

WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

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THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW AGE.

The war in Europe has revealed the inherent evils of our present social order. It has been well said that the thought of every new era is hampered by the oppositions of its predecessor. It is the custom of every age to express itself in laws which it regards as permanently binding on posterity. But to-day the thoughts of men run counter to the hoary traditions and precedents of bygone years. Humanity stands on the threshold of a new order, in which the extreme individualism of early Victorian times no longer prevails. The struggle for national existence has promoted unity of effort and community of sentiment. Never again can the nation turn back without loathing to the mad competition and struggle for individual existence that characterized pre-war industrialism. Economic reconstruction, when it comes must proceed upon less individualistic lines. The fight with Germany has shown the necessity of the national mobilization of both labor and capital, with the State as the predominant partner. What has proved so successful in times of war cannot be set aside as altogether impracticable in days of peace. The past has been a selfish age. The brutalizing doctrine of the survival of the fittest must give place to the new law—the law of service to the neighbor and to the community.—Toronto Globe.

THE COLLECTION.

By Ernest Crosby.

I passed the plate in church.
There was little silver but the crisp bank notes heaped themselves up high before me;
And ever as the plate grew the plate became warmer and warmer until it burned my fingers, and a smell of scorching flesh rose from it, and I perceived that some of the notes were beginning to smoulder and curl, half-browned at the edges.
And then I saw through the smoke into the very substance of the money, and I beheld what it really was;
I saw the stolen earnings of the poor, the wide margins of wages pared down to starvation;
I saw the underpaid factory girl eking out her living on the street, and the overworked child, and the suicide of the discharged miner;
I saw poisonous gases from great manufacturing spreading disease and death;
I saw despair and drudgery filling the dram-shop;
I saw rents screwed out of brother man for permission to live on God's land;
I saw men shut out from the bosom of the earth and begging for the poor privilege to work in vain, and becoming tramps and paupers and drunkards and lunatics, and crowding into almshouses, insane asylums and prisons;
I saw ignorance and vice and crime growing rank in stifling, filthy slums;
I saw usury, springing from usury, itself born of unjust monopoly and purchased laws and legalized violence;
I saw shoddy cloth and adulterated food and lying goods of all kinds, cheapening men and women, and vulgarizing the world;
I saw hideousness extending itself from coal mine and foundry over forest and river and field;
I saw money grabbed from fellow-grabbers and swindlers and underneath them the workman forever spinning it out of his vitals;
I saw all the laboring world, thin and pale and bent and careworn and driven pouring out this tribute from its toil and sweat into the laps of the richly-

dressed men and women in the pews, who only glanced at them to shrink from them with disgust;

I saw money worshipped as a god, and driven grudgingly from hoards so great that it could not be missed, as a bribe from superstition to a dishonest judge in the expectation of escaping hell;

I saw all this, and the plate burned my fingers so that I had to hold it first in one hand and then in the other; and I was glad when the parson in his white robes took the smoking pile from me on the chancel steps and, turning about, lifted it up and lay it on the altar.

It was an old-time altar indeed, for it bore a burnt offering of flesh and blood—a sweat savor unto the Moloch whom these people worship with their daily round of human sacrifices.

The shingles are in the temple as of yore, and the tables of the money-changers waiting to be overturned.—American Socialist.

Pope Leo XIII.

But all agree, and there can be no question whatever that some remedy must be found, and quickly found, for the misery and wretchedness which press so heavily at this moment on the large majority of the very poor.

By degrees it has come to pass that workingmen have been given over, isolated and defenceless, to the carelessness of employers and the greed of unrestricted competition. . . . And to this must be added the custom of working by contract, and the concentration of so many branches of trade in the hands of a few individuals, so that a small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the masses of the poor, a yoke little better than slavery itself.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.

Somehow They Don't Seem to Fit in These Two Cases.

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—Hugh D. Lyons, accountant of the Canadian Government Immigration Department, who was arrested in Stockton, Cal., and confessed to the theft of \$15,000, which he lost in grain speculating, was given suspended sentence to-day.

John Gordon, who stole a few sacks of flour out of a freight car, was sentenced to five years in penitentiary.—Toronto Globe.

TO STOP EXODUS TO UNITED STATES.

The Welland Branch of the Resources Committee have forwarded the following resolution to the National Service Commission:

"Whereas, it is discovered that the town has lost upwards of one hundred and fifty eligibles, who have fled to the United States; therefore, be it resolved, that we bring this matter to the attention of the National Service Commission, and urge, first, that effective measures be taken to stop this serious exodus by requiring each person leaving the country to be provided with a passport; second, that adequate penalties be provided."

SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

The materialistic doctrine that men are the products of conditions and education, different men therefore the products of other conditions and changed education, forgets that circumstances may be altered by men and that the educator has himself to be educated. It necessarily happens, therefore, that so-

ciety is divided into two parts, of which one is elevated above society (Robert Owen, for example).

The occurrence simultaneously of a change in conditions and human activity can only be comprehended and rationally understood as a revolutionary fact.—Feuerbach.

YOUTHS RELEASED FOR ENLISTMENT.

The Metal Drawing Company discharged 75 of their young men on Monday that they might enlist for overseas service; most of the young men do not take kindly to their discharge, but the company feels that they should be in khaki instead of making money from the manufacture of munitions. A number of young men were previously discharged from this factory for a like reason.—St. Catharines Standard.

MANITOBAHS!

Dixon and Rigg in the Legislature are the representatives of the common people, and their appearance in the House is a menace to the old party politicians, as they stand head and shoulders above the majority of the members and consequently stand out strong in progressive ideas. The use of the patriotic flag-wavers to try and belittle these men has no effect on the workers except to make them more determined to support these two representatives, who speak for the masses and not for the classes.

The Dixon Recall meeting held in the Scott Memorial Hall was a "howling" success. One paper stated that 2,000 attended, another 1,500, and still another stated 800, while as a matter of fact if 400 could be placed in the hall it would be the limit. So you see, good people, how much reliance you can place on newspaper stuff, especially in regard to Dixon. The meeting was certainly loaded to handle any opponent to their plans—"kick 'em downstairs stunts"—very striking illustration of fair play.

Dixon's Recall Bill is now before the House, and if the bill passes into law the father of the bill will be the first one to try it out—if the voters of Centre Winnipeg show that they want Mr. Dixon to resign. It is safe to say that if such comes to pass Dixon will be re-elected by the real democratic forces, and this will happen despite the efforts of the daily press to belittle this man, who is a democrat from the hair of his head to the soles of his feet. "The people first, last and all the time, special privilege to none," is his motto.

The Canadian war vote for the coming fiscal year is reported to be placed at \$500,000,000, or double the amount voted at the last session. This amount is staggering when you realize that Canada has a population of a little over 7,000,000. The present means of financing the interest will have to undergo a radical change to meet this debt.

The big milk company says there is no money in milk at 11 cents a quart, while another company states there is good business profit at 10 cents a quart. You can readily see the advantage of competition in the above. Let one corporation control the milk supply and they would no doubt try to prove that there was not enough money in milk at 15 cents a quart.

By the way, what is cream and what is not cream seems to be a point to argue. At the high cost of living investigation an inspector stated that butter was made from cream and cream made from butter—now what is cream? —Winnipeg Voice.

We will do better in the spring.

WOMEN'S COLUMN

The suffragists in Ontario are engaged in a most vigorous campaign for the purpose of securing the franchise. They have circulated throughout the province large numbers of petitions for signatures, many of which have been signed and eventually will be presented to the Government of Ontario.

In Kansas, out of 255 women candidates for county offices, 151 were elected. Fifty-eight women were elected as county superintendents of schools, thirty-five as registrars of deeds, twenty-five as clerks of district courts, five as county clerks, fifteen as county treasurers, and two probate judges.

Dr. Georgina Sweet, of Brisbane, Australia, has been appointed acting Professor of Biology at the Melbourne University, the first time a woman has been appointed professor in a Melbourne University, and probably the first in Australia.

On November 2nd the Socialist Deputy, Welte, put down a motion for the Grand Council of Basle (Switzerland), inviting the Council of State to consider the means of revising the cantonal constitution so as to introduce woman suffrage (the vote and eligibility).

The Grand Council of Berne has passed a law giving women the church vote. In revenge it has rejected by a large majority on the first reading the proposal of Socialist Deputy Munch to give women the commercial vote. But this question is to be voted on again in the spring.

The Social Democrats in Berlin have proposed the admission of women to municipal committees. The resolution proposed by Barkowski was: The meeting requests the magistrate to put forward a proposal as soon as possible whereby the election of women to committees in accordance with Section 59, may be statutorily admitted: "Dr. Weyl supported the resolution, and said: We must have women in the Council Chamber. If we can't have them in through the front door, they must come in at the side door, but inside they must come! Oberbürgermeister Wermuth agreed to consider the resolution in a committee. General opinion seems in favor of extending women's work in local government.

The question of electoral reform has been before the Dutch second chamber for some months, and the Dutch suffragists have been busy. At the opening of Parliament on September 19th they flocked in thousands to "The Hague" and were seen in groups at every street corner, distributing pamphlets. When the Queen arrived to deliver her opening address, the women with their white and yellow ribbons were at the door of the House, and since the Second Chamber had a public session, a guard of women was posted at the door up to the afternoon of November 6, when the debate on the enfranchisement of women ended. The existing constitution, adopted in 1887, gives the franchise to male inhabitants, possessing certain qualifications of property and fitness to be stipulated by the electoral law. The revision bill proposed by the Government, and now adopted by the Second Chamber, gives the franchise to all adult men, and makes it possible for a subsequent electoral law to enfranchise women if and in so far as it shall think fit, without, however, introducing the property qualification.

BRITAIN TO ADMIT WOMEN TO THE LAW?

London, Feb. 20.—A measure permitting women to practise as solicitors received its first reading in the House of Lords to-day. It was introduced by Baron Buckmaster, of Cheddington.