

the Straussian skies are seldom empty of birds of paradise, and that many descend unurged, and fly happily and in beauty about this poet's head. It is reported, too, that nightingales have been known to sing in his woods at dusk, and that eagles soar above his mountain-peaks.

## ENGLAND'S FUTURE

*A Study of Industrial Conditions as They Lately Existed*

ENGLAND is a customer of ours and—sentiment aside—her future welfare concerns us closely.

The following excerpt from an article in the Round Table has an important bearing on Canadian affairs, too.

It is admitted, says the article, that there are many weak points in our industrial armour. In the first place it is generally agreed that the equipment and plant of our industry is in many respects inferior, and sometimes markedly inferior, to that of America, and probably in a good many cases to that of Germany. We were before the war, and still are, in many respects inferior to the United States in the application of machinery and automatic mechanical appliances; we are greatly behindhand in the case of power, particularly electrical power, by the efficient utilization of which our industrial life might be largely transformed.

The causes of our mechanical inferiority are various. One is the lack of research, to which reference is made later, and which results in the use of antiquated processes. Another is that we started earlier than our competitors. We built our railways and factories and docks on too small a scale; our tunnels too narrow, our platforms too small, our terminals too cramped; our workshops in crowded towns, where there is no room for expansion. Different industries grew up separately—e.g., blast furnaces, and steel works, which to-day should probably in certain cases be combined. Everywhere we are handicapped in the re-equipment and reorganization of our industry by our having started on a scale too small for to-day, to say nothing of the further handicaps caused by the reluctance of the British workingman to take kindly to new labour-saving devices, and of the British industrialist to accept new ideas.

These difficulties have been increased by the ruinous tendency of most industrial businesses to divide profits up to the hilt, a tendency encouraged by our taxing laws. Reserves for depreciation and betterment are usually inadequate and accordingly large expenditure on re-equipment becomes impossible. It is hardly possible to exaggerate the importance of this matter. There never has been an age when developments in new inventions and processes were more rapid, or when more money was required by all the great industries, if they are to keep abreast of their foreign competitors. Unless they build up their reserves they cannot take advantage of new developments; their profits are reduced in the face of more up-to-date competition, and they become less and less able to regain their position. Take an electric power company as an example. The coal consumption of a power station constructed to-day should for the same output be certainly not more than half that of one built in 1900. If a company which built its power station in 1900 has not been able to put by money wholly to re-equip it, it must either charge its customers much higher rates for power than should be necessary or face such a reduction in profits as may ruin it. A very large proportion of the coal used in the country is still used in plants involving a coal consumption from five to fifteen times greater than the best that can be done to-day. Everyone knows that our railways have been great sinners in the past in not conserving their resources. Does anyone suppose that, if some of our southern lines were in the United States, they would not be reorganized within a year?

Another defect in our industry is generally thought to be our inferior organization, both in manufacturing and in selling, and particularly our organization for competing in foreign markets. Often there are too many small firms making the same thing, with the result that the scale of manufacture is too small, and overhead expenses inordinately large. Then, again, there is want of co-operation in selling. British industry is organized to meet individual competition, not the organized selling of cartels and great combinations. It is often necessary actually to create the demand, and to compete in fields where we must

meet the huge American industries, and the highly organized German competition. Each trade must scientifically investigate foreign markets and lay out its plans in a thorough and far-seeing manner. Whatever we may think of cartels and combinations for home trade, they are undoubtedly necessary for foreign trade, and it is significant that recently the



"How do you expect to join the colours, little one?"  
"Why, don't you know, colonel, that my small size will make me indispensable in scouting?"

—From Boudilnik, Moscow.

American anti-trust law prohibiting trusts and combinations has been amended so as not to apply to export business. Moreover, a Trade Commission now sits permanently at Washington, the chief activities of which are said to be the organization of each separate American industry for export trade.

## TEMPLES OF HOPE:

*An Account of the French Re-Education System*

THREE wards, writes Marc Loge in the World's Work, describing a visit to the Grand Palais for wounded soldiers in Paris, impressed me as being true Temples of Hope. These are the Wards of Electrotherapy, Thermo-therapy and Radio-therapy. The men lying there so patiently seemed all to be awaiting in silence some great miracle from the healing forces of Nature which science has captured for the benefit of man.

The Radium Service contains three or four hun-



Kaiser: "How is it working on them, Hollweg?"  
"Bethmann Hollweg: "Majesty, we have blundered again! We have given them laughing gas instead of poison peace gas. Listen to them laughing at us."

dred thousand francs worth of radium which achieves remarkable results in cases of retraction, though the actual "how and wherefore" of its working is per-

haps not for man to tell. A no less intense silence reigned in the ward of Electrotherapy, where gentle-faced nurses supervised the different treatments applied. In the Thermo-therapy Service, heat baths are administered, whilst baths of red light tonify and excite the circulation in weak and flaccid tissues.

Before leaving the Medical wards of the C. R. P. we visited the modelling studio directed by the sculptor, David, who, within a few months, has executed a fine collection of plaster and wax casts of all the most remarkable cures which have been obtained. A series of water colours by the painter Prevost reproduces very strikingly some rare lesions. All these unique documents of high scientific interest are grouped in the Record Room where they form a rare, if rather gruesome, record of the services that Art is able to render to Science.

Besides being at the head of this small museum, Mr. Fernand David directs a little workshop of prosthesis in which are created numerous elementary apparatus of prosthesis, to uphold limb segments or to serve as substitutes to paralyzed or atrophied muscles, or again to exert a gentle yet continuous traction on fibrous or muscular retractions.

Leaving the Medical department we descend to the ground floor where, in the great halls looking out on the Avenue Alexandre III., a series of workshops have been organized by the School of Professional Re-education, created by the Union of the Foreign Colonies in France. Dr. Valle is more specially entrusted with this branch of the C. R. P. in which mutilated soldiers, following the Physiotherapeutic Services, and unable to resume their pre-war professions, are taught new careers which will permit them to earn their living when liberated from military service.

The workshops are numerous and varied; each one is directed by a competent "chef d'atelier," to whom a great deal of personal initiative is allowed, and in each division many were busy learning a new profession. The tin-ware department is especially popular, for the men realize that a "ferblantier" earns a good living in the French provinces, where he often combines the trades of ironmonger and hardware dealer. The locksmiths were also numerous, as well as the carpenters, whose budding skill was revealed by a set of chairs and a quite decorative desk.

The tailor's shop is perhaps less successful, for a long training is necessary to become an efficient tailor. However, the suit which clothed the mannikin presented a truly elegant appearance. A special atelier is devoted to frame-making, and the saddler's shop is also doing good work, as many men know that they will thus be able to earn a liberal living when they return to their villages—for saddlers are rare in the French countryside, the villagers being often obliged to go to the neighbouring township to find one.

But the atelier which is perhaps the most popular and the most successful, and which is certainly the most unexpected, is the soap-work! As the profession of soap-maker does not necessitate any particular output of strength, even quite severely wounded men can adopt this profession. One of the men had lost the middle finger of his right hand, which involved a radial paralysis, which would prevent him from following any trade in which manual dexterity was indispensable. Yet he has become an expert soap-maker and works with much eagerness.

The "savonnerie" of the Grand Palais, which at first provoked much criticism and opposition, is a real success. It is even a paying industry, as several large Parisian shops send in important orders! And I further strongly suspect the Medical Staff of the C. R. P. of buying absolutely unnecessary quantities of soap in order to encourage those still clumsy, eager-faced boys.

Before leaving the Grand Palais I was allowed to peep into a small ward reserved for the treatment of extremely nervous subjects who, when necessary, are even completely isolated. This ward has given excellent results, ably directed by Dr. Massacre, who by persuasion and auto-suggestion, by a kind firmness, has obtained some quite remarkable cures.

I saw one man, who for weeks had remained lying upon his bed, convinced that he could not walk, who was at length persuaded to rise alone, slowly from his couch, and to cross the length of the room. It was a rather tottering, fearful walk, but the glad light in the man's eyes when he reached his bed again, having discovered that he could walk, is a thing not easily forgotten, and was but one more tribute to the wonderful organization of the "Corps de Re-education Physique." Many cases of nervous breakdown and shock have been happily treated in this special ward.