



The General Secretary's Return

By the time this issue of *The Era* reaches our subscribers, the General Secretary and Editor, who has been in British Columbia and San Francisco for ten weeks, will again be at the helm, inspiring and directing the activities of our Young People's Societies. From his interesting letters, that have come to the office from time to time, one of which appears in the Field Notes of this number, we gather that his long itinerary has been an eminently successful one. He returns to us renewed in physical strength, enthusiastic over



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our national heritage, with unbounded faith that the Canadian young people will be true to their unsurpassed opportunities, and with large and practical plans, whose realization will contribute much to the attainment of our highest national and Kingdom ideals. We cordially and sincerely welcome his return. We pledge him our hearty loyalty and co-operation, and, as young people, hope and pray that the conference year upon which we now enter will be the best yet in the realization of ideals and the achievement of results that make for the larger life.

Our Patriotic Number

We are thankful for the privilege of editing this special patriotic number. We have learned something of the trials and difficulties of an editor, but we have also caught a larger vision of the opportunity and power of the press to educate and mould life. For the reason that newspapers and magazines and our own Sunday School periodicals have already devoted much space to the Coronation we have chosen to confine our themes rather to Canadian aspirations and endeavor. Apart from Christmas, the first of July has a larger meaning for us than any other day. It is *our* day—Canadian day. It inspires us to survey the nation's past, to rightly understand the present, and to plan big things for the future. We ask ourselves, what is patriotism? What

are the essentials in nation building? What are the national ideals towards which we should strive? What are our obligations to other peoples? What are our opportunities and responsibilities as Canadian citizens? To these and other questions, the contributors to this issue seek to give answers that will be both suggestive and stimulative. To each and all who have so helped to make this number a success we offer our sincerest thanks.

Canada's Material Progress

One hundred and fifty years ago, when Great Britain conquered Canada, she did not know the extent and wealth of her conquest. It is only within the last generation, since the Canadian Pacific was built, that men have come to realize, though still very imperfectly, Canada's greatness. We have awakened to the fact that we are citizens of a country many times richer than Mexico, with an area greater than that of the United States, possessed of unlimited forests, fisheries and mineral wealth, rivalling those of any other country, and with latent possibilities of motor power for the development of national industries, whose extent no one can foresee.

United States Senator McCumber, when speaking on the reciprocity question, declared that the Canadian North-West would raise in time 460,000,000 bushels of wheat, four times the amount now raised by the United States. Last year immigrants came to us at the rate of one to twenty-five of the population, while that of the States in their best year was only one to eighty, yet after a century they boast a population of 92,000,000. What then should we hope for within the next hundred years? We have just begun to mine our wealth, but already the results are arresting world-wide attention. In the coming years a national glory, such as has never yet crowned another, awaits us, a national glory, not only of material, but also of intellectual, moral and spiritual development.

A Wrong Viewpoint

On entering a railway train not long ago I seated myself beside a stranger, pulled from my pocket an evening paper and began to read. Soon the stranger engaged me in conversation, and before long I learned that he was an Englishman who had been in this country a few years and in material things had been good.

It was natural that our conversation should drift into Canadian and Imperial questions. I was seeking to set forth a conception of Imperialism that strongly appeals to me which my friend equally strongly combated. Finally he said: "I find a goodly number of Canadians who entertain the idea that Canada belongs to them, when, as a matter of fact, it belongs to England and to the English King." Technically, the speaker was right, but in practice and in fact his viewpoint was wrong. The theory that the colonies exist for exploitation. It is such views as this that make for misunderstanding between the Motherland and her daughter nations. Happily the number who hold this conception are few. The great majority both in the Home-land and in Canada recognize that we are common citizens

in a common empire, bound together by common sentiments and ideals, each separate unit working out its ideals by ways and methods best adapted to the genius and conditions that differentiate it from all the other self-governing states. Dominion autonomy and imperial unity is the ideal relationship.

The Quebec Problem

The Province of Quebec is a great and embarrassing problem. The problem consists not so much in the fact that Quebec is French as in the other fact that Quebec is Roman Catholic, and Roman Catholic *en bloc*. We say, in the kindest way, what is true, that wherever Roman Catholicism has dominated the life of the people, its limitations and restraints and superstitions have brought national decay and death or revolution and revival. This is true of South American States, Mexico, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal. What shall we do about Quebec, decay and death or revolution and revival? It cannot mean the former, for surrounded as it is on the south and west and east by the spirit of freedom and democracy, the contrary Catholic spirit cannot so long dominate Quebec as to bring about this disastrous result. Catholicism can never dominate this land or continent. Freedom stands in its way. There is only one alternative for Quebec—bloodless revolution and revival. Already the portentous rumblings are heard in our sister Province. They are faint, it is true, but they are there, and they will increase in volume and in sound. Meantime, as young people, let us be intelligently sympathetic, firm, kindly aggressive, absolutely Christian in our attitude and life, students and seers in respect of the problem, and ready—when the time comes.

The Country Church

Our rural population is steadily decreasing. Men and women are leaving the farm to seek their fortunes in the great cities. In many cases the countryside is almost depopulated. There lies a great menace to our nation. Under no circumstances can we afford to lose past, have done so much in opening up the country and thus making cities possible. From the farm have come some of our nobles; statesmen, cleverest business men and most noted preachers. The problem of stemming the movement to the cities must be partly solved by the country church. It holds a unique place in the lives of the people. On Sunday it is the place where all the neighbors meet for worship and for mutual expression of good-will. In this fact lies the church's great opportunity. It must take the lead, not only in the religious but also in the social and intellectual life of the community, touching each life intelligently and earnestly, and giving to all opportunities for the development of all-round Christian Character.

Something About the City

One of the most pronounced phenomena of the past thirty years is the rapid growth and development of the city. A half century ago, the population of the larger towns and cities of this continent constituted but a small fraction of the entire population. It is estimated that to-day at least forty per cent. in the United States and Canada are dwellers in these centres, while in Europe the percentage is much larger. And here comes a problem to the church and the nation. One of the leading Methodist ministers of Montreal made the statement to the writer a few