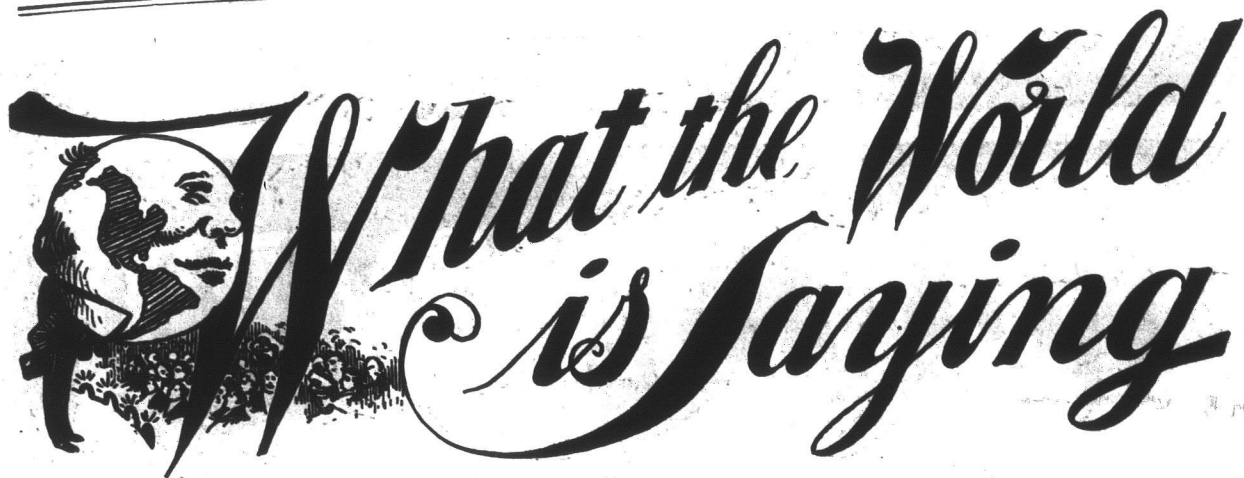




What the World is Saying

A Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

THE PROBLEM of imperial organization is now before British statesmen. The growth of the empire, the vastness of its territory and the variety of its nationalities make some readjustment of the conduct of imperial foreign affairs necessary. W. Sanford Evans contributes to the British Empire Review a "Canadian View" of the subject. The following is a general statement of the position taken: "The Canadian system of government is not today properly organized for imperial or general external activity, and no council such as Sir Frederick Pollock suggests would remedy the defect. The interests arising out of our imperial and general external relations are not organized under a special department with a responsible minister at its head. Every other important class of interests is so organized. When this fact is recognized no argument will be necessary to make it clear that imperial and foreign issues cannot now effectively be brought home to the Canadian people nor acted upon by them. In the new Australian Commonwealth there is a minister of external affairs, but in how far he supplies the place vacant in Canada I am not prepared to say. The other self-governing colonies are in the same position as Canada. Every self-governing colony should have its imperial and foreign interests entrusted to a special department with a responsible minister at its head. Until this is done information and advice supplied by a council would be of little more than academic value. When it is done there should be no practical necessity for a separate council, since the responsible ministers belonging to the colonies and the secretary of state for the colonies, the secretary of state for foreign affairs, and perhaps the prime minister of Great Britain, would form, in accordance with the principles of the British system, not only the best possible council of the empire, but the only council that could safely bring about results."

The Making of Roads.

AFTER ALL civilization is very much a matter of roads. Construct a good highway through desert districts and they will blossom as the rose. Roads are built too often in a haphazard fashion, little intelligent attention being given to them. But the day of the road has dawned. Iowa has raised it to the dignity of an academic subject, and placed it on the college curriculum. Speaking of the course, Wallace's Farmer says: "The act of the last legislature which created the highway commission provided for a school of instruction in road building and road maintenance for township trustees, road superintendents, county supervisors, and others who are responsible for the public roads. The work of this school will be divided into four classes of subjects. First, the class room work, which will consist of a series of lectures on different phases of the road question; second, the field work, which will be of a practical nature for the purpose of teaching the use of road surveying instruments, the preparation of maps, profiles, and plans for highway improvement; third, a study of modern road machinery, of which there will be an extensive exhibit and a series of lectures and demonstrations in its care and use; fourth, a study of the use of cement for highway purposes. Designs for the concrete culverts and bridges will be supplied to the students and a number of models will be built to illustrate how these designs are used. Model sections of earth, gravel, and macadam roads will be seen at the college and will be built during the course."

The Door of Commercial Opportunity.

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON even in these days of prosperity to hear men say there are no doors of opportunity open for them to enter. Facts are against them. There has never been a time in the history of this continent when so many doors for commercial success presented them-

selves as the present. The old saying that "there is plenty of room at the top" was always true, but never more so than today. In Harper's for July, H. G. Hapgood, speaking of the search for men, says: "Three types of ability are in constant demand for the more important positions in the business world—the ability to organize, direct and manage, the ability to create new markets, either by advertising or personal argument; and the ability to supervise detail work and devise labor and time saving devices. For these abilities employers are willing to pay salaries that formerly would have been considered fabulous. It is the possession or lack of one or all of these types which divides men into three great classes. At one extreme are the extraordinary capable executives, salesmen and detail men; at the other extreme, men who possess none of these qualifications, but are fitted to do manual labor or automatically perform routine clerical duties—the mediocre man, too proud to work with his hands, and with only a limited amount of executive selling or detailing ability. The business world is looking for men who can achieve results. All others are hurriedly pushed aside. The market value of such men has risen with the demand."

The Separation of Norway and Sweden.

THE TROUBLE has at last broken out between two countries that were never in close harmony with each other. The fires of discontent have been for several years smouldering and have recently taken on the seriousness of a conflagration. Commenting upon the discontent the Union Gospel News says: "The old quarrel between Norway and Sweden over separate foreign representation for Norway has broken out again, and serious trouble on the Scandinavian Peninsula is threatened. Under the compact between the dual kingdom, Sweden undertakes to represent both countries through her diplomatic service. Norway, however, feels that under this arrangement her interests are not fully served. King Oscar has refused to sign the bill for separate consulates, and Norway has just floated a loan of about \$10,000,000 in Paris. The Swedes suspect that this is for military purposes. In view of the severe check Russia has received to her desire for better ports in Asia, it is believed she will now seek more determinedly than ever to secure a better sea port in Europe. By consulting a map it may be seen that only a short stretch of Norwegian territory separates the boundary of Russia from the open Atlantic Coast. It has already been found that Russia has been seeking to spread discontent among the people in Northern Norway with their government. Hence it may be that Russia is not an idle spectator in the present misunderstanding between Sweden and Norway. A war that would give her an excuse for intervention and the securing of a stretch of Atlantic coast would not be abhorrent to the Czar's government just now."

The Church as a Financial Concern.

WE ARE LIVING in an age which is seeing the dollar proving its claim to the oft quoted adjective "Almighty." It is creeping into the church and threatens to sap it of its spiritual life. A case in point is quoted from a Toronto paper. Some time ago a petition was sent to the Presbyterian General Assembly at Kingston, in which a widow prayed that the interest on a bequest of her deceased husband be set aside to provide for the wants of her son, who is sick of consumption away from home, fighting for his life. The request was set aside, and reason given was "that their sympathy must not interfere with their duty. If they took the money, they were bound to use it in the way directed by the testator." The Toronto Saturday Night, commenting on the matter says: "I wonder if it occurred to these gentlemen who are so determined to perform their duties according to the letter, to ask themselves what the great Founder of Christianity would have done in the same cir-

cumstances. Would He have deemed it inadvisable to establish a precedent for the performance of an act of common humanity? Would He have possessed so great a respect for the letter of the deceased gentleman's will that He would permit his son to die of consumption rather than assume the responsibility of a technical breach of instructions? To the ordinary observer it looks as if the controllers of the Presbyterian church were afraid to part with a little money that they had got hold of. This may be doing a number of well-meaning gentlemen an injustice, but I sincerely believe this is the way the average man will regard the case. It is not the first time governing bodies of churches have displayed a degree of business acumen quite disproportionate to their christian charity and humanity. Indeed, if mere business ability would but assure success, there is scarcely a church on this continent that would not be 'booming.' But the great equalizing law of average renders it impossible for any man or any body of men to serve two gods successfully at the same time."

The Church and the Laboring Classes.

IT IS SOMEWHAT seldom one sees an independent position taken upon the vexed question of the church's attitude to the labor world. Extreme views there are in abundance, which are defended with a warmth which often descends to acrimony. Washington Gladden knows the labor world as few know it, and his knowledge of it has determined the following recent utterance: "The conditions of the wage-laborer who stands alone confronting the enormous aggregations of capital now controlling nearly all our industries, and who is compelled to make his own bargains with the employers for the wages on which he subsists, is not very different from that of the slave. There appears to be but one way of salvation open to him. He must combine with his fellow-laborers and collective bargaining must be substituted for individual bargaining. That is the only way in which he can be delivered from penury and bondage. Of course this remedy may involve some very unpleasant experiences. The laboring men thus uniting are likely to misuse their power. Most people who get power into their hands misuse it more or less. Corporations abuse their power in many nefarious ways. Labor unions are often guilty of grave abuses of power. They make extravagant demands and vexatious rules; they resort to violence. All this is reprehensible and must be resisted and punished. But no system is to be denounced or forbidden because of its abuses. It must be purged of its abuses; it must be held firmly to its purposes. It is the only method by which labor, under the present industrial system, can save itself from degradation and slavery. The laboring classes have a right to the hearty, cordial, outspoken sympathy and support of the christian church in their endeavors to do this. Their unreason and spite and violence need not be approved, but their central purpose ought to be confirmed and applauded. If the christian church does not approve of slavery, she ought to say so, in terms which cannot be misunderstood."

Dress Reform for Women.

THE SUBJECT of dress reform for women is always a live one. The frequent changes in feminine attire, and the tortuous shapes she is made to assume by despotic dressmakers, make life a burden difficult to bear. Here and there a lady grows cynical as she contemplates the monstrosities which a fickle custom makes her don. Maud Johnson, the Pathfinder, breaks out in a vein of sarcasm against the feminine hat. There are articles of clothing that need reforming as much as the dress does. Hats and shoes as they exist today certainly do not answer the purpose for which they were originally intended. They were no doubt invented for protection, but shoes today are instruments of torture, and hats—well, I suppose they are worn for ornaments, much as the Indian wears feathers in his hair or the Japanese wear pins and fans. Did you ever have a hat that protected you from the sun or cold? If you did I'll venture to guess that it was not in style. In summer Dame Fashion gives you a hat that flares straight up in front giving the sun a good chance at your eyes—which is all right if your eyes are strong and you do not mind the sun, but what is the use of wearing a hat if you don't need it? In the winter you will probably be given a pyramid of wire and lace that covers a space on the top of your head about two inches square. I have faith enough in Nature to believe that I need no protection from the heat or cold, and I think, dear women, we can find something better to do than to go through life as hatracks. There are hats now that have what I believe are inverted crowns. That is undoubtedly the proper name, for if you wore your hat upside down no one would ever know the difference.