

The Programme for 1911.

During the first two weeks of January, in numberless places of business throughout this country, managers and clerks will be engaged in the interesting business of taking stock. A week or so later, those in charge will be consulting the figures and laying their plans for next year's work, so that there may be greater returns for less expenditure of money and effort. Similarly, it will be quite in order for the people of any community to review the work of the year, and to plan for intelligent action in the year that is to come.

CONSERVING OUR RESOURCES.

One of the first lessons we have learned during the year is that if our country is to become permanently wealthy, and the people permanently happy, we must conserve our great national resources. The protest that has been made in many quarters against the dissipation of wealth has been heeded, and on every side there is a demand that the natural resources of the land be used not for the enrichment of the few, but for the good of all the people.

There is a demand, in the first place, that our forests be preserved to us. It is evident that unless the railroad companies are held responsible for the disastrous fires that have entailed millions of dollars loss to our people, matters will not grow better but worse. No corporation should enjoy any rights that are not equally shared by the humblest individual. If a private citizen, through carelessness or by design, were to set fire to the prairie or forest, he would be summarily dealt with. There is no reason whatever why legislation should not demand that great railway companies should exercise the same care and be subject to the same penalties as individuals.

Then our mines must be conserved for the people. The day of giving over great coal areas to the owners of capital has passed by. The member of parliament or legislature who will agree to any arrangement of this kind must be considered as a traitor to his country. No man has a right to a seat in the parliament of the nation whose first interest is not that of the people whom he represents. Most fortunately, in the legislatures of the nation and the provinces there is arising friction within the parties themselves, and in this there is some hope. What the people cannot get by right, they are going to get because of the jealous rivalry of opposing factions.

The fisheries of this country must become to us a great asset. The Fisheries Commission has done good work. We have yet the wealth of the great northern lakes, although the lakes near the centre of civilization are depleted. It is too bad that we must seek for a remedy after the damage is done, yet, if great care is exercised, perhaps we shall retrieve our position.

MANUFACTURES.

It is not enough that our resources be conserved. Our progress will depend upon our capacity for utilizing these resources. Manufacture must be encouraged; power must be developed. It seems that the best way to encourage manufacture is not by bolstering it up artificially, but by confining attention to those branches which may be operated more cheaply than in any other country. There is nothing to be gained by an unnatural policy: there is everything to be gained by focalizing our efforts on the things that we can do.

INTELLIGENCE.

But even though our natural resources are conserved to us, and though manufactures are established it will not follow that we shall become a great people. A wise writer has said that "no nation

ever attained to permanent greatness in art, science, literature, or politics, which derived its wealth too easily from the soil." There is just a possibility that, with us, wealth is too easily obtained, and that our people may degenerate for this very reason. In the long run the permanent welfare of a nation depends upon the character of its people. The first characteristic that they should possess is intelligence. An ignorant and superstitious people cannot attain to distinction, but where people know clearly what has been done in other parts of the world, and where they are free to benefit by racial experience, they are bound to make progress. It follows that schools of general culture and technical schools of every kind must be established if the nation is to live up to its opportunities. In the leading technical schools of Great Britain, the United States, and Germany, there are to be found men from China, Japan and Corea studying diligently day by day

THE NEW YEAR

By Mrs. William G. Matheson

He stands at the door—his face is veiled
From our wistful eyes—with the yearning gaze,
And he bears in his hands—the mooring lines—
That sends on their voyage—the coming days.

Would you peer neath that veil—so dark—to know
What the New Year brings for you heart to bear?
Would you scan his chart for the hidden shoals?
Ah no! we just pray—that the way may be fair.

For we trust the Pilot—who holds the wheel,
He can still the waves—on the troubled main,
He will bring his own—to the "harbor buoys"—
Till the ripples of Time—turn back again.

While He steers the course of the rolling years—
We are safe—no matter what wind prevails,
And we'll have no fears at the morning's dawn
When the New Year looses—the thrashing sails.

in order to carry back to their native lands the best that is known, so that these countries may lead in the competition of the world. It is only a few years and we shall find the east the greatest rival that we have. It has such a population and such a wealth of resource, that unless our people lead in intelligence we shall find that we must cease to be the dominating power in the world, and this will apply not to trade and commerce alone. In every field of endeavor we shall be outstripped. It is of the utmost importance then, that our activities from the lowest to the highest should be grounded in intelligence. This means to us very much more than the establishment of the poorest kind of elementary schools in the country. It means well-equipped high schools, and the very best of technical schools in connection with the Universities. Any cheap John policy may be pleasing to those who do not look beyond their own immediate interests, but it is nationally ruinous. It will not make for permanent stability.

BEAUTY.

If we are to become permanently great we must become refined. The character of all our productions must be dominated by this thought of refinement. The soul of a man comes out as he beautifies what he has created. In a country so rich in material wealth, we are apt to overlook this element of beauty. We cease to feel and to enjoy because we make no room for the appreciation of the lovely and the artistic. It must be a point with us to surround our children with all that is beautiful in speech, in thought, and in deed. There must be beauty of environment in the homes, and on the streets, and in all places of business, otherwise we shall continue to be, in our own eyes and in the eyes of the world, a low-grade people. It is particularly necessary for us to keep this point in mind. Though savage races first sought decoration and then dress, it is the very opposite with people like ourselves. We first endeavor to obtain the means of subsistence and then to guarantee ourselves against future mishap by amassing fortunes. Consequently we become worldly and gross. This will never lead to permanent excellence, for excellence depends primarily upon what we are, and not upon what we have.

MORALITY.

Even though the conditions mentioned have been fulfilled, a truly ambitious nation must go a step further. It must be imbued with morality. In the long run, it is the conduct of people that establishes their place in the world. Therefore, in all our institutional life, we must emphasize right doing, right living. This does not mean that our homes and our schools shall devise systems of moral instruction, but that they must insist upon consistent moral practices. Nor is morality a term that is limited in its application to the individual. It has reference to institutions, to corporations, to governments. One of the greatest needs today is that in our political life, and even in our religious life, the people should become thoroughly honest and upright. Behind the exploitation of natural resources, and behind the greed of manufacturers, there is the wrong mental attitude which permits these things. The cure for any ill is not in superficial coercive legislation, but in the regulation of the passions and the appetites of men. It is therefore necessary in our schools and churches and homes, that first importance be attached to moral culture.

CO-OPERATION.

But even if our resources are conserved to us, and if they are developed through manufacture, and even though personal righteousness is secured, our people have yet another step to take. They must become co-operative in the highest sense. They must recognize that no man can live to himself. He must live for others, and he must be free to benefit from the labors of others. There is a socialism which is not the result of coercion by law, but the outcome of voluntary self-sacrifice. This is the kind of socialism that we would see in every place in our land. It is that socialism which is included in the phrase, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," and this seems to be the only socialism that is worth while preaching or practicing. If, then, during the year 1911, our country is to make progress, it must be along these lines. We must take all the treasures that kind Nature has given us; we must preserve them for our own people; we must utilize them to our best ability; and in using them we must be guided by intelligence, and dominated by ideals of beauty and morality. And in all things we must learn to make progress together without class distinction, class hatred, or division of any kind.

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