

SOCIAL REFORM MOVEMENT.

"Social Reform!" Two far-reaching words! "Social—society generally, not the "four hundred" alone, nor any privileged or unprivileged class but all, from the top to the bottom of that medley which we call "the people"; "reform"—change for the better! Meaning this, the social reform movement has been going on since the world began and it will go on as long as the world endures. That it has made progress is unquestioned; that social conditions are better than in the days of Noah, when it became necessary to destroy the world because of its wickedness, no one will dispute. Much has happened since Noah's day; many reforms have been effected, many abuses abolished; many reversions alas, have also, been experienced and new abuses have taken the place of many discarded ones, but through the efforts of good men and women in all ages, the work of reform goes on, the light of Christian belief and Christian service continues to filter slowly into the dark places and the bounds of the Kingdom of Light are steadily being extended.

The Social Reform Congress in session here within the past few days was perhaps the most helpful and progressive of the many previously held here. Its scope was broader; its recognition of the fact that the necessity for reform is not confined to any one phase of life was more pronounced. All human activities, industrial, social, political, as well as religious—are recognised in the present day campaign for reform. A living wage, good roads, good schools, supervised play-grounds, clean literature, wholesome entertainment, all these and kindred matters must be included in any reform to be effective. "Pure religion undefiled," which is the ultimate aim of social reform, cannot exist where the workman and his family are starved, where the school life is decadent, where entertainment is vulgar, where the literary taste of the community is diseased.

In the past the movement for reform has largely been directed against certain specific vices; men and women became faddists in combating certain evils, undertaking to make the world wholesome by ridding it of some one disease. The results have not always been satisfactory. Wholesomeness means freedom from all diseases by healthful all round living and it is encouraging to note that the aim of reform today is broad, embracing the whole environment in the midst of which men and women must work out their own salvation.

Reform is necessarily slow, slow as the mills of the gods. We can hasten it only by never-ending endeavor, by ceaseless struggle against every form of evil. We cannot reform the world by healing the sores in "Borioboolaga;" we must "begin at Jerusalem," begin at home, begin each with himself or herself and, by willing, helpful service, carry the good work through our own community and thence to the world.

There is much to be done, much for the individual, much for the home, the school, the church and the meaning of reform is service. Nothing can be effected by annual congresses alone; these are helpful, stimulating, inspiring but reform to be effective must be continuous, untiring, unceasing; must be directed against every evil, aimed at every form of good and of service to others. The benefits of the recent congress, in itself inspiring, educative and wholesome, will have been lost if the work outlined and the suggestions made, are not continuously lived up to by the home, the school and the church, the trinity upon which individual and national righteousness must be founded.

POLITICAL INCONSISTENCY.

The position occupied by the Patriot as government organ is no less difficult than that of Mr. Bell as Premier. Strange that with all their varied experiences neither of them has yet learned how not to "put his foot in it." In its yesterday's issue the Patriot accuses the Guardian of "dragging into the political arena part of the work of the Social Service Congress" because it commented upon the speech made by Mr. Bell at a meeting of that congress.

Mr. Bell was present at the meeting either as a Social Reformer or as a politician. He took part in the discussion of a resolution in which the government was asked to make the increases to teachers' salaries effective from January 1st instead of six months later as proposed by the government and in his remarks he made a politician's excuses for the government's action. If it was wrong to "drag into the political arena part of the work of the social congress" why did Mr. Bell drag the political arena into the social congress? And why, does the Patriot take exception to the Guardian for doing what Mr. Bell did?

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

The settlement of the Miners' strike in the United States relieves a situation which looked exceedingly grave and was full of unsavory possibilities. It was a victory for law and order; it was also an acquiescence on the part of the Miners' Union that law and order are above the rights of individuals and even the right of unions. There are bounds beyond which unionism must not go as there are bounds beyond which even governments must not go. The miners' strike threatened national disaster; the nation interposed and the miners had the good sense to yield without coming into conflict with the nation.

The union would have been illadvised had it defied the government. The government is the custodian of the people's rights and, in this case would have had the people behind it. Within the past few years by sane and reasonable measures, labour has won many rights long denied to it. The people have been sympathetic with all its reason-

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OTHERS POINT OF VIEW

CANADIAN CHAPLAINS.

Military Gazette.
There were with the Overseas Military Forces of Canada during the war 426 chaplains, two of whom were killed in action, one died of wounds, one died while serving on an hospital ship, two died of sickness, and twenty-one were wounded.

PRESSURE FROM WITHOUT

Toronto Star.
Any force from within that would make for conflict between Agriculture and Labor is probably a great deal less than the pressure from without which drives them altogether for mutual advantage. They may not in every particular be satisfied

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BUSINESS EXPERT'S CONVICTION

Powerful men recognize the need of power. It is interesting to read of the conviction recently expressed by one of the best known business experts and analysts in America. "Babson's Reports" are well known to leading business men throughout the country. His printed letter service is counted of high value by men who make their business to keep well informed in many different lines of industry and finance. A "Special Letter" sent out by Mr. Babson last month has just one theme; and that is that "The need of the hour is not more legislation. The need of the hour is more religion. More religion is needed everywhere, from the halls of Congress in Washington to the factories, mines, fields and forests. It is one thing to talk about plans and policies, but a plan and policy without a religious motive is like a watch without a spring, or a body without the breath of life. The trouble today is that we are trying to hatch chickens from sterile eggs. . . unless they have the germ of life in them, all our efforts are of no avail." Later in this letter Mr. Babson says: "The saving of the Labor situation is wholly a question of religion. The wage worker will never be satisfied with higher wages and shorter hours, for more than you and I are satisfied with more profits and a bigger house. Things never did satisfy any one and never will. Satisfaction and contentment are matters of religion." To one who knows that there is no spiritual life in the universe apart from Jesus Christ as Saviour, how Mr. Babson's words ring. There is only one religion; and that religion is Christ as Saviour and Life. That is why the supreme challenge of this chaotic world crisis, to the Christian, is to pray for a world-wide revival.

able demands. Hours of labour have been shortened; the right of collective bargaining has been admitted; the right to strike has been conceded and employers have been compelled to recognize the rights of their employees. But wherever labour has made unreasonable demands it has alienated the sympathy of the people and it has been compelled to yield.

The people, easily stampeded and often unreasonable though they are, are sound at heart after all and will not tolerate injustice either by governments or by organizations. Democracy is a bigger thing and a more definite power than we usually think. Slumbering while things are working smoothly it asserts itself when occasion requires it. It has had a tremendous awakening within the past five years and when it awoke it shook the world. It was injustice that awakened it; it can be awakened at any time by injustice whether in nations or individuals, whether by foreign or home governments. Democracy knows no nation except mankind, no law except right. Human governments and organizations of whatever kind they be will be well advised if they remember that in all their doings they have to do with democracy.

with each other, but this is a minor circumstance compared with the extent to which they are dissatisfied with both the old political parties.

CONSULTED THE PRIVATES

London Chronicle.
It is generally understood that a general does not consult his privates before a campaign, but at any rate one such consultation marked the preparation of General Allenby's Palestine offensive. The question of what the troops were to carry in their "fighting order" had to be decided, and Major-General Shea inspected one battalion of his London division in the proposed array.

After the inspection he had a smaller parade of one man per platoon, and called for suggestions as to the improvement or lightening of the equipment. And, writes a correspondent who was there, he listened courteously to anything that was said ere dismissing us with a quite unmilitary "Thank you very much."

FIRST BRITON IN JAPAN.

Canton Times.
Travellers may see at the Japanese port of Yokosuka two stone lanterns which perpetuate the memory of William Adams, said to have been the first Englishman who ever settled in that country. Adams was an Elizabethan who had been apprenticed to a shipbuilder, served later in the Queen's navy and reached Japan in 1600, with a few companions on the only surviving vessel of a small Dutch trading fleet.

He was taken under the protection of the Emperor and remained in Japan, although he had opportunity some years later to sail for England on a British trader. The English seaman became shipbuilder and foreign counsellor to the Emperor and was also instrumental in the remote beginning of trade relations-between his native and adopted countries. Historically one might plausibly trace a sequence of events from his arrival in Japan, 319 years ago, to the relations between British and Japanese representatives at the council board in Versailles.

A WAVE OF IMMIGRATION

The Mail and Empire.
During November about two thousand dependents of Canadian soldiers will be brought out from the Motherland, and this will substantially clean up our war residue there. For the first time in several years a party of emigrating British people will be officially conducted to Canada. Canada may now expect an increasing flow of immigration from the Motherland. Next Spring the movement is likely to be a large one. In September of this year the immigration from Britain was twice what it was in September, 1918, and for the six months from

April it totalled 33,000 persons. It is pointed out in London that as the British Government's offer of free passage to ex-service men is only ocean transport, the Canadian Government should assist these newcomers by helping them pay their railway fare.

SELF-DETERMINATION IN PROHIBITION

Montreal Star.

Whatever may be said of the particular tendencies of the new prohibition legislation, it has one very important thing to recommend it. It puts the regulation of the question squarely up to the people most concerned in it. With this law in force, the people of each separate province will have the final say in conditions governing the sale of intoxicating liquors within that province. If they so desire they can maintain the wide open system, establish the most rigid bone dry conditions, or do as Quebec has done, steer a course somewhere in between the two.

This ought to be a satisfactory arrangement. The people most affected

are made the final judges, and can adopt the system best suited to their requirements. If they demand the bone dry conditions, or do as Quebec power to protect themselves from the effects of importation from adjoining provinces which may choose a different system. They have not only their own authority to back the desire of their population as expressed at the polls, but the federal power stands behind them in the wider field.

WHAT A CHRISTIAN IS

London Observer.

Is it necessary to go to church in order to be a Christian? The question is often argued over in these days of enlightenment, but I have not heard a clergyman venture nearer to a reply than did the Rev. E. S. Woods in an address to a meeting of laity this afternoon at the Church Congress service in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester.

Mr. Woods, who is a younger brother of the Bishop of Peterborough, the president of the Congress, and served as Army Chaplain in the Ypres sal-

ent, gave an excellent send-off to the congress by striking a frankly truthful note which is not too often heard. "Some people," he told the laity, "think that a Christian is the same as a regular churchgoer. It does not follow at all. Others think a Christian is a person who holds the right kind of belief. That, again, does not follow. There are people who know the creeds and the Catechism by heart, but I should hesitate to call them Christians. Others think that being a Christian is a kind of dodge to make sure of going to Heaven. That again is off the target.

"A Christian is a man who is always learning how to be unselfish. Here is a fellow who is always trying to 'wangle' the biggest helping at the family dinner, who keeps an apple in his pocket rather than share it with a friend, who plays for his own hand and shoves weaker ones aside.

"Now, take the other fellow. Anything he has he shares. He tackles the hardest job, stands up for the weak, and is the handy man who does things for others with a smile. That is a Christian."

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