

Editorial

RECONSTRUCTION

THE centre of interest these days is the peace table at Versailles. Coming events have already cast their shadows before, and the general terms of peace will not be a complete surprise. In America, in Europe, and throughout the whole world, mankind is preparing for the changes that are inevitable.

World Changes

First among the world changes will be the formation in some form of a League of Nations—not a league of the old sort, according to which a few of the powers bound themselves together to counterbalance the union of a few other powers, but an understanding and an undertaking on the part of all to live together in harmony, the first unit to break the contract to be ostracised and punished. It may be difficult to realize this ideal. In our land, as in others, there are men who can never rise to a higher conception than nationalism, and these are apt to scoff at the thought of a world league; they may even render it impossible. It will be tragic if such men prevent the war from reaching its full fruition—the end of war.

When the League of Nations is formed, and the peace articles prepared, the great world changes will include a redistribution of territory. Germany will lose her colonies if for no other reason than that people everywhere will be given the right to self-determination. Britain will have new possessions, because they will be thrust upon her by the self choice of free peoples, but she will have no additions by conquest. The same will be said of the United States. In Europe and Asia there will of necessity be a breaking down of old combinations, because the present boundary lines are violations of natural rights, and because criminals must be punished for their offences.

And when the complete terms are set forth, each nation will find full freedom to assert its individuality and develop its ideals. Just as a child is freer and happier from the fact that he is a member of the family group, so each nation in the world-league will derive courage and comfort from the fact that it belongs to the great family of nations. The individuality of Britain will, in a military sense, be expressed in "the fleet," which will be used as formerly to guarantee the freedom of the seas to all people. The individuality of America will consist in its commercial activity, for it will be, as before the war, the granary of the world. So will it be in all cases. Every nation will be strong, not according to its ambitions and its intrigues, but according as it ministers to world-peace and world-progress. It is for each to make itself what it will. This surely will be the greatest triumph of the war—to exalt true worth, and to depose pretence, laziness and illicit enterprise.

Changes in Europe

Europe will in a very special manner feel the effects of the impending changes. Not only will old boundary lines disappear, and people group themselves in new relations, but the whole manner of life will alter. With the abolition of conscription and the overthrow of democracy will there come the rise of free peoples. Poland, after centuries of burning, will, phoenix-like, spring from her ashes. The Balkan States, under their new natural groupings, will take on hope and vigor, and we may expect that they will make a magnificent contribution to civilization. The sick man of Europe will find time to recover his health in a little corner of Asia. Germany, broken again into the states from which it was formed, will in time become a self-governing republic, and it may be that its people will discard the false ideals and relinquish the false hopes they have, under will come out of the struggle purified and bettered. wrong leadership, been led to entertain. Old Europe

Belgium, France, Italy, and good old Britain—they will find their higher life in the losing of the old. Their glory never shone as it does to-day, and no one can picture the glory that awaits them if unitedly they pursue their unselfish ideals. The golden age of the world is at hand.

Changes in Canada

The nature of the changes that are about to take place throughout the world will be apparent from an examination of the tendencies that are observable in Canada.

Politically there is a state of unstable equilibrium. Speaking after the manner of a book dealing with mechanics, the balance has been replaced by a whirling. We have no longer the spectacle of two great parties, each at the end of the see-saw striving to hold its end down, but that of a great number of imperfectly-defined groups each clamoring for possession of a few seats on the merry-go-round. Perhaps the change is not so great as it seems, since the hand-organ man in the centre is still the same. They all sing to his tune. His name is "Big Interests." He cares not who uses the swing so long, as he is

ine and unselfish display of good deeds. It refuses to interest itself in the quibbling of theologians, and finds more comfort in the thought that men have a common origin, destiny, and relationship to the Divine, than that they are intended to pass their days in isolation or in little mutual admiration societies, priding themselves on their orthodoxy and glorying in the shortcomings of others. Religion of to-morrow will put deed before creed, and practical service before smug self-complacency. This is no argument for organic church union, since that may be either good or bad, but it is a plea for tolerance, brotherly-kindness, and unity of spirit. Churches which do not manifest these graces, need not and should not expect much sympathy in the years to come.

There is no form of reconstruction much more necessary than that of commerce and industry. Here, as in politics and religion, democracy must find itself. The essence of democracy is co-operation. The only way to reconcile labor and capital is to give every man who labors a share in the business with which he is connected. He can take his share in increased wage or in the form of a dividend, but he must feel that he gets full reward for the effort he has put forth. On the other hand, he must be prepared to share in losses, and to suffer when the business fails. Now, the impossibility of getting men to work together on this basis makes it necessary for another Christian principle to assert itself. Capital and labor may continue to exist as at present, but in the minds of both, there must be unqualified surrender to the great Christian principle, "Each man shall love his neighbor as himself." In the limit it is individual character that counts. This is another way of saying that in the end religion and education are the great needs of society. The demand of sound democracy is not for less of these, but more. But the religion needed must be pure and undefiled, and the education required must be shot through and through with holy motive.

One of the greatest problems for Canada is to find places for the returning men. The difficulty will be understood from an examination of one important class—the great student body, who dropped their books four years ago, and who now return eager to take up the tasks of civilians. Shall they resume their studies or shall they enter the callings they select with a very incomplete preparation? It is impossible for many young men to resume their studies. They have not the heart for it, and they would not feel at home with class-mates four years younger. Nor can they enter business handicapped by lack of education. There is only one solution—the organization of special schools for re-education. Such schools have already been instituted in parts of Canada, but they have in mind the training of men who have been wounded or incapacitated in some way. There should be, as part of the war-scheme, schools for the whole student body now serving with the colors. And what is true of this body is true of all. It is Canada's duty to see to it that no man suffers in the slightest from the fact that he gave four years to the service of his country.

The New Order

France and Belgium now are bleak and lonesome, but in a few years new cities will spring up and new industries be in full operation. The France of to-morrow will be infinitely more beautiful than the France of yesterday. So will it be in the realm of the spirit. Lower and material renewals are but symbols of the higher. The world can never return to the old mode of living. New aspirations, new practices, new sympathies and responsibilities—these will be the portion of mankind. And they who would reach the highest in achievement will be guided by the teachings of Him who went about doing good. There is no way to happiness and prosperity for the individual or for the race but the way of unselfishness and brotherly love.

THE CLOSE OF 1918
FRESHENS MEMORIES OF
THE PLEASANT ASSOCIATIONS
THAT HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED
BETWEEN THE PUBLISHERS
OF THIS MAGAZINE AND ITS
SUBSCRIBERS.

THAT HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND
SUCCESS MAY BE THE LOT OF
EVERY READER, CONTRIBUTOR
AND ADVERTISING PATRON, DURING
1919, IS THE EARNEST WISH
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permitted to call the dance. Yet there are signs that his dethronement is at hand, and every loyal and true Canadian will work and pray for that day. And when the day comes we shall begin to hope that whether we have party government, or union government, or government by classes, there will be a government by the people for the people. And government by the people is bound to come. Let us so conduct ourselves that it will take the form of intelligent direction by trusted representatives, rather than the mad indirection of unenlightened Bolsheviks. Towards that end our men of ability must give up as their one ideal the lust for gold and power, and must find their highest joy and aspiration in the elevation of the public life. No man is to-day a worthy member of society who confines his interest to the pursuit of his own affairs and the welfare of his own family. Political well-being is possible only among a people in whom is developed a sense of brotherhood.

Religious reconstruction must be based in this same thought of mutual regard. Men cannot love God and their fellow-men if hatred fills their hearts, and God cannot endure that love, for man-made institutions shall take the place of love for Himself and the creatures He has made in His own image. The world is weary of denominational bickerings. It is yearning for warmth of feeling and for a genu-

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