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The Eight Hour Movement in Australia.

Whatever would be the result of the adoption in Canada of eight hours as the working day, it appears evident that its use in Australia has been of marked benefit to both masters and men. MR. JOHN RAE, who has recently devoted much attention to an examination of the movement, has published his conclusions in a leading English journal, and summarizes the effect of the shortening as a decided gain to civilization. As an unprejudiced student of the question his observations are both interesting and valuable, and are deserving of close attention from those interested in economic subjects. The chief advantages that have, since its adoption, accrued to the workmen of the colony are a greatly increased interest in literary matters, and more time for physical recreation and exercise, to say nothing of the increased opportunities for home duties and supervision of children. As far as the work itself is concerned, MR. RAE'S conclusions, adopted from the reports of employers, are that not only has the quantity of work turned out per week been fully equal to that prior to the change, but—strange to say—there has been a distinct improvement in the quality. In noting the general results of the movement, he says:

"Altogether, the more we examine the subject the more irresistibly is the impression borne in from all sides that there is growing up in Australia, and very largely in consequence of the eight hours day, a working class which, for general *morale*, intelligence, and industrial efficiency, is probably already superior to that of any other branch of our Anglo-Saxon race, and for happiness, cheerfulness and all-round comfort of life has never seen its equal in the world before. For all this advantage, moreover, nobody seems to be a shilling the worse. It is truly remarkable how immaterial apparently has been the cost of the eight hours day in Victoria. Look for the effects of it where you will, they still ever elude your observation.

Wages have not fallen, wages have not risen; production has not fallen except in certain trifling cases; prices have not risen except in certain trifling instances; trade has not suffered, profits have not dwindled (or we should have heard croaking); the unemployed have not vanished, not so much as shrunk in any perceptible degree; the working classes—the great body of the nation—have an hour more to call their own, that is all."

It is rather curious that the great opponents of the measure are the working-women, and the

saloon-keepers. The opposition of the women to the reform is due to their eagerness to work long hours in order to earn more wages; it is rather difficult to state the exact grounds by which public-houses suffer by the eight hours system, but it may reasonably be inferred that more money is devoted to out-door sports and reading, and less to drink. This fact entitles the movement to the strong support of the temperance party. We firmly believe that before many years, a shorter day's work will be the rule in Canada as well as in Australia; it may not come down at once to eight hours, but will probably commence with a reduction to nine. The greatest hindrance to the success of the movement will be in our proximity to the United States, with its immense army of unemployed, daily recruited from all parts of the world with ignorant men and women, whose only aim is to make money, and who will work any length of time and at any price to accomplish that end; many of these drift into Canada, and would be followed by swarms if openings existed for them. The great *desideratum* here is that the Government should take action in the matter by the appointment of a commission to carefully examine all sides of the question; it is altogether likely that legislation in favour of the reform would soon follow.

From Dakota to Manitoba.

A marked feature of the ebb and flow of population recently has been the emigration of farmers from Dakota into Manitoba; and—if press reports are true—the coming enormous harvest in the latter, and the relatively light yield in the former, will intensify this movement. The reasons alleged appear to be chiefly on account of the high rate of taxation existent on the American side, and the great scarcity of fuel; and, in addition to these, settlers suffer much from drought, while the prices realized for produce are extremely low. These are hard facts, borne out by the sworn testimony of the sufferers; and although a good margin may be allowed for laziness or want of care in their work while in Dakota, enough remains to show conclusively that Manitoba offers infinitely greater advantages to the farmer than does that State. Many of the settlers who have come over state that wood is so scarce that for years they have been unable to procure any for fuel; scraps, roots, odds and ends of all sorts have been all they could depend on. This, in view of the blizzards that periodically sweep over the entire State, must entail great suffering. In financial matters the discrepancy between the very meagre prices received for produce and the high outlay for municipal purposes makes money-lenders the most prosperous class of the community, three to four per cent per month being paid by the unfortunate farmers in many cases to meet their engagements. When cows are sold at from \$7 to \$20 each, butter at from 6 to 7 cents per lb., and other stuff at proportionate prices, middlemen must make substantial profits, unless the railroads absorb an undue proportion. The high municipal taxes referred to seem to have gone into the pockets of high-salaried county officials, the treasurer and registrar alone receiving \$2,000 a year each, while in Manitoba one-tenth of that sum is considered ample remuneration for the occasional duties required. Altogether, the concensus of facts is in every particular favourable to the Canadian province; and the probabilities are that a very large number of Dakotans will, from this time out, remove across the frontier.

Canada and the Royal Colonial Institute

It would be a matter for sincere regret if the interest of Canadians in the Royal Colonial Institute fell off in any way, and yet it looks as if such were the case. At the last ordinary general meeting, held a few weeks ago, 35 Non-Resident Fellows of the Institute were elected, representing almost every British possession under the sun, except Canada; not a single application from residents of British North America was presented. Twenty-three of the number came from Australia, the other twelve from different colonies. When we consider the relatively large measure of attention devoted in the publications of the Institute to Canadian topics, and the position Canada holds as the largest and most populous (excluding India) portion of the British Empire outside of the Mother-country, it seems surprising that more Canadians are not asked to join and aid the Institute in its work. We fear that the Honorary Corresponding Secretaries for Canada—who, rise men of high standing in the Dominion, from Quebec to Victoria—are remiss in their duty; the position is of little use unless its occupant does some practical work in aiding the extension of the Institute's membership, and placing its objects and aims prominently before the public. We note that the Maritime Provinces are not represented by a Corresponding Secretary, and would suggest the advisability of appointing one at both Halifax and St. John. Both provinces are thoroughly loyal to British connection, and should certainly be brought into close touch with such an organization as the Royal Canadian Institute. There is no doubt but that the membership can be largely increased all through Canada if efforts are made in that direction by its representatives; at no time has there existed a stronger feeling among all classes in favour of Imperial consolidation, and of means and measures tending in that direction.

The Toronto Macdonald Memorial.

We are glad to note that the MACDONALD MEMORIAL Committee of Toronto is meeting with such success in its noble work of raising a befitting memorial to the memory of our great statesman. But while much has been done, there is still a large sum required to carry out the work the committee has so energetically undertaken. Its members earnestly appeal to the many thousands of admirers and lovers of the grand old Chieflain living in Toronto and its vicinity to assist in raising a memorial that shall be a credit to the city and district. It is hoped that the plea of poverty will keep no one from contributing to this fund; any sum will be accepted. The policy inaugurated by SIR JOHN MACDONALD worked wonders for Toronto, and every citizen should feel it a personal duty to aid in the erection of a token of respect to his memory. The Mayor, MR. E. F. CLARKE, M.P.P., is chairman of the committee, MR. FRANK TURNER, C.E., is treasurer, and MR. J. CASTELL HOPKINS is secretary.

CHRISTMAS.

It may seem rather premature to talk about Christmas in this hot weather, but we wish to impress on our readers the fact that we intend issuing early in December, the most superb holiday souvenir that has yet been offered to the Canadian public. In supplements, it will be unusually rich presenting features that have never been approached by any paper, while in general artistic and literary excellence it will be the event of the season.