

of life. The ancient democracies of Greece did not often allow the immigrant or the captive of war to become a citizen; but made him a slave or treated him as a mere utility. It was left for modern democracy to conceive and to undertake the task of training all the people for all the duties and privileges of life, and it is this stupendous enterprise that, for the discerning mind, casts a glow of romance around the little schoolhouse and the plain country church and the cooperating group of common laborers. These are some of the institutions through which democracy's supreme task is being achieved, and whoever is inspired by the task reverences the institutions.

These thoughts have been suggested by a survey of the thirteenth annual report of the Reading Camp Association. The work of this association is as good an example as we have in Canada of the missionary spirit in the educational field. The motive power that lies behind it seems to be a supreme faith in the value of education and of the personal touch in education. Something of the romance of the missionary life surrounds it and attracts to it scores of the best spirits in our colleges. As lumbermen or railroad navvies or teamsters these students toil during the day alongside men of all nationalities, and then instruct them in English and civics and other elementary studies in the evenings. In this way two objects are accomplished—immigrants are helped to a knowledge of our language and institutions, and they have the benefit of intimate contact with a young man of mental culture and moral training who has no interest in exploiting them, but is wholly intent on serving them and protecting them from the snares into which their ignorance often leads them.

The growing list of subscribers and the cooperation of Provincial Governments, railroads, mining companies, etc., show that the work of the association is being approved by an ever-increasing number of Canadian people. Nothing is more needed in our time than the missionary spirit in the sphere of education, and the Reading Camp Association is a good example of that spirit. Whatever brings the college man and the laborer into intimate contact with each other, whatever helps to make the **foreigner** feel that Canadians are interested in something else than exploiting his labor power, is worthy of commendation and support.

CANADIANIZING THE IMMIGRANT.

It is often said that a democracy, in comparison with an aristocracy, is unromantic and colorless. From the traveller's point of view the castle and the cathedral and the soldier are much more interesting than the public schoolhouse and the country church and the gang of common laborers. But if a civilization is to be measured by the magnitude and idealism of the tasks it undertakes, then a democracy is much more romantic than an aristocracy. What enterprise could be more romantic, more filled with the spirit of hope and daring, than the task which every real democracy assumes?—that of lifting all the people to the level of self-government and full citizenship. No aristocracy or oligarchy has ever been inspired by such an ideal or undertaken to lift more than the few to the higher functions