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The King's Silver Jubilee.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the King's accession to the Throne was celebrated on Monday the 6th of this month with great rejoicing throughout the British Empire. In the official form of prayer and of thanksgiving prescribed for use on the auspicious occasion by the Metropolitan of the Province of India, there is a striking passage which comes nearest to the sentiments of the millions of King's loyal subjects and we reproduce it here :

"It is very meet, right and our bounden duty that we should give thanks to Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for that Thou wast pleased as on this day to set Thy Servant, Our Sovereign Lord, King George, Emperor of India, upon His Throne and hast protected him in days of sickness and of health throughout his reign of five and twenty years. For the example of increasing service set by him and by our gracious Queen Mary ; for the strength and steadfastness bestowed on him and on the Nation in years of war and of manifold anxieties ; for the love and loyalty borne to him by a great family of peoples in all parts of the world, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name. We bless Thee for increase in the knowledge of Thy marvellous works, in care for those who suffer from sickness or the lack of work, in desire that all men everywhere may live in peace and enjoy the fruits of their labour. For these and all other Thy mercies vouchsafed to us, O Father Almighty, We yield Thee unfeigned thanks."

Pomp and pageantry are survivals of dim antiquity but they are the only means of expressing the affection and loyalty of the people to their Sovereign. They are ephemeral. The historian who chronicles the events of the first quarter of the twentieth century has to portray them uninfluenced by the magnificent popular demonstrations. His Majesty's reign is an eventful one. Unfortunately the history of the last twenty years is a record of unfulfilled ideals and frustrated achievement in the political, economic and social aspects of national life. It is no doubt true that progress has been made in many fields of human endeavour, but it has promoted neither general welfare nor happiness. The Great War which broke out in the early part of His Majesty's reign, dislocated every department of public life in a manner for which history scarcely furnishes a parallel, and from the consequences of which the combined effort of all the statesmen have not rescued the world.

Practically every civilised state passed through great and terrible experiences during the past twenty years, and international

jealousies and economic rivalries have be-fogged the ideals for which the War was fought. The uniform cheerfulness and the unobtrusive readiness with which His Majesty has endeavoured to contribute to the solution of the most outstanding post-war problems will form an illuminating chapter in the history of this period. It would be pessimistic to maintain that there has been no progress, but the results have not been commensurate with the possibilities of establishing peace and concord which still elude the grasp of the world's ablest statesmen. However, the King's Jubilee message, "I dedicate myself anew to your service for the years that may still be given me," ought to fill the hearts of nations with fresh hopes for the achievement of international goodwill and amity. Their attainment depends not on the length of our prayers, nor on the skill in diplomacy, but entirely on the measure of self-sacrifice and the breadth and kindness of humanity which we bring to bear on the solution of the difficult and intricate problems which confront the League of Nations and International Conferences. We have to substitute the spirit of Christian humility for the language of patriotism in the settlement of world's affairs. The anniversary which was recently celebrated has a deeper significance for the British Commonwealth than a display of loyalty to the Crown: it is an invitation to the genius of the Empire to put forth fresh exertions in the international councils,

"Till each man find his own in all men's good,
And all men work in noble brotherhood,"

and for the achievement of this end, the King has offered his gracious co-operation in his broadcast message. The interest which foreign countries have shown in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee may be regarded as offering fresh hopes of international collaboration in reconstructing the economic fabric of the world.

In the whole history of civilisation, there is no more psychologically puzzling phenomenon than the situation in the year of the Silver Jubilee. All the nations as if by common consent have drifted from the path of peace, sanity and wisdom, and under the malign influence of the Political and Economic "Legion", they are precipitating down the Gadarene slopes to submergence. The Great War was fought to save civilisation, liberty and democracy; these ideals are smoke-screened by political passions and economic restrictions; the bitter lessons of militarism have only led the nations to sow

fresh Dragon teeth; the ideals of the church and the claims of common humanity have almost been forgotten in the transactions of international affairs. It is yet possible that the auspicious anniversary of the Silver Jubilee may be the occasion for the birth of a new and moving hope to cement international sympathy, confidence and friendship, without which the perplexing problems which now confront civilisation will finally overwhelm humanity, if they are not wisely handled to compass a higher unity and a broader synthesis. In the political and economic conflicts, we forget the essence of human nature, its scale of values, the meaning and purpose of social existence, its desires and aspirations.

The multiple contradictions of the present stage of civilisation must be due to the fact that while the progress of science has endowed man with almost fabulous powers for controlling his environment and refining his nature, it has in the sphere of thought apparently dissociated the human spirit from the world values in which inevitably it has its existence. Viewed from a superficial standpoint, science would appear to have come up against the meaning and purpose of human nature and this confusion has affected other fields of thought and activity so completely that further progress in the outer and inner life seems to be barred unless a bridge is thrown across the chasm which separates faith and action and ideals and practice. The increasing appreciation of the functions of science in civilisation may be hoped to remove such antinomies which generally arise from false emphasis on values and from treatment of incomplete or inaccurate premises as if they are whole and final. A great psychological event which has its roots in the heart of the nation has often deflected the current of public affairs, and the Silver Jubilee, which has stirred the imagination of the whole Empire, may, if its spirit is understood, perhaps prove to be the turning point of the fortunes of the greatly distracted and perplexed world. In this noble task, the genius of the Commonwealth is behind the Sovereign.

His Majesty as the inheritor of the rich traditions of the Throne and of the achievements of the British race is a representative of the national history. He is the cornerstone of the Empire. The affection and esteem in which his subjects hold His Majesty and the singular popularity which

he enjoys throughout the world by the sympathy and tenderness with which he approaches international problems are an invaluable asset for the Empire. The world can pay no nobler tribute to its greatest monarch on this auspicious occasion than re-explore the possibilities of achieving international peace, prosperity and contentment. All the nations of the world have, in a smaller or greater measure, contributed to disorganise the international economic structure and to arouse mutual suspicions, jealousies and passions; and in rehabilitating international life on the basis of goodwill, truthfulness, honesty and amity, the contribution must be made in a spirit of Christian humility. The different races have to make large sacrifices in the interests of humanity and live as a brotherhood of nations and not divided into warring camps.

It is in this spirit of broad kindliness and sympathy that His Majesty's reply to the Dominions representatives is conceived and it is worth reproducing in full:

"There is a word which gladdens me, more especially when I hear it used by friends from the overseas, many of whom say, when they visit this country 'they are coming home'. It is in this spirit that the Queen and I meet you to day, you who represent the vast territories, the Dominions, the Colonies, the protectorates and my peoples in India and the dwellers in the countless Isles of the sea from the Pacific to the homewaters. We greet the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, now equal partners in the Empire, and thank them for the addresses from their Parliaments which they have handed to me. We welcome one and all to our home.

"Eventful your visit cannot fail to be and I trust it will be happy also. When the time comes for you to return, I would ask you to take back, each to his own people, a message of affection

to every member of this great family, of which I am so proud and thankful to be the head; and a message of deep gratitude for the loyal and kind words which you have spoken on their behalf. You all, who are here to-day and who hold responsible positions, will best know what an inspiration and encouragement your words are to me to continue the task which, 25 years ago, I set myself to do. Before I succeeded my father, the Queen and I had the privilege of studying firsthand the Dominions Overseas and India. We were fellow-travellers then, as now, comparing notes and sharing impressions. We treasure these memories and keep them alive. Moreover, what we forget, our four sons are now able to recall. Many years before our happy partnership began, I had, as Midshipman, sailed the seven seas and I realised early that the Empire has many climes but one spirit.

"I regard this as a unique gathering where we can tell one another our successes as also our failures and mistakes, but there can be no sharp criticism nor vain regrets, for we are, in sympathy, one with another, conscious that we have acted according to our lights for the good name and ordered prosperity of the family. We are sometimes told that we are lacking logic, and that our political institutions are loose and undefined; but I look back on the trying and testing time through which we have passed and wonder whether a less flexible system would have withstood the strains to which we have been subjected. With common-sense and goodwill as our shield buckler, we have kept in spite of all difficulties our heritage—liberty alike for the individual and our many constituent races. The numberless and invisible ties, sentiment and tradition, which bind us together, are indeed delicate, but many strands make the cable strong to bind in times of adversity. It is my prayer, no less than my firm belief, that this bond of spirit may prove also the bond of a peace. Some of you are, with a few happy exceptions, about my own age and I pray for the continuance of God's blessings on your labours. With His help, I will work on with you in the years that remain for that object which has ever been next to my heart—welfare of the mother country, the Dominions Overseas and India, their happiness and their good repute."

Coloured Races in South Africa.

THE news of the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry by the Ministry of the Interior, Union Government of South Africa, for the investigation of social, educational and economic needs of the Cape "coloured" community, will be welcomed by all those interested in the question of race and colour. The "coloured" races are the admixture of the white European and the native Hottentot, Negro, and Malays. The "coloured" man is a slum dweller in the town. The death rate is 2.4 times as high among the "coloured" race, as among the white; the death rate

due to tuberculosis among the European is 0.68 per 1,000 while it is 4.69 per 1,000 among the non-European. Bad housing, insufficient food and miserable industrial conditions, are responsible for the heavy death toll and a searching enquiry into the causes of the unhappy state of affairs is imminent. The appointment of the Committee indicates that thoughtful South Africans are becoming increasingly uneasy with the conditions of the unfortunate "coloured" races and that they are out to eradicate the distress among them.