

distributed according to plans of the Commissariat on Provisioning and the provincial provisioning committees.

"In the matter of technical organization the Cooperative organizations have retained complete independence.

UNANIMOUS ON ONE QUESTION.

"All social workers within Russia, independent of their different opinions regarding the various questions of politics, consider the immediate raising of the blockade and the reestablishment of commercial relations unquestionably a vital necessity in the interest of the population of the Russia of the future and of the whole world.

"Commercial exchange would unquestionably be the more successful the greater the role which a free Cooperative movement might play in it. Only the Cooperative organizations at the present time are capable of gathering large quantities of raw materials and wheat and of facilitating the raising of peasant production, since they alone have retained sufficient confidence among the masses of the peasants. Only on condition of an honorable and sincere attitude toward this question, both as a part of the Russian Government and of the government of other countries, can commercial exchange lead to the regeneration of the economic life of Russia."

NO VULTURES AT HIS GRAVE.

NO EULOGY was delivered at the funeral of William D. Howells, dean of American letters whose death occurred on the 12th instant. This was in compliance with an often-expressed wish. It is related that he once attended a ceremony in honor of a great American artist, in company with an old friend, a New Yorker now also dead. A man much in the public eye, a frequenter of dedications and funerals and every variety of celebration where two or three persons must perforce gather together and listen to an address, was on the programme for a speech in honor of the great sculptor. As the eulogy progressed it became evident that the speaker had no intimacy with the man he was called upon to honor; he confused his history, his friends, his works with those of other men; he mispronounced his name. Mr. Howells moved uneasily. Finally he could stand it no longer. Turning to his friend, he said: "I shall allow no gathering of vultures at my funeral: if any one wants to honor my frail memory let him do it in silence: no vultures!"

"FORK OVER YOUR DOLLAR"

TWO CHRISTIAN young men in an Eastern city went to the rooms of a Young Men's Christian Association, and said to the person in charge:

"We would like to join the Association."

"Well," was the reply, "fork over your dollar."

One of the young men forked over his dollar, the other one, somewhat shocked at the abrupt remark, felt in his pocket for his dollar, and turned on his heel and left the rooms. It was years before the excellent character and work of the institution removed from his mind the unhappy impression produced by that remark.

It is not at all probable that the young man who thus misrepresented the Association which he was chosen to represent, was conscious of any impropriety. It was with him simply a matter of business,

which he attended to in his usual off-hand way. But the incident when related led to serious reflection in the writer's mind.

There are not a few persons who seem to think the first thing to be done when a man begins to enter upon a serious life, is to ask him to fork over his dollar; and though the request may be in language that would not offend the most fastidious, yet the impression is very often made, that the money is the first thing and the main thing which these good people are after. In various ways they make their wishes known, and a man has hardly time to get himself fairly settled down to his new life, when he finds himself beset by

KIND WORDS FOR THE NORTHMAN.

Raymond F. Crist, director of citizenship training, Washington, D. C., in a letter to the editor says:

Please accept by best wishes for the success of The Northman, its aims and ideals, and if I can be of service, feel free to call upon me.

The figures reported in your article on the Foreign Born in Oregon, showing a population of 50,000 foreigners in Portland, 5,000 of whom are unable to speak our language, and more than 120,000 foreign born in the State, of whom 17,000 cannot speak "American," are ample proof of the splendid field for endeavor which is presented. I feel that public-spirited individuals and organizations can do much to increase the effectiveness of this work and to increase its scope by supporting the public-school officials and by calling the attention of the public to it and encouraging enrollment in the citizenship classes. The Northman has apparently recognized the opportunity to be of service in this manner and is taking advantage of it.

With reference to your article on Building a Better Citizenship, in which you call attention to the work being accomplished in the Eastern states through the public schools, I wish to call attention to the fact that more than 2,700 communities throughout the United States present a splendid example of what can be accomplished through co-operation of local public schools with the Federal Government through this Division. The work of securing the organization of classes in the various communities has been carried on by this Division with the aid of public-school officials, labor, religious, civic, patriotic, women's and other organizations.

WANTS NORTHMAN FOR LIBRARY.

W. A. Folger, of Medford, sends a check for two years subscription to The Northman for the Medford Public Library, to begin with the first number. Mr. Folger is one of the most public spirited men in the state, and he says he wants The Northman to go where it will do the most good and therefore he sends it to the public library of his home town. He says the paper should be in every public library in the country.

DESERVES SUPPORT.

The following letter is encouraging:

Portland, Oregon, May 14, 1920.

Mr. H. J. Langoe, Mgr. Editor,
The Northman,
227½ Washington St.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

Herewith my check your favor for \$3.00, in payment of a years subscription to The Northman.

Your publication in every particular is so saturated with high ideals and so animated with the principles of true Americans that it is nothing short of inspirational.

The editors of American papers could perform an invaluable service by giving space to such subjects as you have developed editorially.

Your paper deserves the support of every red-blooded American citizen and you may be sure of mine.

Yours truly,

JOHN M. MANN

Commissioner of Public Utilities

treasurers, committees and collectors, the burden of whose cry is, 'fork over your dollar.'

THE DEMOCRACY OF DEATH.

Robert G. Ingersoll.

All wish for happiness beyond this life. All hope to meet again the loved and lost. In every heart there grows this sacred flower. Immortality is a word that hope through all the ages has been whispering to love. The miracle of thought we cannot understand. The mystery of life and death we cannot comprehend. This chaos the world has never been explained. The golden bridge of life from gloom emerges and on shadow rests. Beyond this we do not know. Fate is speechless, destiny is dumb, and the secret of the future has never yet been told. We love; we wait; we hope. The more we love the more we fear. Upon the tenderest heart the deepest shadows fall. All paths, whether filled with thorns or flowers, end here. Here success and failure are the same. The rag of wretchedness and the purple robe of power, all difference and distinction are lost in this democracy of death. Character survives; goodness lives; love is immortal.

UNWISE FREE SPEECH.

Anon.

AS LONG as we have free and unlimited speech we will probably have such controversies as "Who won the war?" It is like a domestic controversy begun by an unkind and ungenerous word and responded to in kind. An individual of good taste, good judgment, wisdom and experience would not start such a controversy because the resulting ill-feeling among old friends could be easily discounted. Fighting men of the allied nations established a bond of blood-brotherhood by their common manly courage and endurance. The world war established the courage and endurance of all armies, even the German armies. It is a fine thing, even for a civilian, to reflect upon the tremendous effort of his countrymen in the war period and remember with pride that his race has established its right to live by its prowess.

A husband and wife toiled and saved through the years of a long married life and finally attained a comfortable fortune. They were talking about it one day and the husband calmly took all the credit for the performance. The wife saw all her toiling and saving and pinching privations disregarded and for the first time in her life she suspected her husband of having a yellow streak. After that the old mutual confidence and respect of the married life was never quite the same. But the husband was not really yellow; he only spoke ungenerously, without reflection.

One does not hear the men who fought and bled side by side and went through the red hell of war together, quarreling about who won the war. It was enough for them to know that they, together, won it, and with none too wide a margin.

FINDING THE PATH

(Carlyle)

"All misery is faculty misdirected—strength that has not yet found its way." This is undoubtedly true. All suffering and failure can be traced back to one getting out of the true path. It may not sometimes be one's fault. Ignorance or environment may intervene and lead us astray. But all progress consists in one finding the true way of one's strength; to see that the faculty is rightly directed.