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H. F. McRAE, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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EDITORIALS

Somebody recently remarked that this war would crush the Faith out of a good many people and make them refuse to believe in the ultimate triumph of humanity. The intimation was that the Idealistic Philosophy, which looked forward toward an evolved and emancipated humanity was thrown to the winds and that instead of evolving along a straight line to a perfect goal the process of evolution was moving in a circle. Following this idea out, the race had already reached the highest development of which it was capable. The world wide clash of arms in this day of enlightenment was a proof of this and that now humanity must again go around the circle, passing through another dark age of superstition and ignorance.

That class of thinking will no doubt appeal to a certain class of men, as it always has. There is, however, nothing ultimate or final about it. This war with all its terror and disappointment will not necessarily cause this world to forget its past nor to throw off its culture. Neither will it prevent it from taking a fresh start when the war is over and go still higher up the ladder. The chief mistake that the opponents make is that they think evolution should work out its goal in a few years. Rather allow it a few million years, and then perhaps a distinct advance may be found.

But why should this war more than a thousand other

events cause anybody to lose faith in humanity or in humanity's God. If it is true that the human personality has elements of freedom in it then we can always look forward for surprises, some of which will be along the line of good and others in the other direction. Better to be free and to go wrong than to be a machine incapable of moral actions. While great forces of men with big guns are facing each other in this war the fight is really a spiritual one striving for the mastery of ideals. The same thing has been happening daily for thousands of years and humanity has not lost its faith. The only difference is the magnitude of the issue at stake.

But perhaps there is a silver lining to the dark cloud. Perhaps the world has been getting too prosperous and ease-loving, and perhaps that humanity can only evolve toward a high ideal under strenuous circumstances. There may be too many middlemen and too many parasites on society and perhaps the only way to rid the world of these barnacles is to tear prosperity into shreds and again compel men to earn their living by the sweat of their brows. One thing is true: Human struggle and self-sacrifice are never in vain. It cleanses and purifies and ennobles the race and the next generation will show the results in the crop of great men that it will produce—like all other great wars of the past. It will also put a new life in religion and the pessimism of the past will disappear.

ENORMOUS INRUSH TO CANADA AFTER WAR

Calgary, Oct. 19.—After the war, what? Well, an exodus to Canada, if we are to believe what James Oliver Curwood, the American novelist, who has spent several years in the last great west, says. Mr. Curwood is in intimate touch with the resources of Western Canada, and he predicts that five Germans will come to the Dominion to every one that went to the United States after the Franco-Prussian war. Mr. Curwood's interesting observations are as follows:

"Following the signing of peace will follow an immigration movement that, I believe, will amaze the world. Have people forgotten what happened immediately after the Franco-Prussian war in 1870? Have they forgotten that three of the greatest states in the United States—Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa are our three great German states, and three of our richest states. The Franco-Prussian war made those states. And where one German sought new opportunities across the sea in those days, I look to see five come after the present war. They will not go to the United States. In spite of tremendous real estate booms in Texas and other parts of our South, I cheerfully place myself on record as saying that there are no fit lands left open in the United States. To Canada and South America must go the immigrant of the future who is seeking land on which to make a livelihood."

Along with this influx must be included that from the other countries involved in the clash, and of these latter newcomers the Jews will form a large proportion. Canada will welcome the Jews, but we would welcome them far more warmly were they to devote their attention to the cultivation of the soil, but who in Canada has heard of a Hebrew farmer?

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PASSING EVENTS

The Syrian colony in Halifax has contributed \$310 to the Patriotic Fund.

Ottawa's three days' Patriotic Fund campaign last week resulted in securing \$371,215. The amount aimed at was \$350,000.

The "Western Counties" exhibition, held at Yarmouth last week, was well attended and was a decided success. The fruit show especially is said to have been the finest seen for some years.

The King Edward Memorial, on Philadelphia Square, Montreal, was unveiled by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught last week. The monument is the design of the Canadian sculptor, Louis Philippe Hebert.

In taking on 6,000 extra employees at regular wages in Eastern and Western Canada the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is the largest employer of labor in the country, is setting the rest of the Dominion an excellent example.

A movement under the leadership of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Rudolph Lemieux and other leading French-Canadians is on foot to organize a French contingent to be sent to the front with the next Canadian force. Col. Sam Hughes approves of the proposal and the Premier has promised to recommend it to the government.

The Sons of Temperance celebrated the seventy-second anniversary of the organization of that order by a public meeting, in St. Paul's Hall, Halifax, last week. The speakers were Rev. A. B. Cohoe, Rev. Benjamin Hills, and A. M. Hoare. Mr. R. S. Theakston occupied the chair and gave a brief account of the history and purpose of the order.

Machine shops in Toronto, Hamilton, Dundas, Galt and four or five other places have secured contracts for the manufacture of 18-pound shrapnel shells during the past few weeks, and some are already at work. The government requires absolute conformity with specifications. The shells are wanted for war, in lots of 100, and one in each lot is tested. If it proves faulty the whole lot is returned.

The Republican Convention of Massachusetts last week endorsed the nomination of Samuel W.

McCall, of Winchester, as its candidate for governor.

Seven foreign vessels with an aggregate of 23,716 tons gross were admitted to American registry under the recent act of Congress during the week ending September 26. Six were British and one a German vessel.

A project is on foot for the holding of a conference which would be attended by representatives of Russia, Great Britain, Sweden and Norway to study the questions relating to commerce between Russia and Great Britain over the northern route.

English schools are likely to benefit considerably this winter by the withdrawing of British pupils from schools on the Continent. In some cases the principals of Continental schools are setting up schools in England. Many business men who are suffering in consequence of the war are looking for cheaper schools for their boys and girls.

Because German artillery shelled the Cathedral of Rheims, the Council of the Central Association of French Architects has decided to strike the following names from the list of its foreign correspondent members: William Doerpfeld, Berlin; Joseph Staben, Posen; Otto Wagner, Vienna; and the Corresponding Associations of Architects of Berlin, Vienna and Budapest.

Answers from factories to inquiries addressed by the British Home Office show that more than one-half are working normally, and only 2 per cent have closed down. A cause of depression assigned by an overwhelming majority of the factories reporting slack trade is the withholding of normal orders for luxuries. In the raw materials of foodstuffs the only marked scarcity is in sugar.

The delegates of six international unions in the building trades have completed the forming of an alliance by which strikes over disputes involving the work one union should do will be averted. The six unions are the Bricklayers and Masons International Union, the Journeymen Stone Cutters International Union, the International Union of Engineers, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the Plain and Ornamental Operative Plasters Society and the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Society of America. They represent more than 500,000 workers throughout the United States and Canada.

GOETHALS HOPES TO HAVE CANAL OPEN THIS WEEK

Washington, D. C., Oct. 20.—Colelen Goethals has cabled the War Department that traffic through the Panama Canal, blocked by a landslide into Culebra Cut, would be resumed this week unless there were further earth movements.

"The slide occurred east side of canal north of Gold Hill at 5 o'clock last evening, 1,500 feet long, completely blocking channel for 1,000 feet in length," Colonel Goethals cabled. Dredges were moved to the north of it when the movement began and are now operating to open up a channel for passage of the boats. Unless further movement occurs, expect to have channel open in one week."

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