

Teaching and These Times

By DR. FRANK CRANE

Dear Teacher: What are you doing to make History and Geography real in your schoolroom?

Do you have a large map on the wall and show the day's location of the battle-front, making it so plain that all can understand?

Do you realize that the best of all maps is the map drawn by the pupil himself?

Can each of your pupils make a free hand map of Europe and locate important places?

Do you drill your pupils in the correct spelling and pronunciation of the names of places and persons that appear in the day's doings?

Are you awake to the fact that this is the most critical age in the world's history, that history is now in the making, and that the children should be given exact information in simple form, so that they can discuss world events with their elders and thus receive the best possible kind of education?

Have you digested and reduced the history of each of the countries of Europe to its simplest form, eliminating confusing details, so that your pupils know clearly the story of each nation?

Do your pupils understand exactly why Canada entered the war? who started the war?

Have you made plain to your pupils the difference between Democracy and Autocracy?

Can you not select some ringing patriotic sentence from among the great utterances of this day, for instance from some speech of Borden, Wilson, Lloyd George or Clemenceau, for the children to memorize?

Do your pupils understand why we have been called upon to buy Victory Bonds, and are all of your pupils doing their bit?

Have you explained Food Conservation, why we must save on certain foods and exactly how to do so?

Do your pupils know the words of all the verses of "O Canada," or "The Maple Leaf"?

Do they know how to salute the flag and the rules governing the display of the flag?

Can they name all of the Allied countries at war with Germany?

Are they familiar with the Allied flags?

Do they know about the work of the Red Cross, of the Young Men's Christian Association and of the Knights of Columbus?

Do they know what an Enemy Alien is, and what "interning" means?

And what is a Neutral Nation, and what are its rights and duties?

Have you explained to them the proposed League of Nations and why it should be formed?

Do you ask each pupil to select the most important item of yesterday's news, and discuss with them its meaning?

Do you ask well-informed men and women of your community to make short talks to your pupils on current events?

Do you encourage your pupils to ask questions on world topics?

Do you realize that you are forming the Democracy of Tomorrow and that it is essential that the children under your care know what Canada stands for and what are their simple duties?

