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The Need of the Hour.

Canada is making rapid strides in the path of civilization, and completely unshackled she would make still greater.

To attain our purpose as a civilized and progressive nation we must all as patriotic Canadians labor together to the end that every shack that hinders her national progress may be broken, and that she may have an even chance among the nations of the world.

We must first of all be FREE and independent. No so-called nation will ever advance that acknowledges the rule of a foreign power sly more than a firm that does business in another's name.

We must have DEMOCRATIC IDEALS and completely abolish those silly titles that have no foundation in common sense or reason, and which only elevate their holders in the eyes of fools.

We must keep out undesirable immigrants, which lower the rate of the workmen's wages and the tone of society.

We must stop the trusts and nationalize the railroads, telephone and express companies, also fire and life insurance, to keep the people from being robbed by extortionate rates.

We must prohibit child labor under sixteen years in mill and factory, giving every child the chance of an education—make school attendance compulsory and let no obstacle, in the way of the poverty of parents to provide food, clothing and books, stand in the way.

We must have liability laws compelling employers to grant suitable remuneration to employes who sustain injuries in their employ, instead of them being thrown aside like a piece of broken machinery to starve.

We should as a nation provide work for all the unemployed by Government works, and so provide for the aged by pensions and the crippled and invalid by giving suitable employment to the former and acknowledging our responsibility to the latter, that the poor-house, the prison and the grave will not be their only alternative.

We should invest the Provinces or States with complete Sovereignty in all matters that did not clash with the general Government; give the people the right to elect their Governors, Judges, Sheriffs, Police Magistrates and Policemen, and curtail their powers so that they must treat all alike for the same offence, and not allow them as now the "discretion" enabling them to punish anyone whom they may not be favorably disposed toward with the full penalty of the law, and those who have a pull to get off scot-free.

Give human beings who have a misfortune to be put in prison at least decent food and not starve them on bread and water.

Abolish that relic of barbarism, imprisonment for debt, and exempt the necessary articles of life from seizure for rent.

These reforms, though incomplete, would go far towards making us a happy and prosperous nation, and go farther toward bringing about that brotherhood and community of interests, that our Saviour tried to accomplish, in a few years than all the preaching of centuries.

The Passing of Competition.

It is reported that the Rockefellers, aided by H. C. Frick, at one time a partner of Carnegie, have acquired the controlling interest in the United States steel trust. They already own most of the Standard Oil stock, and have long had a profitable agreement with, if not actual control, of the railroads that traverse the oil regions. Slowly, but surely, the members of the Standard Oil Co., and their allies are getting the leading industries of the United States in their hands; and how they use the vast power which their monopolies bring them, the

oil-using public well know. The first result of the deal that has brought steel and oil under the control of the same individual will be a general reduction of the salaries of employes, except in so far as the Unions may be able to protect some of their members from the cut. At the same time, the price of steel, like that of oil, will be steadily pushed upward. Thus the company will increase its dividends by squeezing more profit from both employe and consumer that is, everybody will be compelled to pay increased tribute to the huge octopus.

Most other industries are now, or soon will be, controlled by trusts. The leading business men having seen the folly of competing with each other in the same work, have united into corporations to do away with the waste of competition. They now need fewer agents, fewer laborers and less machinery than when they operated singly; hence their working expenses are greatly reduced. That many men are thrown out of employment is no concern of the capitalist. As a result of union, the companies can demand higher prices from consumers, also. Corporations in different lines co-operate with each other against both the laborer and the public. During the coal strike in 1902, as soon as coal became scarce, the price of oil was also raised to prevent the people getting cheap fuel. Then the wood dealers followed suit.

While the larger capitalists are ceasing to compete with each other, the wage workers have very little organization, and the farmers have none at all. No matter how bountiful the harvest may be, the farmer after being compelled to sell his cattle for the price fixed by the beef trust, and pay the exorbitant freight rates of railroads and the tremendous profits of the agricultural implement manufacturers, has very little left for a rainy day. The small capitalist is rapidly being reduced to an employe of the greater. For instance, the local editor cannot hold his own against the metropolitan publisher; and the country merchants are losing much of their trade to the department stores of Toronto and Montreal.

To remedy this state of affairs it is of no use to try to abolish the trust. Man can never return to the primitive state, in which each family did all its own manufacturing. Such conditions are now im-

possible. The trust, by eliminating waste, has cheapened production and is here to stay. It has only one bad feature, and this can be eradicated as soon as the farmers and wage-earners so decide. The only thing wrong about the Trust is that it is owned by a few rather than by the public. As soon as the nation takes over all industries that are, or can be, monopolized, and manages them in the interests of the whole people, the country will find that the Trust has been, under Providence, the greatest economic blessing the world has ever seen.—H. H. S.

January 5, 1904.

This cold weather means plums for the plumbers.

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Saucepans,

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Plumber and Metal Worker.