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W. H. MORTON, Business Manager. J. O. HERRITY, Editor-in-Chief.

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

THE NEED OF INCREASED PRODUCTION IS SO SERIOUS IT MAY BECOME TRAGIC

The increased production campaign should not be treated as a fad nor a species of joke. It is a serious movement, aimed at meeting a very serious situation, a situation which possibly may within a year become almost tragical in its consequences if not heeded.

The disposition with our people is to regard the situation purely from their own local standpoint. They forget that there are millions of men taken from the ordinary fields of production, engaged in war at the present moment in Europe.

Study the matter for a moment from a purely European standpoint. An army of agricultural producers has been transformed into a vast army of agricultural consumers. Their women folks are trying in an unorganized kind of way to fill the wants of the situation, but it is impossible for them to do so. The situation in Europe is to be met practically from the American continent.

Now for a moment transfer the situation to our own country, four hundred thousand of our producers have gone to the battle line.

Across the border an army of one and a quarter million men is to be raised almost immediately. They will be transformed from being producers into consumers. They will remove from soil vast numbers of workers.

It is not the peril of the present moment, which is so startling as the possibility of the peril of tomorrow in the eyes of thinking men.

A Chicago newspaper has been inquiring into this movement in various towns and here are a few of the answers which it received:

Mt. Vernon, Ind.—A notice was published in the papers that vacant lots and other spaces were to be cultivated. In a short time all such lots were taken. The demand exceeded the supply. Charges of vagrancy will be filed against those who are unemployed and this means a sentence to the penal farm. Quite a few high school boys are sons of farmers and will assist on the farms.

Shroaunecetown, Ill.—Most of our labor goes to the surrounding farms during cropping season and harvesting. We have the loafer with us; but I propose to make it very warm for him if he does not hold a job for the summer. About all our vacant lots are being cultivated.

South Bend, Ind.—We have a permanent garden department, and have for the last three years provided citizens with vacant lots. This year we have more than doubled the work done in any former year.

Auburn, Ind.—We have committees listing all vacant lots not already taken in our city. Lots owned by those too unpatriotic to let them out will be confiscated by the city and rented. A carload of potatoes has been purchased and is being shipped from Chicago today.

Marion, Iowa.—We have appointed a committee to get signers for cards specifying how much work they are willing to do on the farms. This includes high school boys and retired farmers. Our banks act as clearing houses, and after the cards are signed they are placed in the banks, and when a farmer wants help he calls up his bankers who give him a list of men and boys.

Council Bluffs, Iowa.—Everybody here has a garden. Our finest lawns are plowed up. We are sending out the high school boys to do farm work and are giving them credit for it in their high school work. Our people are all alive and up and doing.

Kearney, Neb.—Every vacant lot is in cultivation, and in my opinion this will go a long way toward reducing the amount of food products that the town families will have to buy.

Mason City, Iowa.—The school board is allowing the boys to leave school to work on the farms or market gardens, and is giving them credit the same as if they attended the public schools until June. The Rotary Club, civic societies, and country and city officials are working in conjunction to see that all valuable land is cropped.

Franklin, Ind.—We have a committee of three consisting of the superintendent of

schools, secretary of the Commercial Club, and a representative of the women of the town, this committee having charge of the gardening work.

Dr. Marshall reports that he has more applications for vacant lots to cultivate than he has been able to secure of lots. There is still abundant opportunity for lot owners to show their patriotism at the present time.

Principal MacLaurin states that sixty-five boys have already gone out to serve on farms from Belleville High School. He believes that at the close of the term this number will be increased to fully one hundred. A good record, surely.

THE SIXTH SENSE.

The Rev. Billy Sunday, who says "hell" of- tener and louder than any other minister paid the following compliment to newspapers the other day:

If every newspaper were suppressed to- morrow, crime would increase 100 per cent. in forty-eight hours, and hell would break loose. The situation would be so bad that heaven would petition for the re-establishment of the papers.

Malefactors are terrorized at the prospect of exposure, and the fear of publicity is no doubt a powerful factor preventing crime.

But fear is not the most potent influence against crime. The readers of newspapers know the ways of the world. The newspapers bring home the principle of cause and effect. If many people didn't know what they have learned out of the newspapers, they would be tempted to steal, or rig up crooked deals. But being in- formed as they are, they never let the thought enter their minds. People govern their actions according to their information gained through their sight, touch, taste, hearing, smelling and newspapers.

MUNICIPAL MARKETS

The New York Bureau of Municipal Informa- tion has been investigating the subject of municipal markets, with a view to seeing what effect they have on the cost of living. It has re- ceived information from eighty-one American cities that have established such markets suc- cessfully. Their reports include wholesale mar- kets, retail markets and curb markets. Most of them naturally are of the retail sort. Twenty-two cities out of thirty-six that submit detailed reports say that their markets are self-sustain- ing. In seventeen of them the annual income is greater than the cost of operation and all overhead charges.

The cost of food in these markets is almost uniformly less than in the stores. In Cleve- land, Kansas City and several other places it is twenty per cent. less. That is about the aver- age. Philadelphia reports a saving of ten per cent., and Cincinnati fifteen per cent. In Port- land, Ore., food costs ten to 100 per cent. less in the markets than in the stores.

It should cost less in all cases, of course, because the market dealers is free from the ex- pense of delivery and the customer who does his own delivering naturally gets the benefit. But various cities say specifically that the mar- kets have forced dealers to lower their prices when they were unjustifiably high. Thus the markets operate not as unfair competitors of the stores, but as correctives.

When public markets thus save one-fifth of the cost of provisions to anybody who has enough gumption to patronize them, and when properly run do it at no expense whatever to the city, it's hard to see why any city should do without them.

THE SOUP POT

Where are the soups and stews of our youth?

The inquiry isn't merely sentimental, though it brings up rare memories of steaming plates and bowls served by fond mothers to hungry youngsters, and more delicious in smell and taste than all the ambrosial concoctions of French chefs partaken of in maturer days. Soups and stews as mother-used to make them were practical as well as full of emotional ap- peal.

According to a Pittsburgh dietary expert, one of the chief reasons for the present well known cost of living is the disappearance of the soup pot from the kitchen.

"The American housewife," says this ex- pert, "does not follow the example of her Euro- pean sister." She does not follow the example of her own mother and grandmother. She buys the "best cuts," and serves them roasted or boiled or fried, making little use of the by-pro- ducts of the cooking. She ignores the cheaper and tougher meats which "contain more fibre, more flavor and are more nutritious"—just the thing for soups and stews when handled with the culinary skill of our foremothers.

There is little virtue, however, as the ex- perts point out, in thin soups. In making a clear soup nearly all the substances which possess food value are removed. Soups to be

nutritious should be thick, and so should stews—a fact which all growing boys and girls know instinctively, though their parents may have forgotten it.

A BASKETERIA.

Batavia, N.Y., has an enterprising ex-al- dernman who is now running a grocery that is expected to knock the cost of living in that lo- cality. His grocery is a "basketeria," perhaps the first of its kind.

Customers wait on themselves, as they do in a cafeteria, of serve-self lunchroom. The groceries are arranged in bundles or packages, so that a customer may easily pick up what she wants. Buyers enter the store through a turn- stile at one door, pass along the aisles of gro- ceries selecting what they want, then go to the cashier's desk where their purchases are check- ed up and paid for before they pass out through the only exit.

The store is run on a cash basis, and the proprietor expects to make money himself as well as to save money for his customers. With the absence of a corps of clerks, no expensive delivery system and goods sold only for cash, he certainly ought to cut down expenses. And with customers selecting their own purchases he'll be apt to keep his goods up to a high standard. Altogether, this basketeria looks like an experiment that will last.

The report that the British navy has in the last month put more German U-boats out of business than in any previous month gives hope that at last the solution of the problem of deal- ing with the submarine menace is in sight.

Wages in Canada were never so high as now, says Hon. Mr Crothers; never before were there so many workers banking money regu- larly; therefore, the high cost of living is not so serious a matter as some people try to make out. Even if it were true that all wage earners are making big money (which it isn't), there is the large army of persons with small fixed in- comes: what about them? Are they not deserv- ing of any consideration?

Among the most serious sufferers as the result of the present European war are the Armenians, who, with any sort of a chance, are intelligent, thrifty people of great possi- bilities. Their interest in this war is very re- mote and indirect, and they are innocent vic- tims. A despatch is to the effect that a third of the whole Armenian race has either been massacred or died from starvation. The Turks have wickedly and wantonly killed them right and left with out much resistance. The others have been left to starve to death and their plight is most pitiable.

One of the newest and most daring means of generating electricity is that in use near Larderello, Italy, where a volcano has been harnessed to a generator, and produces 12,000 horsepower. The volcano technically speak- ing, being what would be popularly called a geyser of setam. The steam rushes out of a crack in the earth at a high temperature. It is used to superheat ordinary steam, because it con- tains so much mineral that it destroys boilers when used directly. This volcanic steam has long been used for heating on a small scale. Since the war began it generates immense quantities of electricity for use in munition factories.

Have you a little moving picture theater in your house? That question is likely to become common as a result of a newly patented in- vention, simplifying the moving picture ma- chine for home use. In this new machine the hissing carbon pencils with their frequent need of adjustment, which are a part of the type of machine used by lecturers, are done a- way with. Their place is taken by an ordi- nary electric light bulb, of size varying from 10 to 500 watts. The machine is built all in one piece, so that it can be easily carried about, and has a patent shutter which the manufac- turers claim will do away with all flickering.

Few people are aware of the wonderful provision made by nature to protect against the breakage of the egg of a bird by the use of the arch. The fact is that no man, no matter how strong he may be, is able to break a sound hen's egg by squeezing it between his hands, applying the pressure according to the axis of the egg. A writer in the Scientific American says: In experiments made, brown eggs prove to be stronger than white ones and break under a pressure averaging 155 pounds, the minimum being 125 pounds and the maximum 175 pounds. White eggs break under an average pressure of 112 pounds. The egg, setting point upward, is placed on a platform scale and pressure applied to it by a lever and jack; felt seats conveni- ently disposed prevent the egg coming in contact with the wood. The shells, measured for thick- ness, are found to be .013 of an inch to .014 of an inch. When it is considered that the average

diameter of eggs is 1 3/4 inches, some idea may be formed of the enormous strength provided by nature. It is because of this great strength at the axis of the egg that they are placed in the crates, small end down.

An electric refrigerating machine has re- cently been patented which applies an old prin- ciple on a scale small enough to be used eco- nomically in the family ice box. It is designed to take the place of melting ice as a cooling system. It works by pumping ammonia vapor through a pipe system, like all artificial ice- making machines, but it is very compact and simple; its smallest size has a cooling capacity only equal to that of a 130-pound block of ice daily. It maintains a more constant tempera- ture than ice itself, because the ice-block al- ways gets very small before being replaced. The ice-machine is also said to be cheaper, disre- garding the initial cost.

It is one of the remarkable features of the war that the ruthless acts of Germany have done more than anything else to strengthen the Monroe doctrine. Germany is the one pow- er above all others that has been antagonistic to that doctrine. She has watchfully waited her opportunity to descend upon the Western hemisphere and secure a permanent foothold here. And now by the logical development of her conscienceless policy of aggression she finds South America, on which she had set her heart, arrayed against her and bound to us by closer ties of sentiment and interest than ever before. Thus she has been her own undoing again.

Probably no more important task could be undertaken at the present time than the send- ing of a mission to Russia. In a few days Elihu Root, probably the ablest statesman of the United States will proceed to Petrograd to lend a helping hand to the people, who are now evi- dently in the throes of fear and uncertainty. That the world's leading republic should thus recognize the world's latest republic will, in it- self, prove a steady influence, but apart from this, Mr. Root's practical statesmanship will be of unlimited value at a time when the Russian people are practically running amuck for lack of leadership.

The real state of affairs in Russia has not been disclosed, but the world at large knows that disruption exists, that the war, so far as the Russians are concerned, is at a standstill, but there is now a gleam of hope since the cabi- net has been definitely reorganized apparently with the consent of all parties. But since half the cabinet is Socialistic the future is still doubtful.

If Mr. Root's arrival is not delayed too long he may prove the Moses to lead the Russians out of their wilderness of doubt.

Why eat potatoes when they are so expen- sive? The observation has been made that the potato is a habit rather than a necessity, and this without question is true. The way to break the habit is rice. Rice and potatoes are much alike in composition. Potatoes are large- ly water which expands the starchy interior. Rice has much starch in its composition with little water and it contains two-thirds more flesh building properties than the tubers. Today a pound of rice costs but little more than a pound of potatoes and a pound of rice will go a long way. Buy rice then instead of potatoes. Many people say they do not like rice, but the reason for this in numerous cases is that they are not provided with palatable rice dishes. Housewives do not know how to prepare them. If used with cheese, peas, beans, rice will give all the sustenance the body needs. It is up to the housewife to experiment with rice and if in buying it she asks for broken rice she will practice economy, for she will get just as good for about half the price of the whole article.

THE OLD RED SCHOOLHOUSE.

Beside the quiet country road it stands, Its red walls gleaming in the morning sun, Within is heard the sound of busy hands And the hum of many lessons just begun.

The teacher's voice comes through the open door, Helping his willing class to work and win; Or gently, sternly, scolding three or four Who, loitering, late, come softly gliding in.

An air of rustic sense pervades the place, And shines out clearly from a score of eyes, Though, here and there, a laughing bright eyed face

Makes known where fun and sportive spirit lies Thus day by day, and year by year, the same, Though faces change and old ones disappear, The building stands, aspiring not to fame, Contented with its rural toned career.

Oh, little building, standing there alone, Beside the road that off my feet have trod Your memory in my heart has deeply grown, And ever will flourish in its greenest sod!

—Arthur C. Harte.

Other Editors' Opinions

KEEP THE MONEY AT HOME

During the last three days of the week about \$65,000 will be received by the railway men of Smiths Falls in wages. Just how much—or how little—of that money will be spent in town cannot be stated with cer- tainty, but from what we have been able to learn we believe that the local merchants will get less than half of it. And who is to blame? Of course the merchant blames the rail- way men and their wives for buying clothing and food supplies in Otta- wa, Montreal and from the mail- order houses of Toronto, but the merchant must confess that they make no effort to attract the custom of the people who want all they can get for their hard-earned dollars. On the other hand, the wide-awake mail- order houses are kept after their desirable business, sending out at- tractive catalogues and circulars at quoting tempting prices, and they get a big share of the money that should be spent in the local store. True, in many lines the home mer- chant can give better value and the purchaser has the advantage of seeing what the article is, but nobody knows about it. If the merchants of Smiths Falls would use more printer's ink; tell the people what they have to sell and the bargains they offer, thus showing that they want and will appreciate the custom of the people of Smiths Falls, they will find less money going out of town every month and more left to circulate at home.—Smiths Falls News.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

The new law granting the franchise to women went into effect by proclamation on Saturday and pre- sently 3,000 men will be withdrawn from industry and engaged at a cost of \$300,000 to enumerate the won- en and prepare the new voters' list, and this at a time when everyone is urged to devote all his energies to the production of food. If this work has to be done, it might at least have been entrusted to women.—North Hastings Review.

PLEASE ENLIGHTEN US

What is a conundrum; who can an- swer it? During the last week of January 33,600 bushels of Canadian potatoes were sold in Havana. They brought \$2.50 a bushel, the highest price ever paid there. About that time Can- adian consumers were paying \$2.80 a bushel. Will some person who knows a heap more than we do please tell us why Canadian potatoes should sell for less in Cuba than they do in Canada?—Campbellford News.

TWEED'S CHEAP BREAD

Our bread eaters now have to pay 20 cents per three pound loaf for their bread. With wheat \$3 and over per bush- el it is almost a miracle that we can get 20 cent bread. We were discussing the situation the other day with our local bakers and they demonstrated very plainly that if everybody would come and get their bread and not require them to keep delivery men and rigs, they could at least reduce the price per loaf by 2 cents. By our demands we make our liv- ing expenses high. If we were really anxious to reduce the "H.C. or L." and went about it as though we meant it, we would be greatly sur- prised at the smallness of our food bill. We could do this and yet suf- fer no dangerous physical effects, and in many cases our physical con- dition would be greatly improved.—The News.

JAS. E. JACKSON DEAD

James Edward Jackson died at Plainfield yesterday at the age of 67 years. Death was due to heart-failure. Mourning his loss are three sons—William and Charles, who are at the front; James Wesley at home; Mrs. Bates, Kingston; Mrs. Charles Gold- rick, Woodlake, California and Mrs. Hamilton, Three Rivers, Quebec.

CASUALTIES

Killed in Action—C. H. Brownell, Whitby G. Eldridge, Port Hope N. McSullivan, Pembroke H. Leslie, Trenton E. I. Codd, Lindsay C. J. Dummitt, Peterboro O. E. Brant, Deseronto W. P. P. Ghanonville M. Wannamaker, Trenton G. P. Rooke, Wellington E. R. Goodfellow, Corbyville J. G. Miller, Peterboro C. T. Robinson, Winchester J. W. Robson, Holloway H. Danks, Cobourg