

be questioned whether there is amongst all the subjects that weigh heavily on the minds and pockets of the average man, one of more insistent urgency than this. There is no escaping from it. The millionaire, and the man in easy circumstances, may not feel the spur that hard necessity drives remorselessly into the side of the stunted toiler who bravely, doggedly fights the unequal battle every day of his troubled life, but the disquieting murmur of dissatisfaction will not down. Economists and capitalists are moved to think and write about it, to seek the cause and suggest a remedy. The poorer clergy to whom it comes home with pathetic force, cannot, if they would, keep it out of their sermons; and the press, the mirror of the people's mind, reflects its lengthening, deepening shadow. In considering the general proposition a New York Bank President asks a serious question in the "Wall Street Journal": "Have we not taken too large a percentage of our labour and energy away from the production and distribution of the necessaries of life, and encouraged them to become engaged in producing comforts and luxuries?" A most serious question is this. And one that cannot be met by the stock argument, "That the the production and use of comforts and luxuries give employment to many people." Yes, but as the wise bank president suggests would not that labour and energy be of greater benefit to the community at large were it employed in the production and distribution of the necessaries of life. Is not, we may ask, the indulgence of the craving for comfort and luxury—not only a means of increasing the cost of living to the average man, but as well a means of lowering the moral tone of society and of transmitting pure and undefiled religion into a hollow form and an empty profession?

Canada a Producer.

A sure foundation for the optimism of the average Canadian is the absolute certainty, so far as such a term may be applied to human affairs, that his home land will in the not far distant future be one of the chief world sources for food-stuffs. Here for man and beast lies a source of illimitable supply of the necessities of life. The experience of the past, the work of the present, and the almost fabulous promise of the future, amply warrant this optimistic spirit. Our soil, climate and the enterprise of our people, all combine to prepare the way from great things to greater. The vast absorption of capital entailed by the Boer and Russo-Japanese wars has necessarily hampered its application to the development of the products of peace. Gradually, however, the balance is being readjusted and unless we are much mistaken with the rapid extension of our railway system, and the consequent occupation of immense areas of arable land, the next decade will be a marvel of agricultural growth in our Western Territory. What of the Church? Will it keep pace with the State?

Church Papers.

We feel constantly the indifference and often worse than indifference of our clergy and people for the Canadian Church papers. It is the same in England. A writer in the "Guardian" points out the striking difference between the way in which Nonconformists work for their papers and Church-people's neglect of them. He says, that two at least of the Nonconformist journals have a circulation in England which exceeds the joint circulation of all our papers. It is the same in Canada. Individual effort of every man and woman who has the interest of the Church at heart is one marked sign of the reality of profession. The "Guardian" itself is an example of what Church people might do. It was started in 1846 while the defection of Newman still had shaken people's confidence. The prospectus announced that the promoters were Churchmen and would endeavour to maintain that character in the treatment of ecclesiastical subjects. But the paper it-

self was to be a weekly journal of politics, literature, music, and the fine arts, Ecclesiastical, Home, Foreign, and Colonial news. But very soon the ecclesiastical subjects became the staple of the "Guardian," and now it has boldly stepped out into English life and thought as a daily paper. Never was a daily ably written and informed Church paper more needed in England than it is to-day.

Naval Progress.

Humanly speaking there is much deep truth in Tennyson's oft quoted line:—"The Fleet of England is her all in all." And now when our Imperial Navy is so largely made the centre point on which is focussed the search light of public opinion, it is assuring to know that Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson, who will take office as First Sea Lord before this issue appears, is, in the words of the "Journal of the Navy League," "a strong man * * * who is held in great esteem by all who know him." The same journal in simple words repeats the story told by the late Sir Redvers Buller, of how Sir Arthur, in true British fashion, at the battle of El Teb in the Soudan in 1884 won the Victoria Cross. "There was a gap in the square, and five or six of the enemy rushed forward, trying to pierce the ranks. Captain Wilson advanced to meet them alone, and, breaking his sword in the effort to cut one of them down, would not retire a step but held his ground, knocking them down with his fists. Either by a miracle or by the surprising nature of his attack he escaped with a few wounds, and the square closing up rescued him." "It was one of the most courageous deeds," said Sir Redvers Buller, "that he had ever seen." The appointment of Sir Arthur Wilson as First Sea Lord, is, it is rumoured, largely owing to the wisdom and tact of His Majesty the King.

The Northern Base.

The extension of the naval defence of Britain's east coast has gone on imperceptibly but surely. It seems but yesterday that the line was extended to the Forth, then it was the mouth of the Caledonian Canal, and now the Orkney and Shetland Islands. Westray is one of the largest of the Orkney Islands, and like the others of them finds that the presence of the fleet brings life and business. It is strange how the remoter places show signs of old warfare. Above the bay of Pierowall on this island are the ruins of a fine old castle called Nottland which tradition says was built by Bothwell for a place of refuge for Mary Queen of Scots, though in reality it is much older.

Cable Rates.

Should the Post-Master General, the Hon. Mr. Lemieux, succeed in his public spirited aim of securing lower cable rates for all who have need of that means of communication to and from Canada, he will prove himself a public benefactor indeed. So important has this service become that the demand for its extension is becoming more and more insistent. Indeed the geographical obstacle of distance between, not only Canada and the Motherland, but Canada and her sister Dominions of the Empire, is growing less year by year. Greater facilities of transportation, increased steamship speed, and accommodation, rapidly growing business, political, social and religious intercourse, are strong grounds for the speedy lowering and popularizing of cable rates. We venture the prediction that the moment these rates are put within the reach of the general public, the cable business will increase by leaps and bounds, and that in this department of public utility we shall see the same marvellous growth that was evidenced in the lowering of the postal rates. We are confident that there is not a newspaper in Canada that will not hail the day when the cable rates are lowered through the instrumentality of the "Lemieux Act."

Secret of Strength.

In a recent number of the "Mission Field," on the authority of the S.P.G., a letter of Dr. Livingstone, till then unpublished, appeared. It was written by the intrepid missionary of Kuruman on the 23rd of July, 1843, to a teacher of his youth, a Mr. Fergus Ferguson, and discloses the source from which that remarkable man sought and found the strength by which he was enabled to do the mighty work he accomplished. The burden of the letter is as follows:—"I think nothing has struck my mind more forcibly in this country than the necessity of the Holy Spirit's influence in the work of conversion. At home I felt it, but here no sooner do we become intimately acquainted with the character of the people than the mind is overwhelmingly convinced that without Divine aid nothing can be done with them. This makes me entreat the earnest prayer of all my friends. I entreat yours. I feel that I might live all my life here and do nothing to advance the period when the Redeemer shall see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. I implore your prayers that I may be made wise to win souls."

THE HYMN BOOK FUND.

The very ready and widespread adoption of the "New Hymn Book" by our congregations in all parts of the Dominion, has come, we imagine, as a very happy surprise to those directly responsible for its existence. For ourselves we may say we never anticipated its immediate general acceptance. We expected to see it introduced into a goodly number of parishes, no doubt, and we had every confidence that it would eventually win its way into general use. But even at this early date its use promises within a few weeks, or months, at the latest, to become practically universal, indeed it has become so already. For this we are unfeignedly thankful. It proves the existence of a corporate spirit in the Church, and a corresponding decline of that spirit of sectionalism lately rampant amongst us that we had hardly dared to hope for at this date, and which is indicative of real solid progress during the past few years. So far we have only heard of one congregation demurring over the introduction of the Hymn Book. The number of books sold must now reach several hundreds of thousands at least, and there will, no doubt, be a steady demand for them for many years to come. The copyright was wisely vested in the General Synod, with the object of creating a fund to be used for some general purpose, and independently, as we take it, of any diocesan schemes. As yet the destination of the money has not been decided upon. For our own part we should like to see it largely, if not exclusively, used for the establishment of a General Clergy Pension Fund, on the lines of the Fund recently established in the American Church. The administration of this Fund is absolutely unconditional, and it is contingent upon only one thing,—disability. Invalidated clergymen are assisted by it irrespective of age, length of service, contribution, diocese, or any assistance derived from diocesan funds. The establishment of such a fund, to supplement our diocesan funds, to be administered by the General Synod on the principles obtaining in the American Church, would, we think, be opportune at the present time. There is no doubt that our present system of superannuation is grievously insufficient at the present time. It is very difficult to materially increase the various diocesan funds. People have been appealed to again and again on their behalf, and it has become an old story. But a fund started on this big scale and these broad and generous principles would, we think, appeal to the imagination of Churchmen, and would probably elicit a liberal and widespread response. With a fund of this kind in operation it would be possible to establish a system of voluntary retirement at, say, sixty-seven. There are many men at this age

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