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WHAT IS THE TROUBLE ?

Probably the most hopeful sign that things are going to be better with the world is the fact that the average man and the average woman to-day are doing some thinking about conditions and attempting to study out the situation, its causes and its cure. It is particularly encouraging to note that though there have always been depressions and difficulties the world to-day is much averse to the idea that these cycles of evil should continue to arrive from time to time. Just as people hoped that the last war was the war to end war, now they desire fervently that the present depression should be the depression that will end all further depressions.

Probably the most frequent question asked to-day is that enquiring as to the real cause for the present troubles. Newspapers are asked this question in anxious tones, but often behind the anxiety there seems to be a faith that the newspaper will be able to give a complete reply off-hand, as is the custom with queries on all sorts of questions from the date of a prize fight to the cause of some big fire. The people, however, are not content with questioning. They are figuring out replies of their own and this fact suggests that there is a chance for the remedy to be evolved that will cure the evil. The very fact that the idea of recurring depressions, with accompanying hardships and menace for the common people, is resented wholeheartedly is a hopeful sign of the times. No longer is there any acceptance of the idea that these things have always been and so will always be. "They should not be. Why should they be?"—that is the present attitude.

In answering the question as to the cause of the present very undesirable situation in the world, the Russian communist blames everything on the capitalist system. Had the Russian communist sought to concentrate all his efforts and resources on bettering the condition of his own people, instead of using money and ability to foster rebellion and disloyalty in every country on the face of the globe, his plans and proposals might have received more favourable consideration. Without loyalty and decency there can be no hope for any progress in any country, so the Russian communist ruled himself out of the question from the beginning. As a matter of fact the trouble does not appear to be with the capitalist system so far as this country is concerned. The trouble is very evidently with the abuse of that system. There is no system on earth designed to be conducted on the principle of everything coming in and nothing going out—or "heads we win, tails you lose." Yet that is the way the high finance gang are trying to use the system. This high finance crowd have profited chiefly from special privileges and concessions from the public resources, yet to-day they disavow all responsibility for anything but themselves. They made immense profits from trade and industry yet at the first sign of any loss, they have attempted to close up, leaving the worker to stand any loss. No system could stand any such practice.

Another common explanation of the present depression is over-production. It is impossible to maintain this as an excuse for present conditions when it is remembered that thousands of people in all parts of the world, including this Canada, are in danger of starvation. With wheat and other foodstuffs in abundance, with all sorts of goods for the convenience and comfort of people, there is an actual shortage so far as the world in general is concerned.

Over production can not be the correct answer. There are those accordingly who go one step farther along the line and blame everything on mal-distribution. This is much closer to the mark. However, it should not be regarded as simply a matter of mal-distribution of goods, but rather a mal-distribution of wealth and resources. The estate of the late Payne Whitney has been figuring in the newspapers recently. This man's estate is valued at around \$240,000,000.00. In other words he had corralled, by good means or otherwise, the fair share of approximately ten thousand men. He was but one of hundreds in the United States who had shown similar undesired acquisitiveness. The same sort of selfishness and greed have obtained in Canada. That is why there are thousands of men out of work and in need. Industry, carelessness, thrift, will not overcome this sort of thing. What seems to be needed is a form of practical confiscation of the surplus wealth of the greedy ring, who deprive others of money that seems to be no good to the ring once they have it impounded. Still more is it needed that privileges and concessions, the rights of the public, should not be handed to groups whose chief virtue seems to be acquisitiveness.

The present economic system allows for the reward of industry, thrift, aggressiveness and energy, if the game is played fairly. It allows for the play of individuality, and other things very dear to the people of Canada and other British countries. For these reasons the people are not ready to discard the system, simply because a few have abused it. Rather is there a feeling that the rules of the game should be more strictly enforced, with it made very plain that neither common sense nor justice nor anything else that is fair can permit of the economic system being used in such a way that one small group invariably profits while the people at large must suffer all losses.

Great progress has been made in recent years in the improvement of conditions for people in general. There is a very general determination that the standards of living should not be lowered, but that those who profit in unusual way from the common heritage should pay now and in the future a fair share of the expense that seems to be entailed in living on this planet. All this will be duly accomplished in legal way by parliamentary enactment and procedure, and it may be some comfort to know that if the people who now have their eyes and their minds open will only keep them so and act on what they see and know and feel, there will be no other "depression" in their lifetime, or again, until men forget.

BRUSH UP THE MEMORY!

One of the chief needs of the day is a good memory. The public is commonly reputed to have a remarkably short memory, and this may account for the ill-usage that the public has to endure from time to time. Just at present the public has special need to remember the late world war and the days leading up to it. In those days the public were persistently and insistently assured that war could not hap-

pen—that the nations were so interdependent that none of the greater powers could engage in warfare without immediate and utter ruin. A book entitled "Canada and Naval Power" was published by a Toronto publishing house in 1912 or 1913, and this book proved beyond question of logic that war by Germany was impossible. The only thing the book missed was the human element—the element that made Germany start a war against all reasoning and that resulted in the allies winning against all logic to the contrary. If the public would remember these things of 1914 and before, there would be less credence given to the present vapourings of Agnes Macphail, M.P., and some others in Canada in regard to disarmament. "But surely no one favours war with all its brutality!" the anguished tones will reply. Of course not! Lord Roberts did not wish for war in 1914. That was the very reason he gave warning against it. No one favours crime because they wish to be protected from the activities of the criminal. The people who most earnestly desire to avoid war are those who are anxious to be prepared to keep it away from their own doors. At the present moment there is a petition being circulated all over the country urging disarmament. So far as the further disarmament of Canada or Britain is concerned, it is like urging the disarming of the police to allow the thugs to catch up on their supply of guns. Among nations as between individuals there seems always to be a conflict between the evil and the good. Under one specious plea or another the good is ever being urged, directly or indirectly, to disarm to tolerate, to be lenient. Those who think carefully over the matter should recognize the fact that however evil war may be, however much it may be hated, however little it may be sought or desired, it is a possibility that must be faced until the nations of the world that are not so peaceful as this nation have shown good faith in talk of peace. Some weeks ago The Advance published the list of the amounts expended by the leading nations of the world last year for armaments. The nation that has talked peace and disarmament the most glibly has the largest expenditure for war. Britain, the nation that had the greatest excuse for expenditures for defence, on account of her wide spread of empire, is well down on the list. A reading of the list would impress the thought that the nations that talk disarmament are not always sincere. Indeed, their attitude seems no more than a scheme for their own advantage and the serious handicap of other nations. In view of this it would be well for all to hesitate about petitions for disarmament. At the best the signing of petitions like this are little better than a vote of want of confidence in the governments concerned. At the worst it is an upholding of those who treacherously preach peace and prepare for war.

TALK OF ECONOMY—A SCHEME

At the present time there is much talk of the need for economy. Dominion, provincial and municipal governments are all talking it, and corporations and individuals are doing the same thing. Some of the talk is ill-considered. To The Advance it would seem that the slogan adopted by The Toronto Mail and Empire has more virtue and effect than all the cries about economy. "Serve by spending" says The Mail and Empire every day. For the immediate present wise spending will help everyone and everything more than any kind of economy. For example, there are municipalities that are urged not to proceed with public works designed to give employment to the workless. They save the cost of the proposed work, but they have to spend for direct relief for the unemployed. As the governments put a premium on this sort of thing by paying a larger proportion of the cost of direct relief the governments must accept much of the onus for this form of help to the unemployed. There is every reason to believe that direct relief is not a good form of economy. It keeps men from starving to death, but it does not really relieve unemployment. In one sense it is money wholly lost. It seems to be the poorest sort of economy in the long run. It is certainly not the sort of help desired by the better class of unemployed. That class does not wish charity; all they ask is work, and they will not be happy with less.

There is reason to believe that the talk of economy originated with the high finance element, who were unable to see why they should not make money out of the depression, just as they did out of the war, even though the lives of the ordinary people should be menaced in both cases. The argument is that unless economy is practised now, taxes will be increased and business will be discouraged. The business that will be injured by a partial return to employment and prosperity seems to deserve a little discouragement. To discourage the sale of goods, which the same high finance gentlemen claim are "over-produced" seems to be the poorest kind of policy. Indeed it would appear that the only people who could possibly suffer from a return to employment and prosperity are people whose methods of money-making do not seem to be in the common interests. As for high taxes to come, nearly every country in the world to-day pays higher taxes than Canadians do, and do less growing about it. As a matter of fact, however, it is only a few Canadians who are forever howling about the bogey of high taxes, and in practically every case they are the ones that are fairly entitled in much higher taxation than they endure. The finance crowd—the men who have made millions out of water powers, timber limits, mines, public franchises, privileges of one kind or another really from the public treasury, and those concerned in monopolies like banking and similar lines, these are ever ready to "warn" against the increase of taxation. They should be warned themselves that in the future they will be expected to pay a fairer share of the burden of taxation in return for the special advantages they enjoy at the public expense. In this country changes will come by orderly process of parliament. Changes may be slow, but they are inevitable. The whole tendency of public thought to-day is to better the general standard of living, though to do this a few may need to curtail their accumulation of wealth that seems so useless to them when secured.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

An auction sale bill issued last week by E. C. Brewer detailed the beauties and advantages of one property offered for sale. The property was described as "close to schools, churches, shops and the liquor store." In fairness it should further have been noted that the property was convenient to the hospital and the police station.

A report of a session of the bridge battle between Messrs Culbertson and Lenz is published by The Sudbury Star on its sporting page. That does not appear to be good classification. Wouldn't the financial section have been a more appropriate place for news of the Lenz-Culbertson bridge contest?

The newspapers last week published a picture of a smiling young man wearing a straw hat on street in Toronto on January 8th. The same thing might have been done with comfort for the wearer but no safety for the hat in Timmins. It would have been a warm-blooded young man that would have worn a straw hat in this part of the North on the evening of January 10th, however.

for COLDS BUCKLEY'S MIXTURE is Canada's standard remedy. It outsells all other cough and cold preparations. BETTER—that's why—and DIFFERENT. Acts Like a Flash. A SINGLE SIP PROVES IT.

Great Value of the Ambulance Brigade

What is Being Accomplished Elsewhere is Also Being Done in Timmins. Members of Brigade "Real Good Samaritans."

Often the question is asked: "What is the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade?" The Advance has repeatedly answered that question by referring to the safety-first work of the S.J.A.B., the training classes here, the services given at games and sports, and the value of the St. John Ambulance training in accidents and emergencies. Actual examples of what the S.J.A.B. has done is the best way to make its efforts clear. "The People," a weekly journal published at London, England, recognizes this fact and in a recent issue gives a bright and helpful article on the St. John Ambulance Brigade work. With emphasis on the fact that what is done elsewhere is done in Timmins to-day by this fine organization, The Advance herewith reprints the article by the writer in "The People":—

Real Good Samaritans Now I know why the St. John Ambulance goes. I asked last Sunday. Scores of ambulance men wrote in "I ask you not to mention the names of any who write," said one of them. "I am sure they feel as I do. We do not want flowers—only a little respect for the uniform we wear."

62,477 volunteers The only correspondent I will mention is Lieut.-Col. Francis A. Brooks, M.D., Commissioner in Charge of the No. 1 (London) District, because he writes me officially.

"I have the honour to command nearly 7,000 men and women in London, and they form part of the 62,477 who are doing the same work all over England and Wales," he says. "It is our proud boast that no one, including the Brigade surgeons, from the Chief Commissioner, Major-General Sir John Duncan, K.C.B., D.S.O., down to the last recruit, receives a penny for the services that we are able to render."

"In 1930 my members performed 63,585 duties of at least four hours' duration and treated 15,356 cases. Every night we supply men and ambulance sisters to 133 cinemas and theatres, and also attend dog-race meetings, dirt tracks, ice clubs, and football matches in processions like the Lord Mayor's Show, the opening of Parliament, etc. We open first-aid stations behind the crowds at intervals of about 100 yards."

"In the United Kingdom in 1929," writes "White Cross," we treated over 450,000 cases. Our people are drawn from all classes. I know solicitors, clerks, postmen, railway men, porters and doctors, all working together without thought of social status."

The Reason Why Why do they do it? Lots of them have written to tell me.

"I can look back on my life and derive great pleasure from knowing that I have done what I could," explains a man from Willesden. "The journey's end may not be far away, but if I can only hear 'Well done' I shall be satisfied."

"We do it because it is one of the finest things in life to be able to help others," says a man from Hayes, Middlesex.

"We love the work," says a Redcar man. "I really believe that, in the future world, God will repay us."

The Joy of Service "All through the twenty years of my membership," says a man from Kettering, "I am bound to admit that I have found great joy and unbounded happiness in the knowledge that I have been of some little use in the world, for usefulness is the rent we have to pay for being on this old earth."

"The reason I do it, personally," says a man at Plumstead, "is that, being granted providentially with the means of earning a good living, I wish to do some little thing whereby I might repay the kindness shown to me."

Work that Costs Money There are scores of these letters all expressing a desire to help. They all say that all do their ambulance work free. Some of them tell me how

they buy their own bandages and uniforms and books; other explain the difficult examinations they have had to pass, a new one every year.

A man from Richmond tells me that "When there is a special duty, chaps who can get off, or some unfortunates who are out of work, volunteer to do the duty. Some lose time and money by so doing."

"We are taken for all sorts of people—Boy Scouts, Salvation Army attendants, firemen; in fact, nearly everything except St. John men."

Called Out of Bed! This correspondent does not finish work until 7.30 at night, he says, and then he changes and goes out on duty prepared for anything. He has had to walk a long distance home. He has been called out when he has been in bed. He has been summoned to look after lost children and been expected to know everything.

"We have to be observant," he says: "tactful, resourceful, explicit, discriminating, persevering and sympathetic—and you need it."

"Yet the public seldom seem to understand. They say, 'Oh, someone has just fainted.' The ambulance man is sent for. It may be a faint or it may mean an operation, haemorrhage, heart, fracture. You generally hear, 'Give him brandy,' from people who do not know how dangerous it is in many cases."

The Amateur Midwife This correspondent says he was once called to a case of childbirth, and he had to do his best when two married women were present, and then one of them fainted and needed help.

"But thank God it all turned out well," he adds.

"Only a faint," said a passer-by. "We are of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem," explains a Tottenham woman, "and in the very first lesson we are taught to be the Good Samaritan. When there is trouble on we must not pass by. It is our duty to help."

That "Happy" Feeling

A Swansea ambulance man tells me that, when he first became interested in ambulance work in 1893, his average hours of duty on a locomotive engine were 15 to 16 hours a day, and yet he managed to get to the doctor's lectures at 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings!

"I was as eager for the knowledge as a child for its mother's milk," he says, "and my interest in the movement grew as the years rolled on."

"I have attended hundreds of cases of all kinds. I have received many letters and words of thanks from people in all walks of life, and after I have attended a case I get a feeling of great happiness and contentment which more than compensates me. My experience is shared by thousands all the world over."

The Medal with 20 Bars A Willesden man tells me that he has been a member of the St. John Ambulance Association for 42 years, and in that time he has passed 23 examinations by St. John doctors. From 1911 to 1931 he passed an examination every year, with the exception of 1917, and then when he was yard master at Neasden he had so many troop and ammunition trains to get away that he did not have time to go and be examined. He has a medalion with 20 bars.

Then he tells me why he did it. "Sixty years ago, when I was seventeen years old," he says, "I worked on the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway at Leominster, driving a stationary pumping engine."

"One night when I was on duty, a G. W. Railway guard on an empty coal train came to the station and told me that his train had run over an old woman. So the shunter and I pulled down a notice board from the wall of the station to put her on, for we had no stretchers, no appliances and no knowledge of first-aid work in those days."

"They found that part of the woman's foot and part of her hand were cut away and that her forehead was injured. So we carried her to the back of the public-house and I had to shine my light on her for an hour and a half, to keep anything from touching her, while my mate went to the town to fetch a policeman and a doctor to attend her before she could be taken to the workhouse."

Vow That Was Kept. "During the hour and a half I had to watch over that old woman I made up my mind that if it lay in my power I would do all I could for anyone who was injured. And I have carried out my promise."

This man says he has rendered first aid to hundreds during 42 years, and he has never taken a penny from anyone.

Although, during 11 years which have passed since, he had to leave the railway because of his age, he has still gone on buying his own bandages.

Pennies Saved for Bandages "I never go anywhere without bandages in my pocket," he says. "A bus conductor once asked me what I got out of it. 'I will tell you,' I said. 'I do not drink nor smoke nor gamble, and if, at the end of the week, I have a few coppers, I go to a chemist's and buy a roll of bandages. Then if I find anyone injured I am ready to look after him.'"

"I have had great pleasure in knowing that I have done what I could to make the world better."

No Fun at Football! A St. John officer belonging to Resolven, in South Wales, tells me that there are boy and girl cadets attached to the organization.

"In our locality," he says, "the men who work at night sacrifice their day leisure and others take their place as they come home from work."

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"When a man is on duty at a football match I can assure you he does not enjoy the game, as he is expecting every minute to be called to an accident. Sometimes he spoils his clothes by attending to a casualty, and often has to travel a long way home on foot after attending an injured man."

The Work Underground Then I was told of ambulance work underground, where there are a terrible lot of accidents and where a doctor is very rarely seen. Often a man's life depends on the skill and judgment of the ambulance man working under terrible disadvantages.

"He is in danger every minute himself. Light is very poor and everything is covered with dirt and dust. It is often a long way out through long tunnels."

"If the man lives it depends upon the skill with which he has been handled whether the doctor can heal him. Irreparable damage can be done by wrong handling."

Done It Since 1892! Another man belonging to Redcar, in Yorkshire, says he has dealt with thousands of cases since 1892, and although he has been unemployed for over three months he still goes on. All he has ever received in thirty-nine years is a box of twenty cigarettes from a young woman who injured her leg.

A Hucknall man tells me that in Nottingham, when a man had fallen down some stone steps and cut his head badly one of the arteries being severed, he attended him, and was afterwards told at the hospital that his quick action had saved his life.

This man is now one of his closest friends.

Then there was the Scotchman who was so close he got slapped.

Two little boys came into the dentist's office. One said to the dentist: "I want a tooth took out, and I don't want no gas because I'm in a hurry."

Dentist:—"That's a brave little boy, which tooth is it?" Little Boy:—"Show him your tooth, Robert."

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ANNUAL MEETING of the Timmins Horticultural Society Will be held in the Town Hall on Friday, January 15th AT 7.30 P.M.

Election of Officers for the year 1932 R. ELSTON President T. A. SKELLY, Secretary-Treasurer

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