

THE OBSERVER

OTHERWISE

"COTTON'S WEEKLY"

The Leading Weekly of the Eastern Townships.

Is issued every Thursday from the office of publication, MAIN STREET, COWANSVILLE.

WILLIAM ULRIC COTTON,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

H. A. WEBB, MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions payable in advance.

Canada, one year \$1.00
United States and foreign countries 1.50**DISCONTINUANCES**—If you wish THE OBSERVER stopped, an explicit notice must be sent us, otherwise it will be continued. All arrears must be paid.**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**—Subscribers must give old as well as new address. If you do not get your paper promptly notify us. We will supply missing numbers free if requested in time.**RENEWALS**—When renewing always say that your subscription is a renewal. We accept new subscriptions by starting the paper, and renewals by changing the date on the address label.**CLAIMS**—We make them sometimes. If you have cause for complaint try to write us patiently. We will do our part. Give us credit for the intention to deal fairly.

THURSDAY, NOV. 26, 1908

NATURE AND SOCIALISM

F. C. MEARS

Socialism will not down. It seems to be a mode of thinking that's here to stay. There is an element of permanency attached to this philosophy of social relations that cannot be obliterated. It is daily adding to itself new disciples and apostles recruited not only from the circles of more or less intelligent labor but also from the higher planes of society. It is a significant fact that eminent scholars in by no means inconsiderable numbers are identifying themselves with this new cult. A recent writer on the subject has declared, and truly, that there are enough highly educated persons now identified with the movement to prove that socialism and the higher culture are not incompatible. Whether or not the permanent attitude of Science toward this new, living issue will be one of conservatism it is difficult to say with confidence, but the fact has now been firmly established that Socialism as a theory of human society, if not a practice, has now become so thoroughly incorporated into the minds of the present generation as to be independent of the censures pronounced upon it by the savants.

Socialism merits serious and careful consideration. Is it a reasonable theory? Is it workable? If generally adopted would it retard or accelerate human progress? All these questions at once suggest themselves to all seekers after the truth of things, and are of sufficient weight to deserve deliberate answers.

Nature demands progress. Growth, evolution, development, improvement are the never-changing passwords into her desirable society. Emerson says, "We are strong as we ally ourselves with nature, and weak as we fight against her or disregard her." Nothing is to be gained from opposing nature, or coercing her or attempting to supersede her methods. She is sublimely superior to human influences and it is well. Were human beings able to alter the lunar orbit to satisfy their sub-lunary caprices, were stellar firmaments sensible to mundane agencies the music of the spheres, the universal rhythm would cease abruptly and the regularity of our day and night would become a comfort of the past. It is supremely well that the things and powers not ourselves should live and move and have their being in a sphere eminently distinct from the sphere of human activities. A clash of human and super-human powers would spell extinction for one of them, at least. Nature sits enthroned in majesty, intelligence and serenity transcendentally superior to men, and her administration of this sub-lunary sphere is infinitely wiser, more just and more progressive than it would be were it in the hands of our inconsiderable selves. The folly of interfering with nature's methods will be fully appreciated by those people or institutions that have ever dared to resist the Cosmic Urge or to disturb the Universal Poise. It is suicide to tamper with Nature's tools.

Socialism by demanding a reduction of the present inequality in the distribution of the world's wealth, the abolition of industrial monopolies and the decentralization of administrative power seeks, perhaps not deliberately, to either accelerate nature's speed or to supersede her by forcing her hand.

Just here Socialism errs. Nature knows her own business best. The world is not yet in complete readiness for the wholesale adoption of a communistic philosophy as a practical system of human relationship. If it were, the power inherent in the Divine principle of universal economy would be brought to bear to carry this system into adoption.

It is a notable fact that Socialism has never been successfully experimented with. There is a vast difference between the theoretical and actual aspects of a problem. Socialism as a theory, as a system upon the principles of which the activities of human society might be based, has been carefully weighed in the balance of scientific scrutiny and has been found not wanting. It has been experimented with in the actual daily affairs of men and has presented discrepancies and what might almost appear insurmountable difficulties in the way of satisfactory adoption. As someone has said, some country must turn itself into an experimental laboratory for testing the collective mode of production and distribution, before the world can definitely know what the process would involve. Socialism has never been tried out on national dimensions and, therefore, no one is in a position to know what would result from experimenting with it extensively.

Theoretically Socialism possesses to a high degree those elements that make for permanency because it stands for the recognition of broad and progressive principles. But Utopia is never realized; it recedes as humanity presses forward to attain it. This is neither a flimsy nor a sorry conclusion. The fact that the race has set up for itself ideals so high as to be really incapable of realization, rather than proving the vanity of human wishes and the inconsequence of human power and endeavor, supplies a splendid testimonial to the race's high cultural achievement and its strength to resist and survive the buffetings of capricious censure and derision.

"A man's reach should be beyond his grasp,
Or what's a heaven for?"

ARE UNDER CURSE

Methodist Ministers and Laymen Exchanged Criticisms at Conference

A special spiritual conference of the Methodist pastors and five delegates from each Methodist Church in the West Toronto district was held last Friday says the Toronto World.

Mr. Pemberton Page, speaking of the pulpit from the church members' standpoint, declared that the pew demanded that the pulpit should live up to the teachings of its own preaching.

Dr. A. H. Thornton gave an address on "The Pulpit as Seen by the Man on the Street." The man on the street, he said, has a right to expect the preacher to be a better man, a better type of Christian than the Christian man in the pew. A man should be good up to the measure of his knowledge and ability. The man on the street hears a sermon on "Self-denial" and almost unconsciously asks himself: "Do ministers practice self-denial?" Preachers have been known to have been led by the spirit to accept a call to a higher salary.

The oft-repeated assertion, that a man is called of God to the ministry has had the effect of making of the ministry a "class apart." He believed the power of the pulpit would be enhanced if the "special call" were dropped and preachers discarded their distinctive dress.

There is an opinion very widely held, and very openly expressed, that many men in the pulpit to-day have a very decided preference for the people "who fare sumptuously and dress in purple and fine linen."

One criticism very frequently heard is this: "Why cannot the men in the pulpit be natural in their manner of address?" There is not any great amount of piety in a jargonous voice.

The average man is not disposed to limit the scope of the pulpit as long as the themes discussed have some relations to the activities of human life.

There is perhaps nothing in the pulpit which does not find its counterpart in the pew. But spiritual stock-taking can be made a profitable exercise, and the work of the church will conform more largely to correct standards if pulpit and pew will reason together.

Rev. Dr. E. N. Baker's topic, "The Church Member and Adherent," elicited the statement that the man who enters or stays in the ministry for the money there is in it, is under the curse of heaven. If the pew wanted more spiritually-minded ministers, the pew should relieve them of personal, and church business cares to the greatest possible extent.

Rev. J. E. Sanderson expressed the view that the pulpit of the present needs to become more direct in its preaching with greater concentration in the cardinal truths of the Gospel.

SHEAR WIT

Amusing Stories to While Away the Lighter Moments

Senior to Photographer—Which way shall I turn my eye?
Photographer—Toward that sign, please.
(Sign reads)—"Terms cash."

The minister had just been giving the class a lesson on the Prodigal Son. At the finish, to test what attention had been paid to his teaching, he asked: "Who was sorry that the Prodigal had returned?" The most forward youngster in the class breathlessly answered, "The fatted calf!"

"My grandfather," said the new neighbor, who was making a duty call, "was a great portrait painter. With one stroke he could change a smiling face into a sad one."

"Huh!" exclaimed small Johnny, who happened to be in the parlor. "Our teacher can do that."

An ambitious young Torontonian recently called upon a publisher of novels in that city, to whom he imparted confidentially the information that he had decided to "write a book," and that he would be pleased to afford the publisher the chance to bring it out.

"May I venture to inquire as to the nature of the book you propose to write?" asked the publisher, very politely.

"Oh," came in an offhand way from the aspirant for fame, "I think of doing something on the line of Les Miserables, 'only livelier' you know!"

He was a collector for an installment system establishment, new at the business, and very sensitive about performing his unpleasant task. He was particularly embarrassed, because the lady upon whom he had called was so exceedingly polite and beautiful. Still the van was at the door, the lady was in arrears in her payments, and he remembered his duty.

"Good morning," said the lady. It is a beautiful day, is it not?"

"Beautiful, indeed," he agreed.

"Won't you take a chair?" she said.

"Er—no, thank you, not this morning," he stammered. "I think I'll take the piano."

The customs of military service require officers to visit the kitchens during cooking hours to see that the soldiers' food is properly prepared, says Good Health. One old colonel, who let it be pretty generally known that his orders must be obeyed without question or explanation, once stopped two soldiers who were carrying a soup kettle out of a kitchen.

One of the soldiers ran and fetched a ladle and gave the colonel the desired taste. The colonel spat and spluttered.

"Good heavens man! You don't call that stuff soup do you?"

"No sir," replied the soldier; "it's dishwater we was emptying, sir."

Master—What is the date of the battle of Waterloo?

Pupil—I don't know, sir.

Master—It is a quite simple matter, if you haven't a good memory, to employ some mechanical method to aid you. In this case, for instance, take the twelve apostles and the half of their number, which makes eighteen. Multiply them by 100; that makes 1800. Now, take the twelve apostles again and add a quarter to their number, which makes fifteen. Add it all up together, which makes 1815, the date you want. Quite simple, you see, and you can always remember dates by using that system.

Sam Porter and Hiram Brown were out rowing on the Merrimack when the boat capsized, spilling both men in the water. Sam was a fine swimmer, but was not very bright, while Hiram was bright enough but could not swim a stroke. When Sam found himself in the water he struck out lustily for the shore, while Hiram clung to the overturned skiff.

As soon as Sam reached the shore he was about to plunge into the water again, when a man standing near said: "What are you going back into the water for? You just swam ashore."

Sam paused a moment, then said: "Wall, I had to save myself first; now I'm going back to fetch Hiram!" And he proceeded to bring Hiram ashore.

NEW INVENTIONS

Novel Type of Plow

A plow has been invented which is designed to open up the ground below a furrow, so as to form a conduit in which the moisture will be retained and

an excess of moisture will be drained off. In times of drought, the circulation of the air beneath the roots of the plants will draw down any moisture in the atmosphere, and promote their growth. After a fairly good rainfall, the conduit below the furrow will accumulate a certain amount of water, which will be sufficient to keep the roots of the plant moist. The plow is of very simple construction, and quite similar to the ordinary. We are informed that this plow has been in use, with very favorable results. The crops which have been grown over these underground conduits have shown a remarkably increased yield. The plow can be attached behind an ordinary rotary plow, thus reducing the expense of operating it. The inventors of this plow are Messrs. S. F. Vose and C. R. Harryman of Shawnee, Okla.

Frying Pan Cover

An inventor in Chicago has devised a frying pan with a cover which may be raised, whenever it is desired to examine the contents of the pan, without danger of burning one's fingers. The cover is formed with an extension, which passes through the handle of the pan. A thumb piece is attached to this extension, and passes vertically through to the upper side of the handle. The cover may then be opened by depressing the thumb piece. Hinged to the handle is a catch, which may be swung over the thumb piece to hold the latter in its depressed position when it is desired to keep the cover of the pan open.

Kettle Tilter

A simple device which may be used to tilt a kettle in which vegetables or other food is being cooked, so that it may be drained without scalding the hands has just been patented. It consists of a pair of wire arms, which may be fitted to grip the edges of the kettle. These arms are provided with a pair of handles which are crossed under the bail of the kettle. A third handle may be seized in one hand, while the other two handles are grasped in the other hand. The kettle will thus be firmly gripped, and it may be tilted to any desired degree with perfect safety.

Plow for Turning Surface Soil

A plow which has just been patented, is arranged to cut two slices of soil as it passes through the earth, one from the surface soil and one from the subsoil. The first layer is turned over into a ditch cut by the previous run, while the second layer of subsoil is turned over on to the first layer. In this way seeds and weeds are completely buried, while the rich subsoil is brought to the surface. The plow is formed with two shares, one placed in front of the other, and the rear one making a deeper cut. The forward share is of such form as to force the layer of soil it cuts to one side, and at the same time turn it over.—Scientific American.

The Main Chance

Here is a good story that comes from a reliable exchange:

"We were hard at work building a new church out in Columbus," said Jack "and all of us that belonged gave what we could to it. One day the priest went to Riley, who kept a saloon. 'Riley,' he says, 'Riley, you ought to give the church a handsome stained-glass window. You're doing well here and c'd afford it.'"

"I will," says Riley. "Next day he went to a place where they sold stained-glass windows. 'I want to buy one for our new church,' said he."

"Here's one at \$100, Mr. Riley," said the clerk. "Too cheap," says Riley.

"Would a \$500 window be too dear, Mr. Riley?"

"'Tis a cheap windy," says Riley. "I want the best ye have in the house." So they sold him a \$500 window. "And what will you have on it, Mr. Riley?" they asked.

"Nawt'in," says Riley. "Nawt'in at all."

"But, Mr. Riley," says the clerk, "it's customary to have something on an expensive window like this. Some nice design or motto, you know."

"Well, all right," says Riley. "Ye might put on the bottom of it, 'Drop into Riley's After Mass.'"

THE PROMOTER'S COMPLACENCY

The stock was water that you bought from me, 'tis true, on gilt-edge terms.

And yet, young man, you surely ought to thank me since it holds no germs.

One Canadian and one American subscription to THE OBSERVER for \$1.50. Only one must be new.

Two for One

WE have decided for a Limited Time to make the offer of Two Subscriptions to THE OBSERVER for the price of one. But

ONE SUBSCRIBER

MUST BE NEW

Here is a chance for friends or neighbors to club together and buy to advantage, or for subscribers renewing to make a sensible present to friends or relatives in Canada or the United States. Note the offers below.

Two Canadian Subs. for the Price of one \$1.00

One Canadian and one American Subscription \$1.50

THE OBSERVER has mapped out a line of progress for the coming year, and subscribers will get very generous value. Important changes are in store, as The Observer will become a paper appealing to all Canada in general, and the Eastern Townships in particular.

GET ENROLLED NOW ON OUR SUBSCRIPTION LIST

LEND US YOUR EAR

For a minute or two. We want to do your Plumbing and other jobs of this nature. Our staff will take charge of any Roofing, Steamfitting, etc., in a creditable manner, and our prices are very reasonable. Come and talk it over with us.

Canada Dairy Utensil Co., Ltd
Buzzell Block, Cowansville

Don't lay away the things you don't need. Sell them. Put a little ad. in THE OBSERVER. Somebody else wants them.

Cedar Shingles

High Grade 16 Inch
N. B. Cedar Shingles

We have the largest and best equipped Shingle Mill in the Province, with a yearly capacity of ONE HUNDRED MILLIONS, and are always in a position to ship promptly all orders entrusted to us.

We also make a specialty of Planed and Matched SPRUCE LUMBER. The best of Raw Material, combined with careful attention to details of manufacture and milling, ensure perfect satisfaction to our customers. Address

The Metis Lumber Co.
PRICE, RIMOUSKI CO., P. Q.



M. B. JUDSON
Undertaker and Embalmer

Personal attention. Prices moderate. Calls attended Day or Night

MAIN STREET COWANSVILLE
PHONE NO. 47

Subscribers in renewing their subscription for THE OBSERVER, can make a Canadian friend the present of a year's subscription. We are now giving two subs for \$1.00, providing one is a new subscriber.

Want to sell or buy a horse, or other animal? Try a want ad. in THE OBSERVER.

FOR

Upholstering
Furniture Repairing
Picture Framing, etc.

CALL ON

Neill & Miller

Successors to E. O. McNab

COWANSVILLE

Undertaking and Embalming a Specialty.

JOHN LAUDER

SURGEON-DENTIST

Office on the ground floor of the Ruiter Block, Cowansville.

WESTOVER & COTTON

ADVOCATES, ETC.

HULL BLOCK COWANSVILLE

McKEOWN & BOIVIN

ADVOCATES, BARRISTERS, & C.

Offices:

SWEETSBURG AND GRANBY.

W. K. McKEOWN. - G. H. BOIVIN

COWANSVILLE
TARIFF

At last reduction States.

ing the pa to do aw Taft acce little in fa standpatte joke, sou but they a broad den from man consumers of protecti

Raw ma ing scarce the removala

materials. V a-manufac the manufac

a wider fie material t Moreover, consider th

holding the for food, st village of in farm produ

American s for tariff re Washington close to the

Carnegie complete 2 While the been mute declaring th

Andy show that the Un can produ other coun hindrance

between Can railway line border and into Canada the through

ceives how could carry riers to ham ing trade.

for free trade The Ameri

iates all slav nobility of E great deferen

own industri and Hill con chances are

listen and th reductions in

Should lov Canada and will be great

the industry a tern Townsh development

Canada the stood still, along the line

north and so Sudbury. Wi have participa

Canada. The being, out of ment, have d way.

The tariff w with New Yo Vermont to th

to the east we a blind alle, for through co

fare." Were the t would develop

East as well as Our border to

and our villag share in that velopment wh

place along the routes of the U

tariff wall is and industry v men of intellig

continue to sell We have hal ing George E. I quai election.