

materials out of the country, establish themselves in American industrial centres, and more and more, from year to year, the national burden will become heavier and the issue of the great political experiment in which we are engaged become more difficult and uncertain. Every sound economic and national reason, therefore, demands that the raw materials of Canada should be manufactured in Canada and the Canadian people protected in the possession and control of their natural inheritance.

WORK OR DIE

The war has left us with a legacy of phrases which are embarrassing to practical statesmen. It is not so easy to make the world "safe for democracy" or to apply the Sermon on the Mount in social, industrial and political practice. There has been no regeneration of human nature nor any general infusion of divinity in human institutions. Still he that laboureth, laboureth for himself, still a slothful man hath his hand in his bosom and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again and still the sluggard who will not plow by reason of the cold will beg in harvest and have nothing. In a new verse, Kipling says:—

"In the Carboniferous Epoch we were promised abundance for all, By robbing selected Peter to pay for collective Paul;

And, though we had plenty of money, there was nothing our money would buy.

And the Gods of the Copybook Maxims said:—"If you don't work you die."

We are not going to have a new world on new foundations. We have been laying the foundations of this civilization for a thousand years and one is not persuaded that this generation is wiser than all the generations that have gone before. There is great confusion of voices but one doubts if in the multiplicity of counsellors there is wisdom.

HONEST BUSINESS

Bernard Shaw declares that just now all the other planets are using this for a lunatic asylum. There are, perhaps, those who may think that this explains his presence among us. But even the Board of Commerce admits that "business is, in the main, sound and honest" and that "despite high prices undoubtedly prevailing profiteering so called, that is the taking of unjust profits, is not, in the Board's opinion, as common as may have been charged or claimed." But how seldom are these sentences quoted and how seldom are the real causes of high prices explained. Wages in many industries have been nearly doubled and wages represent 70 per cent. of the cost of production. The prices of all food products have increased tremendously not through "profiteering" among farmers but through a world scarcity which was the inevitable result of the great war, the withdrawal of millions of men from productive pursuits, disorganization of transportation, social and political revolution and the reaction from the long agony in Europe.

In Great Britain, according to a Government Commission which has investigated the cost of living and the increasing wages among workers, the average advance in retail prices was 125 per cent. and in wages from 120 to 130 per cent. In France the average advance in cost of living was from 84 to 100 per cent. and in wages 90 per cent. In the United States food prices have increased 88 per cent. and wages for men 90 per cent. and for women 70 per cent. In Italy there has been an average increase in the cost of living of 240 per cent. and in wages of 183 per cent. In Germany food prices have increased by 300 per cent. and wages from 200 to 250 per cent. In Canada according to the Department of Labor cost of living has increased between 60 and 80 per cent. but no official statement of the