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London, Ontario, Friday, October 6.

The New Railway Board.

THE Kins government promised the consolidation of the various nationally-owned lines, and steps have been taken to implement that promise. The man selected for the position of president of the new Canadian National Railways board, Sir HENRY WATSON THORNTON, has had broad experience in a big way in Britain, handling both railway and steamship business. He is not an expert, as he has proved by practical demonstration that he can produce results. He comes to a position that requires the best that is in him, and he comes to a people who are willing to give him every assistance in working out the solution of making the National lines of this country pay their own way on a business basis.

The sincerity of the government is shown in the way in which the personnel of the board of directors has been selected. They are practical businessmen, and bring with them a mature knowledge of the affairs of Canada, its needs and its possibilities. The various sections of the country have been considered in this matter, and it cannot be urged that any one part has received any special attention. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, is given a place on the board. It is a wise move to have a Labor man on the National Railway board, particularly when care has been taken to select a man of such sanity and common sense as Mr. Moore has exhibited in his dealings with Labor questions.

There has been no end of criticism about the delay of the government in getting the work of co-ordination of the various government lines under way, but the government had a big proposition on its hands, and it was hampered by the lamentable illness of the minister of railways. It has acted wisely and well. The people expect results, and they should get them.

Help Will Come.

NORTHERN ONTARIO is today black, blistered and in the grip of disaster and death. As she stands there from the visitation of fire, the rest of the province is not going to carry out a series of lectures on the dangers from bush fires, nor yet to inquire as to how the thing got such a start and so thoroughly out of hand.

The big matter right now is that there are people up there who need help. Everything they possessed has gone. In that particular, fire is worse than a tornado, worse than a storm, worse than almost any other kind of disaster. It leaves nothing but the ashes of past achievement.

The people of the Dominion will want to help. The heart of the Canadian people is so kind in that respect. It is hardly necessary to send out appeals. The extent of the devastation and the pitiful condition of the people there speaks eloquently enough to make any formal appeal unnecessary and painfully out of place. The extent of the need should be the extent of the assistance.

Ontario wants people to go into the northern districts.

Ontario should be, and is, prepared to stand behind those who have been so cruelly punished in the disaster that has swept the new land.

Today, no doubt, the people stand numbed by the horrors of their recent experiences. Tomorrow they will be figuring how they can go ahead and build again more securely and more splendidly than they did before.

Those who have never experienced the touch of the forest fire can have no appreciation of what these people have passed through. It is not possible, by reading even the most intimate details, written by men on the spot, to grasp the helplessness of a people who find themselves surrounded and cut off by a wall of fire driven along by a wind that at times takes on the proportions of a hurricane.

The heart of the Dominion goes out to Northern Ontario.

Not Seeking Office.

IN this country men seek office. In fact, they fight for it—make friends into enemies in their efforts to get there.

And fond parents like to tell their sons, by way of inspiration, that "some day you may be premier."

It's a bit hard for us to imagine a case where people turn and run when there is a chance of an office being thrown at their head.

But look at China today and see what is happening.

A man in China has just been named premier of China. He refuses point blank to come to Peking. The present premier has just retired to a hospital and declines any longer to act. Another man, requested to act temporarily, packed up his grip and at once disappeared from public view.

The president of China has twice sent in his resignation to parliament. Twice the parliament has tabled the resignation without even discussing it. Now the president is trying to prove that he is not a legal president at all.

Three cabinet ministers in the Chinese government decline to as-

DOING HIS BEST TO MESS THINGS UP AGAIN



sume office and a fourth has fled away into the country. No one can be found in Peking who wants the empty and half-empty posts.

The minister of war has given orders for troop disembarkment. But he doesn't know where the troops are and nobody can tell him. Not without reason, the minister of war decides that his position is superfluous.

Unfortunately, this office-holding comedy contains a tragic financial sequel.

There is no money in the national treasury and no income in sight. Taxes seldom reach the capital and then only in negligible amounts. Foreign loans are coming due and the interest on domestic loans has not been paid. Government officials, soldiers and school-teachers have for months received no pay.

Provincial officials refuse to obey orders issued by the Peking government. The government removes the officials and the officials remain on the job. They also hang on to tax money supposed to go into the national treasury.

Sometimes large sections of the country proclaim their independence of Peking and Peking is powerless to do anything about it. Militarist chieftains take over sections of railway for any purpose they desire and, as a usual occurrence, collect all the revenues from these commandeered roads. All the Peking government does is to wait patiently till the chieftains are through with them.

The situation appears comic, but the cold facts are pregnant with danger.

No country in history has been freer from the ravages of war than China. And no country today, not even Russia or Austria, is more hopelessly bankrupt. Here is another Chinese conundrum for some one to answer.

LITTLE 'TISERS

One way to solve the coal problem is to go south.

The "wets" have won in Sweden, but it's quite a few thousand miles from here.

The former Kaiser gets married on November 5. GUY FAWKES also cut up capers on that date.

A man in Des Moines quit chewing tobacco at the age of 94. He was afraid the habit would get the better of him.

The case of Turkey may linger for a time yet, but for the most part it will be settled in the barnyard shortly before Thanksgiving.

People of New York stand in line all night to get a ticket for the baseball match. If they put the same pep into their daily work they could probably rent a box seat in advance.

The London Times may be put on the market. There are a lot of people in the world who know how a newspaper should be run. They might drop around and get in on the bidding. It's a great chance.

Toronto Globe has a heading, "Young Bandits Elude Officers." Judging from the way some of these law-breakers are operating, the heading should read, "Young Bandits Elect Officers."

Forest fires are burning fiercely in Quebec province. Campers and settlers are blamed with using careless methods. If the loss of millions of dollars' worth of timber is to be the price paid for campers and settlers, then they become a dangerous asset.

Peculiar, almost to the point of being unique, is the case of JOHN PARIS, a mulatto, charged with the murder of SAMUEL McCAULEY at Truro. At St. John, N. B., the fifth trial has ended in disagreement, and the prisoner is once more sent back to jail. How can another jury, with the knowledge of five former trials fail-

ing to reach a decision, hope to successfully handle the case?

The opening of the new bridge on the provincial highways system on Richmond street north marks the adding of a safe structure to replace a dangerous one. There may be more ornamental structures in the country, but the new one has the advantage of strength, cheap construction, and offers no resistance to the easy passing of ice in the time of spring floods. It is a vast improvement over the narrow, dangerous bridge that is now closed.

There's a merry war on just now as to which party gets the butternuts, walnuts or hickory nuts.

Of course the small boy wants them—in fact, he needs them to get his hands well stained, but the squirrels want them, too, and they have the advantage of being about early in the morning while the small boy rests in bed and dreams about them. It's a pretty sight any morning now to watch the squirrel at work. His tail is fairly well bushed out for winter, and the way in which he can take a walnut and strip off the outside shell makes the boy, with his cement sidewalk and a piece of brick for stripping, look clumsy indeed. And so the contest goes on, and from the early hour at which the squirrel gets to work it is a sure thing he is not going to be hungry this winter.

TO THE EDITOR

ABOUT THAT VERDICT.

Editor Advertiser:
Sir,—Will you kindly inform in respect to the final verdict of the judge, when the jury brought in the verdict against Gordon Dibledale for the murder of Christine Near, "Not guilty, my lord, on the grounds of insanity." Judge Mowat immediately

25 YEARS AGO TODAY

HERE WE HAVE ITEMS OF LOCAL AND DISTRICT INTEREST AS RECORDED IN THE ADVERTISER OF 1897.

OCTOBER 6, 1897.

Weather—Fair and a little cooler.

At the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Thomas Purdom, 33 Cartwright street, at 8:30 o'clock this morning, Miss Mary Blythe Purdom and Mr. Richard J. Donaghy, both of this city, were united in marriage by Rev. W. J. Clark. Only the immediate relatives and friends of the parties were present. The groom was supported by Mr. Harry E. Spence of Lafayette, Ind., formerly of London West, and the bride was given away by Mr. Thomas A. Rowat, and was assisted by Miss Mary Purdom. The wedding breakfast was afterwards served by Bradford & Hodgins, and the young couple left on the morning train for Toronto and other eastern cities.

Mayor Little is expected home from Winnipeg today.

Chatham is now running its own electric light plant. It uses 103 lights.

The Workers' Bible Class of the Y. M. C. A. met last evening and entered upon a three-years' course of Bible study. Officers were chosen as follows: President, W. G. Young; secretary, W. C. Benson; treasurer, E. N. Hannah.

A. Garden has taken out a permit to erect a brick cottage on St. James street. H. C. McBride is the architect.

Mr. J. B. Smallman, of the firm of Smallman & Ingram, left yesterday for Nashville, where he will take in the Tennessee exhibition.

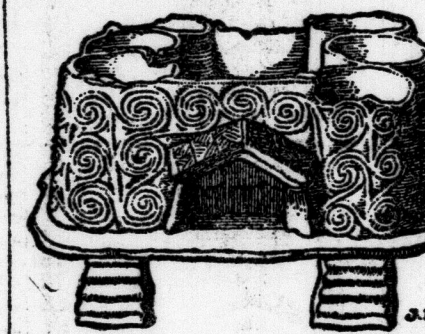
DR. BISHOP'S ADVICE

CARE OF THE BABY



BY DR. R. H. BISHOP.
ILKS and satins are not so important in the life of a baby as sunshine and sanitation. Sunlight is absolutely necessary for the young child. The baby's room should be one, in all the house, which has the largest amount of sunlight. Fresh air is quite as important. Pneumonia, bronchitis, and colds are more often due to absence of fresh air than exposure to it. The temperature of the baby's room should be under absolute control. An open grate is an aid toward this. It is often the case that babies are brutally over-dressed. This, of course, is done with the best of intentions, trying to prevent illness; but it frequently produces just what it is designed to prevent. Absolute cleanliness in everything that touches the baby's food is imperative. This means more than the ordinary cleanliness of a good house-keeper. The utensils used in preparing the food should be in good condition and preferably of enamel or aluminum. They should be boiled for at least 15 minutes before using. The hands and clothing of the person preparing the food should be spotless. An abundance of pure water should be given the baby. It is safer to boil all water given the child and never to give him very cold water. It should be lukewarm. The teeth begin to appear when the child is about seven months old. So many falls on the part of the baby have been assumed to be due to teething. This is a big thing to be taken for granted. If the baby shows signs of unusual fretfulness, or has vomiting spells, it is imperative to seek a physician's advice.

OF the agricultural methods of the lake dwellers we know very little. No plows and no hoes have been found. They were of wood, and have perished. Neolithic men cultivated and ate wheat, barley and millet, but they knew nothing of



BUT URNS—THE FIRST PROBABLY REPRESENTING A LAKE-DWELLING. AFTER LUBBOCK.

oats or rye. Their grain they roasted, ground between stones and stored in pots, to be eaten when needed. And they made exceedingly solid and heavy bread, because round flat slabs of it have been got out of these deposits. Apparently they had no yeast. If they had no yeast then they had no fermented drink.

The Trail of the Wheat.

One sort of barley that they had is the sort that was cultivated by the ancient Greeks, Romans and Egyptians, and they also had an Egyptian variety of wheat, showing that their ancestors had brought or derived this cultivation from the southeast. The center of diffusion of wheat was somewhere in the eastern Mediterranean region. A wild form is still found in the neighborhood of Mount Hermon.

When the lake dwellers sowed their little patches of wheat in Switzerland, they were already following the immemorial practice of mankind. The seed must have been brought age from age from that distant center of diffusion. In the ancestral lands of the southeast men had already been sowing wheat perhaps for thousands of years. Those lake dwellers also ate peas and crabapples—the only apples that then existed in the world. Cultivation and selection had not yet produced the apple of today.

They dressed chiefly in skins, but they also made a rough cloth of flax. Fragments of that flaxen cloth have been discovered. Their nets were made of flax; they had as yet no knowledge of hemp and hempen rope. With the coming of bronze, their pins and ornaments increased in number. There is reason to believe they set great store upon their hair, wearing it in large shocks with pins of bone and afterward of metal.

To judge from the absence of realistic carvings or engravings or paintings, they either did not decorate their garments or decorated them with plaids, spots, interlacing designs, or similar conventional ornaments. Before the coming of bronze there is no evidence of stools or tables; the Neolithic people probably squatted on their clay floors.

There were no cats in these lake dwellings; no mice or rats had yet adapted themselves to human dwellings; the cluck of the hen was not as yet added to the sounds of human life, nor the domestic egg to its diet. The chief tool and weapon of Neolithic man was his axe; his next the bow and arrow. His arrow-heads were of flint, beautifully made, and he lashed them tightly to their shafts.

Probably he prepared the ground for his sowing with a pole, or a pole upon which he had stuck a stag's horn. Fish he hooked on harpoons. These implements no doubt stood about in the interior of the house, from the walls of which hung his fowling nets.

On the floor, which was of clay or trodden cowdung (after the fashion of hut floors in India today), stood pots and jars and woven baskets containing grain, milk and such-like food. Some of the pots and pans hung by rope loops to the walls. At one end of the room, and helping to keep it warm in winter by their animal heat, stabled the beasts. The children took the cows and goats out to graze, and brought them in at night before the wolves and bears came prowling.

Since Neolithic man had the bow, he probably also had stringed instruments, for the rhythmic twanging of a bowstring seems almost inevitably to lead to that. He also had earthenware drums, across which skins were stretched; perhaps, also, he made drums by stretching skins over hollow tree stems.

We do not know when man began to sing, but evidently he was making music, and since he had words, songs were no doubt being made. To begin with, perhaps, he just let his voice loose as one may hear Italian peasants now behind their plows singing songs without words. After dark in the winter he sat in his house and talked and sang and made implements by touch rather than sight.

His lighting must have been poor, and chiefly firelight, but there was probably always some fire in the village, summer or winter. Fire was too troublesome to make for men to be willing to let it out readily. Sometimes a great disaster happened to these pile villages—the fire got free and they were burned out. The Swiss deposits contain clear evidence of such catastrophes.

All this we gather from the remains of the Swiss pile dwellings, and such was the character of the human life that spread over Europe, coming from the south and from the east with the forests as, 10,000 or 12,000 years ago, the reindeer and the Reindeer men passed away. From Hunter to Herdsman.

H. G. WELLS' FAMOUS OUTLINE OF HISTORY

The Romance of Mother Earth

How the Lake Dwellers Lived.

TODAY'S INSTALLMENT—22.

It is evident that we have here a way of life already separated by a great gap of thousands of years of invention from its original Palaeolithic stage. The steps by which it rose from that condition we can only guess at. From being a hunter hovering upon the outskirts of flocks and

them again. He fed them when they starved; and so slowly he tamed them. Perhaps his agriculture began with the storage of fodder. He reaped, no doubt, before he sowed.

The Palaeolithic ancestor away in that unknown land of origin to the southeast first supplemented the precarious meat supply of the hunter by eating roots and fruits and wild grains. Men storing graminiferous grasses for his cattle might easily come to beat out the grain for himself.

All these early beginnings must have taken place far back in time, and in regions of the world that have still to be effectively explored by the archaeologists. They are probably going on in Asia or Africa, in what is now the bed of the Mediterranean, or in the region of the Indian Ocean, while the Reindeer man was developing his art in Europe.

The Neolithic man who drifted over Europe and Western Asia 12,000 or 10,000 years ago were long past these beginnings; they were already close, a few thousand years, to the dawn of written tradition and the remembered history of mankind. Without any very great shock or break, bronze came at last into human life, giving a great advantage in warfare to those tribes who first obtained it. Written history had already begun before weapons of iron

ures where he could be sure to find came into Europe to supersede bronze.

Primitive Trade. — Already in those days a sort of primitive trade had sprung up. Bronze and bronze weapons, and such rare and hard stones as jade, gold because of its plastic and ornamental possibilities, and skins and flax-net and cloth, were being swapped and stolen and passed from hand to hand over great stretches of country.

Salt also was probably being traded. On a meat dietary men can live without salt; but grain-consuming people need it just as herbivorous animals need it. Hopf says that bitter tribal wars have been carried on by the desert tribes of the Sudan in recent years for the possession of the salt deposits between Fezzan and Murzuk. To begin with, barter, blackmail, tribute, and robbery by violence passed into each other by insensible degrees. Men got what they wanted by such means as they could.

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Tomorrow — "When the Mediterranean Was a Valley."

TRAIL RANGERS.

Q.—Who are Trail Rangers?
A.—Trail Rangers are junior teenage boys who are organized under the Canadian standard efficiency training course of the Protestant churches and the Y. M. C. A. The older boys are similarly organized in Tuxia groups.

Brain Testers

How can you make sense out of this?
INXINXIN

Yesterday's answer: Anti-sabbatarians.

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