

DEMOCRACY THRIVES, BUT IS NOT PERFECT

Prof. Milner Says We Must Learn Sacrifice

IMMIGRATION DANGERS

Prof. Wallace Says People Should Speak of Government as "We," Not "They"—Problems After the War.

"We should stop calling the Government 'they,' and begin to call them 'we.'"—Prof. M. W. Wallace.

It was someone long before the American humorist who said, "There's a deal o' human natur' in a man," and the fact was in somewhat more classic language repeated at Convocation Hall last evening in two lectures of the popular series being given by university professors. Professor W. S. Milner and Prof. M. W. Wallace spoke on "Democracy and Human Nature." Both seemed to find their points of departure in the manifestations of the war—that men have been found to give their lives for an ideal, differing in each individual, and found in both sets of belligerents, so that a form of government might live.

Democracy and Liberty.

Prof. Milner made it plain that the experiment of democracy was not in itself a triumph, because liberty had not yet been won by it. The growth of democratic weaknesses was increasing the more democracy advanced along its own road. He traced in it the elements of fatalism, bitterness, parasitism, and even of a new autocracy of the party class. He pointed out that it was not in the older States but in the newer democracies with vast, open spaces that men flocked most into towns and cities. It was most pronounced in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Problems After the War.

The labor problem would be greater and harder to solve in Canada, he thought, after the war than in Great Britain and France. Prof. Milner, in a delightfully discursive ramble on the old Greek method of a dialogue with Demos, as he termed democracy, reminding one of Walter Savage Landor's Talks with the Immortals, pointed out many inconsistencies of democracy, and showed how it was ever falling from its own standards, only to recover immediately.

Must Learn Sacrifice.

"Until democracy has caught the spirit of sacrifice of this war the world will wait in vain for peace," he remarked, and then went on: "One of the evils of Demos is that he is not so sick as he imagines he is. He has been reading too many medical books about his own ailments and of cures that are true in print but true nowhere else." But his conclusion was of bright hope: "Show the people God, and, behold, they are sons of God."

Dangers of Immigration.

Prof. Wallace reached the same end, that of a belief in leading democracy to truth and right by other, more direct means. He touched on the troubles of a growing democracy, of patronage and unrestricted immigration.

"American leaders have been troubled that out of the vast mass of the disinherited peoples of Europe they are not able to make Americans. (A thought which Prof. Milner had previously expressed as "the melting pot refused to melt.") He pointed out that Canada should avoid the trouble by guarding immigration. He quoted Quebec to show that the problems which came from a lack of homogeneity were acute in Canada, but he regretted that politicians had not taken the opportunity the war offered to overcome race difficulties. The remedy for all these troubles he found in keener personal interest in public affairs.

"It is fundamental to good government that we should stop calling the Government 'they' and begin to call them 'we.' We must attempt to revise the creed by which we live."

President R. A. Falconer presided.