

The Philosopher

Canada's Second Half-Century

With this month Canada enters upon the second half-century of its existence as a Dominion. Our country's primacy among the self-governing nations of the Empire overseas from Great Britain is acknowledged by all the world. It is for us Canadians to maintain that primacy and to prove ourselves worthy of the high service done for the cause of self-governing freedom and for humanity by the brave Canadians who, in the front line of the fighters against the forces of despotic might, have won such glory for our country. The inspiration for the coming years finds its vitality in the unselfish, heroic service and unstinted sacrifice of Canada's sons in this war. The test of national greatness in the years to come will continue to be devoted, unflinching service.

Women and the Nation

The men and the women of all Canada should give serious heed to two recommendations set forth in the report of the Ontario Commission on Unemployment, with regard to the training of girls, and the effect of paid employments on the standing of the "home employments." The first of these recommendations is that "practical education be more fully provided for girls, and that their training include the study of food values, cooking, health, physical training, instruction in the use of money, thrift, home economics, the care of children, some instruction in the making of clothes." The second recommendation is that "since changes resulting from the development of many paid occupations are tending to interfere seriously with the position held by home-making employments, recognition should be given by the educational authorities and the state to home-making and the care of children as women's occupations which require training, skill and a high degree of efficiency." These recommendations touch on matters of primary vital importance to the nation. The war has brought women into many new lines of activity, in which they are rendering service that is invaluable. But the great employments of women, in comparison with which all others are insignificant are home-making and the care of children. The well-being of the nation needs now as never before better cared-for children.

The Heaven of Young Germany

The following rhapsody is translated from the issue for October, 1914, of "Young Germany," a magazine published in Berlin, with a wide circulation throughout Germany at that time:

"War is augustly beautiful. Its noble sublimity elevates the human heart beyond the earthly and the common. In the cloud palace above sit the heroes Frederick the Great and Blucher and all the men of action—the great Emperor, Moltke, Roon and Bismarck—who have known the joy of war.

"When here on earth a battle is won by German arms, and the faithful dead ascend to Heaven, a Potsdam lance-corporal will call the guard to the gate, and Old Fritz, springing from his golden throne, will give the command to present arms. That is the Heaven of Young Germany."

And, no doubt, when the droppers of bombs on schools and hospitals, and the torpedoers of the Lusitania and the many other ships on which innocent, helpless passengers, including many women and children, were murdered, arrive at the gate of that very peculiar "Heaven," Old Fritz jumps from his golden throne and goose-steps to the gate and swings it open himself, to welcome them in. But isn't that the place which Dante described as the Inferno? And how the great Italian poet, in his vision of the after-world, would have pictured the poison gas, the liquid fire and all the other scientific features of the Inferno of Kultur!

Scripture for His Purpose

"The Devil," we read in Shakespeare, "can cite Scripture for his purpose. That line is brought to mind when we read such a passage as this from a German book entitled "War Devotions," by Rev. Dr. Preuss, of Berlin: "God has chosen the German people, and that can never be altered, for is it not written in Romans, xi, 29, 'For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance'! Verily the Bible is our book. It was given by God and assigned by Him to us, and we read it in the original text of our destiny, which proclaims to mankind salvation or disaster, according as we will it." From another German book, "War Sermons," by Pastor Heinrich Francke, of Hamburg, consider this: "Who can venture to deny that Germany is the representative of the highest morality, of the purest humanity, of the truest Christianity? He, therefore, who fights for Germany fights for the highest blessing to mankind and for human progress. The defeat of Germany and the decline of German ideals would mean a falling

back to the worst barbarism. Our greatness rests upon our righteousness; as it is said in Proverbs, xix, 34, 'Righteousness exalteth a nation'." Another German theologian and preacher, Pastor Vogel, of Koenigsberg, after denouncing the "Pharisaism of the English," explains that "we Germans are called to be the chosen people of God, and this calling proceeds not alone from our deserving but also from the sheer grace of God, and so we can maintain it without any Pharisaism whatever, for our greatness is, in the words of Romans, xiii, 1, 'ordained of God.'"

Typically British Work

There died during the past month the only white man bearing the title of Rajah, namely Sir Charles Brooke. He was in his eighty-eighth year. He succeeded to the rank and title of Rajah of Sarawak, a British protectorate on the coast of Borneo, on the death of his uncle, Sir James Brooke, who went to Sarawak in 1840 and by his powers of courage, leadership, patient constructiveness and devotion to the true welfare and progress of the people there he became their ruler. He conducted campaigns against the "head hunters" and checked their attacks upon the more peaceful tribes, whose gratitude and affection he won. Half a century later his nephew, Sir Charles Brooke, resigned a commission in the British Army and went to Borneo to aid his uncle. Their work of building up order and safety in Sarawak was no easy task. Chinese pirates on sea and ferocious savages on land gave them plenty to do. They formed an army and a navy. At one time the chief city of Sarawak was invaded, and had to be recaptured by hard fighting. Sarawak, which is of the size of England and Wales combined, is now peaceful and prosperous. No tyranny has checked the native development. The achievement of the two Englishmen who have borne the title of Rajah Brooke is of the kind for which the name of Britain will ever be honored in every land where the progress of civilization is counted a blessing.

Characteristically German

In the cable news at the time of the enforced abdication of the slippery, treacherous Constantine, brother-in-law of the Kaiser, from the throne of Greece, there was one paragraph which really ought to be carved on the monument which civilization ought some day to build on the grave of Kultur—a monument of warning to future generations. That notable paragraph in the cable news stated that a leading Berlin journal, the Vossische Zeitung, said: "Every person who has a heart and a conscience, who has any moral sense, who has any perception between right and wrong, must view with virtuous indignation and righteous resentment this high-handed, outrageous oppression of a small, but valiant nation." This did not refer to Belgium, or to Serbia, or Roumania, or to any territory which has suffered Hun outrages and devastation. It referred to Greece. It deserves a place in that book in which William Archer, the English scholar has collected many hundreds of "Gems of German Thought," including spoken utterances of German public men, professors and preachers, as well as passages from German books and German Journals.

Foodstuffs Turned into Drink

The official figures showing the amount of grain used in Canada in the manufacture of whisky alone (leaving out of account the manufacture of other alcoholic beverages and of alcohol for other than beverage purposes) for the Dominion fiscal year that ended on March 31st last furnished food for thought. During those twelve months the three distilleries in Canada engaged in making whisky (all the others being engaged in manufacturing spirits used for munition purposes and for other uses having nothing to do with the making of beverages) consumed 88,000,000 pounds of foodstuffs. And, moreover—and this is to be specially noted—the total production of whisky in Canada was greater than that of the preceding twelve months; there were 4,000,000 more pounds of foodstuffs used in making whisky in Canada in the year that ended March 31st last than in the year that ended March 31st, 1916. So much for whisky made in Canada. For the manufacture of all alcoholic liquors about 250,000,000 pounds of grain were used in Canada during the last fiscal year. This is one of the matters which the conditions created by the war have forced upon the attention of every thinking person. So rapidly has public opinion been shaping itself in regard to this that it is not at all unlikely that by the time these words are in print action will have been taken in accordance with that public opinion, which is constantly increasing in volume and strength.

High Heels, Health and the War

A remarkable chain of arguments is set forth by Representative Kirby, a member of the Legislature of the State of Illinois, in support of the bill he has introduced in that body for the prohibition of heels of more than one inch and three-eighths in height on women's shoes. He points to the fact that many men are rejected as unsuitable for the United States Army on account of flat feet. Their mothers, he argues, wore high-heeled footwear; their grandmothers, he argues further, wore high-heeled footwear. Continuing in the high tide of his argument, he proclaims that generation after generation of women wearing high-heeled footwear have caused hereditary flatness of the feet in many families. Therefore, he concludes, with a triumphant air, high heels should be prohibited by law. "Down with high heels," appears to be the gentleman's slogan. But it does not appear that his way of arguing is making much of an impression on the minds of his fellow-legislators. Far be it from The Philosopher to stand forth as the champion of high heels and an advocate of their prohibition by law. That is hardly the way to deal with such a matter. If high heels are injurious to health as their condemners assert, and it may very well be that they are, the public health authorities should see to it that information in that regard is disseminated. Meanwhile let us make note of an ingenious argument in reply to Mr. Kirby put forward (it is to be feared not in entire seriousness) by another member of the Illinois Legislature. For ages and ages, argued this latter gentleman, horses' hoofs have been trimmed, and nails have been driven into them, but has anybody ever heard of a colt being born with his hoofs trimmed, and the nail holes ready for the blacksmith?



Formation of the Dominion of Canada, 1st July, 1867
Statesmen who Inaugurated the Union of the British Provinces in North America

W. A. Henry	E. Palmer	J. A. Shea	J. C. Chapais	Sir John A. Macdonald	T. H. Haviland	P. Mitchell	R. B. Dickie	W. H. Pope	A. A. McDonald
W. H. Steeves	C. Fisher	T. Coles	F. B. T. Carter	Hon. A. G. Archibald	Sir Geo. E. Cartier	Hon. A. T. Galt	J. H. Gray	Hon. Wm. McDougall	J. McCully
			E. B. Chandler		Sir E. P. Tache	J. Cockburn			
E. Whelan	J. H. Gray	Sir S. L. Tilley	A. Campbell	Hon. Hector Langevin	Hon. George Brown	Hon. O. Mowatt	T. D'Arcy McGee		
					Sir Chas. Tupper				