes home and so successful copies us in this that we generally find the whole family, from the lisping child to the blushing debutante, proficient in that art. The real estate agent tries to sell him property. The insurance agent tries to get him to take out a policy, the liquor merchant plies his trade most ardently.

Perhaps the worst phase of our treatment of the foreigner is our political attitude toward him. We give the adult foreigner the franchise with absolutely no provision made for his education into what citizenship means. We neglect him entirely until just before election time and then we try to get his vote. With the temptation that political strife engenders, and with the foreigner's interest in our national and civic life almost at zero, we have a fertile field for not only political corruption, but for what is far worse—"manhood corruption." One cannot wonder that an apostle of freedom who had risked his life for his ideals in Russia was led to remark, after seeing one of our electoral campaigns, "Canada is no country; it is just a place to make money."

I have hinted why these people do not understand sanitary laws. How could people living such primitive lives be expected to know anything about modern sanitation? This condition is not helped one whit by the landlord, who builds all over his lot and puts in as many apartments as possible with the cheapest equipment, "within the law," or often not within the law. As far as the babies are concerned it is the same old question. Mothers who work out in the fields and nurse their babies seldom lose one, but when those same mothers are forced to live in crowded city tenements, where they rarely get a breath of country atmosphere and keep a boarding-house, where they cook, wash and sew for fifteen or twenty men they become so busy that they wean the baby to save time and then an older child can look after it. Neither before nor after birth does this baby get a square deal.

As for the older children, they learn English much faster than their parents, and often learn questionable things on the street, the meaning of which the parents do not understand. The result is often that the child despises the non-English-speaking parent, and we find the largest lists of juvenile delinquents among children of immigrants.

When one begins to look round for solution of the problem, what attitude do we find on the part of the Canadian people in general? First of all there is that almost universal assumption that we are the chosen people of God and all others are of an inferior race. This conviction increases in direct ratio to our ignorance. Thus we have all the terms running from the "damned Dago" of the workman to the "horrible foreigner" on the part of the ladies, or "poor, ignorant foreigner" on the part of the clergy.

Primarily the solution is a personal matter. The foreigner must become personally acquainted with the men and women who are making the highest national character of Canada to-day. It is just a case of getting together. There must be some institution which shall act as an exchange of personality, ideas and ideals. That can best be a social centre, such as a social settlement, or the school used as a social centre. And let me emphasize the fact that the centre of the social centre must be a personality, and not a mere secretary or manager. True, what we do must be well done, whether it be teaching English, civics or domestic science, or managing a civic club, if we are to hold the respect of these people; but a mechanical doing of this work without the inspiration of big, kind, broad-minded, patriotic souls is going to rob these people of their souls, and we shall have failed in our real object.

To be more definite: The social worker ought to study sympathetically the people among whom he is working. He should know their history, their great reformers, literary men, artists, and a bit of their greatest literature and art. In this way a bond of sympathy immediately arises between teacher and pupil, and our heroes, patriots, authors and artists become companions of theirs in their thoughts and they become spiritual citizens of our country as well as of their own. In fact, imperceptibly their passion for the highest and best is not transferred from the old land to ours, but what is far better, is increased so as to take in ours, too. On the other hand, we find the teacher grows in the same respect.

Our experience among the fifteen nationalities who attended our night school and institute in Fort William gives ample proof of this theory. During the four years we have carried on this work we taught some three hundred men to speak, read and write the English language. We began by teaching them the language of domestic life, following this with that of our industrial and commercial life. From this we took up Canadian history and civics, showing the struggle our forefathers put up for the measure of freedom we enjoy, and giving a sketch of our national heroes, such as Radisson, the Jesuit missionary; Isaac Brock, Lord Durham, etc. As they progressed we went more into detail. We took up civic life, showing how free our judges, magistrates and medical officers of health are from political influence. Examples, such as aldermen being held up for not putting in sewer connections, and the city of Fort William being held up for not putting in adequate sewers in the foreign sections of the city, were admirable examples with which to drive home these facts.

The freedom of speech and the press were brought home by getting the most intellectual to write letters to the press airing civic grievances. These letters from Austrians, even in war time, taught what British freedom means more than anything else could. Special lessons on how a city is governed are given for weeks before civic elections take place. Lessons demonstrated with dummy ballots show the absolute secrecy of the federal ballot, etc. To prepare our teachers for this work we put on a special training course for them, with introductory lectures on the different nationalities, their home conditions, schools, politics, etc. This was followed by definite training in how to use the system we adopted, so that the work was done scientifically and sympathetically.

The result was not only seen on the foreigner, who invited us to speak on these subjects in his own clubs and halls, and in one case went so far as to make us honorary president of one of his literary and relief societies, but upon the changed attitude of the noble body of teachers who became acquainted with these great souls who were struggling out into the light of a new freedom. It created a body of co-operation which proved a great force in a bigger vision and cleaner civic life.

The same result was achieved in the work among the children. The children learned cooking, sewing, housekeeping, household economics, sanitation and hygiene; but they got more than that. They got the personal inspiration of the characters of the fifty-eight volunteer workers, who either taught their classes or acted as big sisters, big brothers, or home advisers to those families. Discouraged mothers made another try cleaning up and, trying, succeeded. Children learned to make their own nightgowns, and in doing so learned the habit of going to bed in a healthy way instead of with the limited preparation of taking off their boots and saying their prayers. Where boys and girls were breaking with the home, the sincere respect of the uptown mother for her down-town neighbor brought back that respect and saved the Children's Aid Society a "ward." The very first people of the city of Fort William are among our personal workers, and it is as it should be.

When children are ill and should go to the hospital, the personal friend of that home calls for the mother, goes with her to the hospital, dissipates all the foolish fears these poor primitive people have for institutions and proves a valuable aid to the medical health officer and district nurse. The regulations of the doctor are explained, and assistance is given to carry them out and in many cases frequent calls are made to demonstrate the changing of a bandage and the keeping of wounds antiseptic. In this way the personal friendship of the neighbor from upiown makes effective the friendship of the professional man or woman who has not time for the "line upon line." One successful case such as I described often converts a whole neighborhood to the right treatment of the sick and a more friendly attitude toward the sanitary and medical health officers. The school nurse put on in our institute a course of lectures on the care of the baby. These simple directions which had been demonstrated, were printed in the people's native language on one side of a little pamphlet for the mothers to keep for reference, and on the other side in English for the children to read. Thus we are training the future mothers also.

And do they give it back? Yes, one thousand fold. We had a mothers' club, where Italian and Austrian mothers knitted socks and made comforts for the Italian and British soldiers. When our city librarian wished to take a library survey of the city of Fort William (by the way, we have a branch of the public library and do a great deal toward directing their reading), she was stuck at the foreign quarter. I asked my senior class if those who would like to do something for their city would remain at the close of the night school. All remained and I sent them out two and two—Italian and Slav—to do that quarter of the city, and we were forced to conclude that no other volunteer workers did their work better.

When a local option campaign was put on at the head of the lakes a young man who got his training with us took charge of the foreign section of Port Arthur, and every poll gave over the sixty per cent. vote for the bill. In Fort William the liquor forces put up their biggest fight in the foreign quarter, and in spite of that fact those people gave as good a vote for the bill as the best residential part of the city. I give this not because I am in favor of the bill, but to show that the foreigner may be brought to have a vital interest in his community morally as well as financially if he is only made to feel that this, too, is a country of patriots who are sacrificing for the best things, and that we are counting on him to make that contribution which he must make or we shall be a national failure.

The races which produced a Tolstoi, a Chevchenko, a Garibaldi, a Mazzini and a Cavour shall surely not fail us in Canada if we give them the British treatment which is due them; and they shall not only give their lives on the battlefields of Europe, as twenty-five of our Russian lads are already doing with the Canadian forces in Flanders, to say nothing of our Italian reservists who have gone home to join the colors, but they shall give their lives to Canada at home, as Theodore Rumenuk, the Ruthenian, and Emilio Narino, the Italian, are doing. Ted knew no English four years ago. He could not pass out of the second reader in the general subjects. He now has his Part I matriculation and will have full matriculation for Manitoba University in another year. He is going into law, to protect his people from the crooks, both foreign and domestic who infest the land.

Narino is the Italian Consular Agent, who came to Fort William as a laborer, and for four years worked as a freight handler. We taught him English. He became a bank clerk, afterward went into business as steamship and railway ticket agent etc., and finally became Consular Agent. We help him and stand by him in his work. He has already broken up what promised to be two black-hand gangs and is now fighting another which has made some terrible attacks on him personally. But he is fighting your battle and mine. He is fighting for the future law and order of Fort William, and whether your children and mine know it or not, they shall profit by his sacrifice and service in the generations yet to be, and when you and I met these fellows before the great white throne there will be nobody around to call them "Dago"—their real record will be there.

There are some 7,000 Canadians under the sod in Flanders and another 7,000 permanently disabled. That's some of the price we are paying for our freedom. There is coming a new immigration to Canada such as we have not yet seen. The character they give to Canada will just be the character and spirit with which we meet them. If we do our duty today we may hold Canada worth the price we are paying for it. If we neglect in a great measure our lads shall have died in vain. God help us not to fail!

The first woman to be appointed to a medical position in the British Army is Dr. Evelyn Windsor. She will be attached to the Canadian Medical Corps in France, and have the rank of Captain.

THE EUROPEAN WAR

BRITISH CAPTURE BIG HUN SUBMARINE

Milan, Novmber 24.—British naval forces recently captured a large German submarine according to the Couriere DeLa Sera. The newspaper says that a British mine sweeper landed thirteen sailors and two officers of the crew of the submarine at an Italian port.

TWO BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIPS SUNK

London, Nov. 22—The British hospital ship Britannic has been sunk with the loss of about 50 lives, says a British official announcement to-day. The Britannic was sunk by a mine or a torpedo yesterday morning in the Aegean Sea, according to the official statment. There were 1,106 survivors, of whom about 28 were injured.

London. November 24.—The British hospital ship Braemar Castle of 6,280 tons gross, bound from Saloniki to Maita, with wounded, has been mined or torpedoed in the Aegean Sea, it was officially announced today. All on board were saved.

GERMAN DESTROYERS AGAIN RAID COAST OF ENGLAND

London, Nov. 25—A raid by six the English coast, which took place on the Engish coast, which took place on Thursday night, was announced officially today. The raid was ineffective, according to the statement, which declares that the six German destroyers participating in it steamed away quickly after firing a dozen rounds, one shell striking a small vessel but causing little damage, and no injury to the crew. Apparently the raiders were operating in the vicinity of Ramsgate on the coast, about fifteen miles north of Dover.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM ROUMANIA

London, Nov. 26:—The wireless despatch received last evening from Petrograd that the Roumanians have succeeded in extricating themselves from the enveloping movement in the extreme west is the most encouraging news from the theatre of war, on which the eyes of the world are focused, to reach London in several days. If this, as well as the additional information that the Roumanians in their retirement were able to destroy large quantities of cereals, proves to be true, it means they have placed a wedge between Orsova and Craiova, and perhaps rejoined forces on the Alt.

Optimists here expect a strong counter-offensive at the right moment by the strong Russo-Roumanian force known to be in the Alt Valley.

The situation in Roumania, as described in today's news, shows that General Von Falkenhayn's forces, having gained the railway at Craiova, have rapidly pushed to the southeast, and are, according to German official accounts, already in touch with Field Marshal Von Mackensen's forces, which crossed the Danube at Zimnitza, and advanced with equal rapidity and are now before Alexandria.

The German reports do not state where the two forces joined hands, but says that the roads leading eastward from the Alt River are encumbered with fleeing Roumanian supply columns, and marked by burning villages.

The Roumanian official communication, to a large extent corroborates this news by reporting an engagement with an enemy column advancing towards Roshiori de Vede, on the railway, a little north of Alexandria. Thus the Central forces are now within fifty miles of Bucharest, which is threatened from the west, north and south.

WAR BRIEFS

Society women are abandoned hats in Italy for the sake of war economy.

After a while paper may be so scarce that shoe manufacturers will not be able to afford to use it as shoe soles.

It has been estimated that after the war, one-fourth of the world's area and population will come under the British flag.

Germany is in the mood of a wild beast and she has broken every restraint which civilization and honor impose. —New York Tribune.

Italy reports that since Jan. 1st., 1916, the Austrians have lost no less than 850,000 men, of whom 450,000 are now prisoners in Russia or Italy.

All motor cars belonging to the army are hereafter to bear the letters O.H.M.S., so as to prevent their use for any other than military purposes.

Hon. Wm. Hughes, Premier of Australia, some thirty odd years ago, when he first landed in the Commonwealth, made his living as an itinerant umbrella mender.

From July 1st to Nov. 1st, the Franco British drive on the Somme netted 72,981 prisoners, 173 field guns, 130 heavy guns, 215 trench mortars, and 981 machine guns.

730,000 more women are now employed in occupations outside their homes in England than when the war began, 33,000 by railway companies and 25,000 in the Cotton trade.

"Princess Patricia has come home full of new ideas. She has acquired the unconventional outlook of the young Canadian Woman."

—Lady's Pictorial.

An order in Council has been passed authorizing the payment of a drawback, up to ninety per cent of the duty paid on materials imported for the construction of ships in Canada.

Twenty-four dogs came on a steamer from Alaska to Seattle recently, each travelling on a regular passenger ticket. They are on their way to France to be employed in the military service.

One of the big English banks is training forty women for the position of managers of country branches. The more difficult business will be conducted by overseers who will make frequent visits.

Le Goulois, Paris, says, "The devotion and enthusiasm of the British Empire will forever be one of the wonders of history. France admires and will never forget Great Britain's marvellous effort."

The Subaltern. "Ier-um-a-Ier." The Jeweller. "Certainly Sir. What kind of an engagement ring do you fancy?"

Pall Mall Gazette: The jeweller guessed correctly."

A conscientious objector in England, being asked his religion said "I am ashamed to say I am a Wesleyan.' Being asked what he meant by this, he replied "Because I can find none of them who are of my opinion.

D. A. Clark, of Los Angles, says he will return in war stocks, after the war 2,000,000 dollars, made in war stocks, to the widows and orphans of France. He does not want to profit by their misery.—Literary Digest.

A campaign has begun in New York to raise 10,000,000 dollars, in 1917, for Jewish sufferers in Europe. This is one of the largest charitable efforts ever made, and is in addition to 6,000,000 dollars already expended.

The Kaiser assures his people that his heart bleeds for them. But, is three another family of six sons except the Hohenzollern family in all Germany, who has not lost one of them in battle since Aug. 1st 1914? New York Evening Sun.

Eggs in England are three and a half pence each, and will probably rise to five pence each before Christmas. Ordinarily the come in large quantities to London from Galicia and Russia, and the price will be high until after the war.

Two men, a father and a son, who have been working in a munitions factory in Hamilton, Ont. are charged with purposely plugging shells in a way which makes them dangerous to handle. They are under arrest and will probably be tried for high treason.

When all the facts are known, and all the cross-lights lifted, the world will see that no man worked more seriously or more strenuously for the world's peace than Edward Grey, and so worked that they who care for peace shall not need to be ashamed.—Toronto Globe.

THE MANAGER SAYS—"I have found Zam-Buk an absolutely sure cure for chapped hands." The manager referred to is Mr. Osborne Blois, Business Manager of "The Patriot," Dartmouth, N.S. He continues: "For five years I suffered with this affliction, which nothing could cure until I used Zam-Buk. Since using this wonderful balm, however, I have never again been troubled with chapped hands."

If you suffer with chapped hands, cold cracks, cold sores, chilblains, or any other painful winter ailment, get a box of Zam-Buk now, and prove to your own satisfaction that there is nothing that ends pain and heals so quickly.

Zam-Buk is equally good for eczema, blood-poisoning, old wounds, ulcers, boils and piles, cuts, burns and scalds. All druggists or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, 50c. a box, 3 for $1.25. Send 1c. stamp for trial box.

ZAM-BUK

DIPHTHERIA IS PREVALENT.

(Issued by the Department of the Public Health, Nova Scotia.)

While there is no season in which we are quite free from this disease, it is usually most common during the colder months. It would appear that our experience of former years, in this respect, is to be repeated this year. Recently cases of the disease are being reported from many parts of this Province, and several communities are facing limited epidemics.

As in the case of several other infectious diseases, diphtheria frequently is so mild in type that it escapes recognition, and those who suffer from unrecognized attacks, not being restricted in their movements, may distribute infection to many of those with whom they come in contact. Laboratory tests often prove to be the only means by which a diagnosis can be made. By passing a swab of absorbent cotton over the tonsils, some of the organisms which cause diphtheria are detached, and may be identified by the use of laboratory methods. It is very important that a swab should be taken from every sore throat and sent to the laboratory for examination, as otherwise the diagnosis will surely be missed in many cases, and "missed cases" are without doubt largely responsible for the spread of diphtheria.

Persons who have had the disease sometimes carry the germs in their throats for some time after recovery, and during this time they are capable of infecting others. No one should be released from quarantine for diphtheria until laboratory tests prove that the diphtheria germs no longer exist in the throat.

Antitoxin, if administered in sufficient quantity before the body is overwhelmed by the poisons produced by the germs, is a certain cure. It should be given very early in the course of the disease, so a prompt diagnosis is of the utmost importance. Given in a small dose to those who have been exposed to infection, it confers immunity for a short period, but seldom for more than three or four weeks.

Children are especially prone to be infected by the diphtheria germs, but a considerable percentage of children are immune to the disease. Probably not more than ten per cent of adults are susceptible. A simple test enables us to determine whether or not anyone is immune to diphtheria. Should make its appearance in a school or institution, this test should be used. Those who prove to be susceptible should then be kept under especially close supervision, and should be isolated on the first appearance of symptoms suggestive of diphtheria.

No matter how mild the attack from which one may suffer, one who has diphtheria may infect others. And of those so infected, some may develop the disease in its most virulent form. It is therefore the duty of everyone who has a sore throat to make sure that he is not infective before he mingles with others.

The Department of the Public Health issues a leaflet setting out the preventive measures which should be adopted by those who have to care for patients suffering with this disease. This may be obtained free of charge upon application to the Provincial Health Officer, Halifax.

Wolfville Acadian:— The management of the D. A. R. is showing a laudable interest in the beautifying of the surroundings of their station and line. Last summer the lot near the Wolfville station, which was handed over to the Wolfville Board of Trade some years ago and improved to a considerable extent, was neatly fenced. The D. A. R. management has now offered to give a liberal supply of bulbs which are to be planted on this ground. Beds have been prepared and next year should see this piece of property made a real beauty spot. The move is a wise one and will tend to the advantage of the town and at the same time show to the travelling public that the D. A. railway is conducted by a wide-awake management. We notice that similar preparations are being made at Grand Pre station.

The Department of Militia, Ottawa, is calling attention to the movement of wives and families of Canadian soldiers to England and to the lack of transportation there will be for return passengers at the close of the war, as soldiers will be considered first and women and children will be stalled in England.

Good For Man And Beast

Kendall's Spavin Cure has now been *refined for human* use. Its penetrating power quickly relieves swellings, sprains, bruises, and all forms of lameness. It is just what you need around the house. Write for many letters from users to prove its effectiveness.

T. J. Smith, Spencedale, Ont., says—"Have used Kendall's for many years in my stable and house and it never has failed us yet."

Kendall's Spavin Cure

For Horses —And Refined for Man.

—has been used by horsemen, veterinarians, and farmers for over 35 years. Its worth has been *proved*, for spavin, splint, curb, ringbone and the many other hurts that come to horses.

ONION LAKE, Sask., April 22nd, 1915.

"Kendall's Spavin Cure is about the best all-round liniment for both man and beast that I know."

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Get Kendall's Spavin Cure at any druggist's. For horses $1. bottle—6 for $5. Refined for man 50c.—4 for $2.50. Treatise on the Horse' free from druggist or write to

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