

for the venture. The essentials of a national merchant marine are products for export, a demand for imports not readily found at home, a seafaring population, shipbuilding capacity, harbours and connecting railroads, and more than all the absence of the harassing legislation which ultimately makes a gift of the carrying trade to a freer and wiser nation. Canada is blessed with all these conditions.

Such then are in the main the material resources of the Canadian estate, but when once the barest necessities are provided, the true value of all national wealth depends on the kind of dividend that comes to the shareholding body.

The first duty of a nation is to establish conditions under which every

unit in the organism has freedom and opportunity to live a healthy and happy life. Civilization means something when all have a chance to enjoy it, and when no blame can attach to the community if they do not. One essential is free access for all to a fair education, and a toll-free way for talent to the higher level. As the general standard of living rises, the sense of what befits a self-respecting nation rises also. Discontent at unsightly streets and hideous slums takes the place of "good enough". As community wealth increases, the layout of the towns and villages, the beauty of small homes, the equipment of its factories and the architecture of its public buildings should be plain evidence of the general well-being of a nation.

LILACS

By ARTHUR S. BOURINOT

THERE is a window in a house I know
 Through which I watched the wind so softly blow
 The dew-wet lilacs that they swayed as though
 By spirit moved; to me, at break of day
 There stole a haunting breath, a roundelay
 Charming the lattice with the lure of May.

And one there was who loved the lilacs too.
 And so I picked them wet with morning dew
 And gave them for their beauty's thrilling hue.
 The lilacs now are dreams of long ago;
 Yet still is seen their dew-impassioned glow,
 Watched from a window in a house I know.