

Postscript

by Margaret E. Bateman

Greetings from Canada, where I am writing this little postscript, and a Happy New Year! Christmas messages from many parts of this hemisphere and from overseas have been received with joy at International Headquarters. Some of these, although addressed to me personally, were intended, I am sure, as a tribute to the work that has been done by others and so they have been placed with many other colorful Christmas cards on our huge bulletin board in the main hall of the building in New York. The center space is taken up by an appropriate calendar designed by James C. Fuller of Kansas City. Beneath is the Schalkenbach calendar with the story of the savannah so graphically depicted through scenes of Manhattan Island since the days of Peter Minuit. Above

is a colorful flag-decorated motto sent by J. B. Chamberlain of Washington, which reads: "That we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us, that we should respect the rights of others as scrupulously as we would have our own rights respected, is not merely counsel of perfection to the individual, but it is The Law to which we must conform social institutions and national policy if we would secure the blessings of peace and abundance." This motto will remain as a permanent heading for the bulletin board.

Crossing the "imaginary" boundary line into Canada, I was reminded again of certain restrictions to trade and immigration. Customs officials, imbued, I suppose, with the season's spirit of good will, allowed my Christmas packages to be taken across without being opened; Immigration officials noted that I held a passport and crossing card which identified me as a person permitted to enter Canada.

Looking out of the window, I noticed much more snow around Buffalo (60 inches fell in some places!) than in Canada. A fellow traveller from New York is interested in Denmark, and after a breakfast conversation regarding the fundamental economics upon which the Danish system is based, a new student was enrolled for our 10-lesson course.

The economic situation in this potentially rich country seems to be about the same as in the United States. Driving east from Toronto one sees wartime factories being closed or converted to other uses. Airplane hangars will soon become homes for ex-service men. Newspapers are running half-page photographs and descriptions of the advantages of these "modern" dwellings. Evidently there's a housing problem in Canada too! One very large war-time factory near Toronto is to become a School of Practical Science, operated by the University of Toronto. The Department of Labor is undertaking

a huge program of vocational training for returning service men and women.

A young woman who worked as a housemaid in order to pay for her university training is now Supervisor of one of these training centers for housemaids only. This young woman intends to make housework an attractive career. Becoming trained and efficient housemaids, she believes these young women will be able to demand higher wages and a higher status in the social and economic system. A young farmer bewails the fact that he cannot get adequate government assistance because he had only one year of farm experience before going into the army and the law requires two years.

Postwar problems everywhere are evident. We must face these problems in the new year of 1946. Five years ago, when the question uppermost in my mind was whether I should devote all my time to the New York School, I came across this verse by Walt Whitman—"Listen, I will be honest with you, I do not offer the old, smooth prizes, but offer rough, new

prizes. These are the days that must happen to you . . ." "Rough, new prizes" will come to all of us who are inspired to carry on this work. There will be disappointment, disillusionment, frustration and hard work ahead, but there will also be satisfaction and success. Our satisfactions are in such messages as one received on a Christmas card from a young WAVE whom I met on the train last summer. It reads: "I am indebted to you for a new outlook on a difficult world, due to my introduction to the Henry George course." We shall have the satisfaction of seeing thousands of others find "a new outlook on a difficult world" in 1946. When that has been accomplished, this new year will be a very happy one indeed!