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sition Room, 76, Circulation Department.
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The Railway Problem.

REFERENCE HAS been made in several papers to the fact that THE ADVERTISER is giving publicity to the articles of J. L. PAYNE, formerly statistical expert of the department of railways and canals, because its attitude is, and has been, against the policy of public ownership. The reason why THE ADVERTISER is giving attention to the articles from Mr. PAYNE is because they throw light on a question that is certainly in need of all the intelligent publicity that can be centred on it. What this paper or any other paper thinks or does not think about public ownership amounts to very little compared to the presentation of basic facts upon which the readers of this paper can base their own opinions and be in a better position to judge whether the opinions of this paper are founded on fact or prejudice.

It is a very easy but a very expensive matter to burn incense at the altar of a theory. When the taxpayers of the Dominion face the problems they do face today the only logical and reasonable thing to do is to face facts at the same time.

In the fourth article in Saturday Night Mr. PAYNE tackles the cold proposition of proving from actual figures that public ownership is not as efficient as operation by a private company.

Taking the Canadian Northern, before and after its being taken over by the government and putting it in contrast with the Canadian Pacific in the same years, it is interesting to notice the rapidity with which the number of people on the payroll increased. Here are the figures. From 1918 to 1920 on the Canadian Northern are government-owned years. Canadian Northern:

	Operating	Employees
mileage	per 1,000 miles	
1916	9,702	2,151
1917	9,465	2,204
1918	9,479	2,332
1919	9,529	3,164
1920	9,743	3,433

The corresponding facts respecting the Canadian Pacific are as follows:

	Operating	Employees
mileage	per 1,000 miles	
1916	12,994	4,856
1917	12,989	4,812
1918	13,389	4,757
1919	13,389	4,538
1920	13,402	5,227

Between 1916 and 1920 the C. P. R. increased its number of employees per 1,000 miles by 6.9 per cent, while the Canadian Northern had an increase of 59.5 per cent.

We must therefore see that as between 1916 and 1920 the Canadian Pacific increased its number of employees per 1,000 miles by 6.9 per cent, while the Canadian Northern had an increase of 59.5 per cent. The chief fact in which we are immediately concerned is that this very serious adverse showing took place after the Canadian Northern had been definitely taken over by government in 1918. Between 1916 and 1918 the increase had been but 8.4 per cent; but between 1918 and 1920, during government ownership, the increase was 47.2 per cent. During the latter period the increase on the Canadian Pacific was 9.8 per cent.

Then, again, the number of employees on the C. N. R. and C. P. R. shows the difference in a startling light. Here is the comparison:

	Number of employees	C. N. R.	C. P. R.
1916	21,244	63,487	
1917	20,863	62,504	
1918	22,103	63,689	
1919	30,155	61,093	
1920	44,443	70,653	

Although these two roads were operating side by side, under precisely similar conditions in every respect, the extreme variation in these years, in the case of the Canadian Pacific was 12.8. In the case of the Canadian Northern it was 60.3 per cent. It might be urged, however, that a corresponding increase in traffic had occurred on the government road. Far from it. The advances in the number of ton and passenger miles had been but 2.9 per cent. That trivial increase did not demand any addition to the number of its employees.

Take another test, viz., trainloads. It does not require technical knowledge to see that it pays to have an engine hauling as many tons per mile as possible. Compare the two roads on this basis:

	Average trainload—tons	C. N. R.	C. P. R.
1914	396.0	406.9	
1915	301.0	469.4	
1916	359.9	519.4	
1917	378.4	538.8	
1918	361.4	539.4	
1919	337.9	498.1	
1920	353.2	529.3	

Mr. PAYNE's own summing up of this phase of the case follows:

Beginning with an operating surplus of \$5,543,559 in 1918 when government took it over, in two years thereafter it had an operating deficit of \$16,258,550, although it had received \$286,000,000 out of the public treasury since 1914 to strengthen it, and gained \$22,627,576 in gross earnings.

In government hands it lost shockingly in efficiency, although it was in that respect public ownership

should have been able to make its best demonstration.

The same thing happened right under our eyes across the line. The United States government took over all the railways in 1917 as a war measure. From the moment government took hold the number of employees began to rise at a terrific pace. Before the finish came in 1919 the railways of the United States, which had for three years preceding shown average net earnings of \$900,000,000 per annum, registered a straight loss of a billion and a half.

Those Spotters.

THE SPOTTER is not in favor, and none there who be wise up and speak in his favor. The Chatham Planet looks at him thusly:

"We believe that the cry against the spotters is sufficient proof that they should be dismissed from service in the cause of temperance. If they work all over the province the same as they have worked in this district in the past—and reports indicate that they do—then the law cannot be too loud or too long. Laws were not made for the purpose of tempting people to break them. Legislators who make the laws are not justified in employing agents to induce people to become law-breakers. It is particularly ridiculous in connection with a law which has the moral features of the temperance measure. It would be just as consistent for a minister of the gospel to employ his time in going about tempting the members of his congregation to steal in order that he might use the evidence thus produced to show to the world the value of being good."

Of course, the answer to that is that the man who goes ahead and minds his own business never comes in contact with a spotter. It might also be urged that there is a lot of maudlin sympathy handed out to those who are gathered in by the spotters.

But after all has been said and done, the fact remains that there is something underhanded in the way a spotter has to work that does not look clean or wholesome to the average red-blooded man.

Sinner or saint, dandy or bum, there is something in British blood that likes a show-down in the open.

Of course, it's hard to get evidence in O. T. A. cases by ordinary methods, and bootleggers don't walk down main streets with a sign on their back telling their name, address and phone number.

Twist it around as you like, though, and you can't popularize the "spotter" game.

Science Is Power.

WE ARE reading a great deal these days about Muscle Shoals and Henry Ford's proposition to take them over from the American government and develop the water-power there available; but it is probable few of us grasp the underlying purpose. In a few words, it is simply to extract food from the air—of course, not directly, but indirectly. In addition to sunlight and water, plants require potash, phosphate and nitrogen. These are all found in virgin soil. Repeated cropping, however, exhausts these vital elements, and the result is lowered production. That has been going on for a century and more throughout older Canada, and in even a more wasteful degree in the western provinces, for while some attempt at reforestation has been made in the eastern provinces, the prairies have had nothing in the nature of restoration.

It happens, however, that we have all the elements for restoring lost fertility to our fields in unthinkable abundance. The air about is four-fifths nitrogen, and it only remains to get that vast store of plant food in some form that will be available. It is not a difficult problem in its basic factors. By heating the air to a high temperature, some of the nitrogen is made to unite with oxygen, and in that state can be turned into a salt with lime, potash or soda as its base. It is then ready for plant food. The electric furnace is the agency used in this process, and hence the need for power.

Science still has much to do, however, in the adaptation of available nitrogen for the purposes of our farms, and that is where our Research Council will come in. The whole problem of bettering farm conditions in Canada is essentially a matter for scientific solution. The same thing is true of our industries; so that what Germany did in her state-aided laboratories, and the United States is now doing, cannot be ignored by Canada. It is a vital necessity to give to our industries in field, forest, mine and fisheries all the help which scientific research can afford.

What People Read.

THE REPORT of Wingham public library for February, gives an idea of what the people are reading. The list shows this—

	Adult.	Juvenile.
General	9	13
Philosophy	2	0
Religious	10	1
Sociology	8	5
Science	27	6
Useful Arts	20	1
Fine Arts	5	1
History	29	1
Geography	12	4
Biography	19	0
Fiction	846	450

In other words, this library exists for the purpose of providing fiction, novels and light reading for the community. Occasionally some seeker after knowledge comes in and romps off with something on science and useful arts, but the cases are not numerous for their frequency.

Other libraries show the same

25 YEARS AGO TODAY

Here We Have Items of Local and District Interest
As Recorded in The Advertiser of 1897.

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1897.

Weather—Mild, with local showers.

The Western Butter and Cheese Association will hold a meeting at the dairy school, Strathroy, on March 26. Among those who will give addresses are: F. J. Sleightholm, superintendent of dairy school; John S. Pearce and R. Robertson, London; W. Waddell, instructor in cheese-making, Western dairy school; J. B. Muir, Avonbank; J. W. Wheaton, secretary, and others.

A regular meeting of the executive committee of the Synod of Huron was held in Bishop Cronyn Hall yesterday afternoon and evening. The Bishop of Huron took the chair at 2:30 p.m. and among those present were Revs. Dean Innes, R. Hicks, J. C. Farthing, W. Craig, R. McCosh, T. R. Davis, Canon Young, Canon Hill, Canon Richardson, H. A. Thomas, Archdeacon Davis, D. Deacon, canon Smith, J. B. Moorehouse, J. W. Hodgins, G. B. Sage, J. Downie, F. G. Newton, Wm. Lowe, J. E. Wright, J. Taylor, S. F. Robinson, C. R. Gunne, Messrs. Dymond, Hunaford, Jenkins, Woods, Brooke, Bayley, Cronyn, Noble, Fox, Sutherland, Pearce, Luscombe, Ferguson, Mucklin, Shaw-Wood and Harrison.

The following were appointed a committee to prepare the convening circular of synod: Revs. Dean Innes, Archdeacon Davis, Canon Smith and Messrs. Bayly, Luscombe, Cronyn and the secretaries.

The election of officers for 1897 for the Supreme Circle, O. C. H. C., Cranford, resulted as follows: Rev. E. B. Stevenson of Lemonville was elected, Bro. J. M. Dench of Trenton, supreme secretary; Bro. J. M. Foster,

Simcoe, supreme secretary; Bro. D. R. Foster was again elected supreme treasurer.

The following gentlemen, representing the loan companies of this city waited on the Ontario government and urged certain amendments to Mr. Gibson's bill regarding loan companies: Messrs. G. A. Somerville and P. McKenzie from the Huron & Erie Loan and Savings Company; W. Jones and M. H. Rowland, Canadian; W. F. Bullen and A. O. Jeffery, Ontario; T. H. Purdon and Mr. Reid, Dominion; M. J. Kent and Mr. Gibbons, London Loan Company.

The audience which crowded the "Y" last evening was charmed with the musical and elocutionary entertainment provided. Mrs. Frances J. Moore acted as musical director. Miss Hyman recited "Little Joe." Two solos were rendered by Mr. Becher. Miss Sparkman also sang.

Other numbers on the program were: Chorus, "O, Thou Breeze of Spring;" Choral Club; vocal solo, Miss Goulding; reading, Miss Boon; piano solo, Miss Holmes; vocal solo, "Bygone Days," Miss Packham; reading, Miss Horton; vocal solo, Mr. McIntosh; vocal solo, "Maya Town," Miss Packham; vocal solo, Miss Walker; vocal solo, Miss Goulding; chorus, "The Lord Is My Shepherd;" Choral Club; "God Save the Queen."

Court Crumlin, No. 358, C. O. F., held their annual concert at Crumlin last night. An interesting program was rendered consisting of the chairman's address by E. T. Essary; solo, Miss Etta McDonald; recitation, Miss McLaren; solo, Mr. J. C. Lockhart; selections on the graphophone, Mr. E. B. Stevenson of Lemonville was elected, Bro. J. M. Dench of Trenton, supreme secretary; Bro. J. M. Foster,

thing is slightly varying degrees. When it comes to hard, persistent reading that is going to develop mind and mental and moral calibre, we are non-readers, but when it comes to forming a procession to eat up the latest fiction, well, we're a regular procession.

LITTLE 'TISERS

British Columbia is shipping eggs to British market. Laid by Rocks, no doubt.

Two Paris editors are going to fight a duel. These birds should select swords and make the distance fifty paces.

United States soldiers are now insisting on a war bonus. The glory of having won the war is not sufficient to satisfy the boys.

Goats are likely to take the place of dogs as the favorite dish in the Philippines. And the dogs are not whining about the goats butting in here.

If any person can think of a good scheme to swell up a list of items on which exemption can successfully be claimed in income tax returns will he please come around to the side door of this office and give three knocks?

Money is scarce just now, is the opinion of one businessman. Money is not scarce—there is lots of it lying idle. Credit and the desire to let money get to work is the only scarcity.

Is there any place in the country now that has a ghost—let it speak up now while we're in a state of mind to deal with them. Halifax started the thing, and Windsor and Brantford have just brought out a pair. Pretty soon Parliament will have a bill on the table, "An act regulating ghosts."

Down in Sydney, N.S., four girls in church giggled so loud the preacher had them in court for breaking up the service. And yet it is more uncomplimentary to giggle than to go to sleep, which plenty of people do? It must be annoying to have people giggle in a service, but to have them going to sleep in spite of all your pulpit thumping must be even worse.

An instance of monetary success in the collection has been noted when the minister published the following soliloquy in the congregation calendar: "I am 25 cents. I'm too small to buy a quart of oil; I'm too small to buy one-half pound of candy; I'm too small to buy a ticket of a good movie show; I'm even too small to buy a box of undetectable rouge; but most people think I'm 'some money' when I come to church."—*Christian Register.*

WM. McDONALD, in the Chesley Enterprise, calls for the prying of the lid off that "party" in the Ontario House. He says: "That was some jamboree in the apartments of the provincial treasurer. Hox. PETER SMITH, the last night of the session of 1921. Big Peter wasn't one of the gay company and has been exonerated by the Premier from all blame. . . . We think there should be an investigation, otherwise suspicion may be cast on some who are entirely innocent. The members of the Ontario Legislature make laws for the enforcement of the O. T. A. and vote sums of money for special officers to catch bootleggers and makers of moonshine whiskey, and the eight or nine in the chamber of revelry must have made a bootlegger out of some one to get the booze or else lied to a doctor to get a prescription for sickness. Yes, let the whole story be told of that last-night, boozing and women-kissing party."

TO THE EDITOR

Editor Advertiser:
Sir—As a citizen I am pleased to say that there are several fish and game protective associations in our province that have appealed to our government, that no more licenses be issued in our inland streams for commercial net fishing, and I have been informed that the government has complied with their requests, and as far as the River Thames is concerned have only issued licenses until April 30th next.

Now I think that the Fish and Game Protective Association of this city deserves great credit, as there is no doubt that they, by their untiring efforts, coupled with the assistance of these other associations, and the hearty co-operation of Mount Brydges, Muncney, Delaware, Dorchester, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Brantford, Thorndale and St. Marys, together with the co-operation of commerce, the city council, the county council, and the trades and labor council, have been instrumental in having this accomplished. I understand that the parliamentary representatives of the various municipalities backed this measure, and that the minister and the deputy minister of game and fisheries were favorable to it.

I have come to the conclusion that I should join this association, as have also several of my personal friends, as we have received an invitation to attend the meeting in the court house on Friday evening. I have heard that the Byron Game Association will have representatives at the meeting for the purpose of securing assistance in the protection of game in that district.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I think that all this is good news, for in a short time our rivers will be restocked. Yours truly,
JAMES C. CARLYLE.
London, March 15.

TOO CLEVER CHILDREN.

Editor Advertiser:
Sir—I have so enjoyed the pictures of the babies which have appeared in your paper from time to time. I am sure it's a splendid idea, and will do a great deal of good.

In today's issue we have the picture of beautiful little Donald Kirk, 15 months old. It seems incredible what this baby can do. Count 50, recall 125 telephone numbers, name all the books of the Bible, recite the alphabet, tell the birth date of every member of his family. Donald has also memorized 30 poems.

I am afraid if he continues to tax his brains at this rate a very clever man will be lost to the world. I was talking to a member of the medical profession on this same subject. He said, "Did you ever stop to ask where are all of these very, very clever children we hear of?" "The fact is," he said, "if a child is unusually clever he is so incited to memorize and recite, and so on, that by the time he should be beginning to take hold of subjects in earnest, a reaction has taken place, and he quite commonly falls into the ranks of the mediocre."

A LOVER OF CHILDREN.

London, March 15.
EARLY HISTORY.
Editor Advertiser:
Sir—As I see by your issue of Feb. 29, the reconstruction of the waterworks dam is before the citizens of London, I feel I ought to lay a

COMMON SENSE WAYS TO KEEP WELL.

Swat the Early Fly!

BY DR. R. H. BISHOP.
NE female fly in April means millions in July. This is one reason why we should endeavor to kill off all the early flies and those left alive during the winter.

The fly is the universal pest of mankind, existing in practically every country and crime on the globe. Flies are disease carriers. They spread disease largely by carrying germs from filth upon which they have been feeding or walking and depositing these germs in or on articles of food or on dishes later used for food.

Flies also may directly infect per-

few facts before them, and remind them of others, of which I feel capable. I was born in 1836 on a farm situated on its bank, and with the exception of a few years lived in its vicinity until over 50 years old.

My early recollection of it is of a series of rapids from London down to near Byron dam. (The right to said dam was granted to one Burley Hunt by an act of the Legislature of Upper Canada held in Niagara district in 1833).

Owing to those rapids ice seldom formed on them, and if it did it flowed off with the first mild spell. The next run of ice came from the south branch, followed in three or four days, or sometimes that many weeks, by the run from the north branch. Thus no serious ice jams or floods occurred until after the construction of the dam, apparently by the sole authority of the then water commissioners, as the waterworks act, passed in 1873, only granted right to secure water for the use of the city of London.

But not to erect a 14-foot obstruction in the river to be a serious detriment to any legal waterpowers or inhabitants in its vicinity.

The first evil result was the intermittent flow of water to Byron mill, thereby causing serious loss of custom to the then mill owner, as in flood water it required the natural flow to run the mill continuously.

Many of your readers will remember the great loss of life computed to be 180, when one of the two steamboats built for pleasure boats to run on the pond created by the dam, met disaster.

Followed later by a July flood that took the other boat down the river, carrying splashboards and Byron bridge with it. But the most serious result was the loss of life and property in London West.

If the dam was maintained, the bed of the river will eventually fill to an extent that will greatly aggravate the evil, as any matter carried down the branches in times of freshets settles to the bottom, when it reaches the long stretch of dead water caused by the dam.

That the ice jam that caused so much destruction in London West and elsewhere was due to the dam was clearly proved by three persons who cut holes through the ice in several places, in the middle of the river from near the dam to the Cove bridge and found it to be from 14 to 21 inches thick, where rapids formerly were. That was on the day the volunteers crossed the Cove bridge on their way to help quell the Northwest rebellion in April, 1855.

The field of ice held back the ice in the branches until it was forced out in a body, carrying destruction with it to London West, and when the jam got to Byron it was about 16 feet high, and soon tore out the flume and broke the wheelshafts and millposts like pipestems and landed the mill in the river, thus completing the ruin of the mill owners begun the summer the dam was built.

There can be no doubt in the minds of those conversant with matters at that time, that the dam was built more to please interested parties than for economy and efficiency. And it is more than likely the same will obtain if it is rebuilt. Your truly,

MRS. MARGARET KENNY.

R. R. No. 2, Charlton, New Ontario.

P.S.—If this will help anyone I will be well paid for my trouble.—M.K.

Our Own Country.

Question—What was Ontario's field crop value in 1921?
Answer—Ontario's field crops value in 1921, \$256,000,000.

Question—What is Canada's present railway mileage?
Answer—Canada's present single-track railway mileage is 39,384, increase of 496 miles in a year.

READ YOUR CHARACTER

[By Digby Phillips.]

NO. 166—FIRMNESS.

Firmness of character is one of those points which you may judge from the shape of the head, or rather from the development of one part of it.

It's that part in the top of the head, just back of a vertical line drawn upward from the ear. Lavater, one of the pioneers of characterology, was one of the first scientists to prove that persons of firmness had high heads, for the development of this part of the head, of course, lends the appearance of height to it.

This faculty might well be called self-possession. But in reality it amounts to much more than this. It is the steadfast, tenacious, persevering and self-control. They are the kind you can depend on never to "lose their heads" in a crisis.

With excessive development of this characteristic the person becomes obstinate and stubborn. Lack of it produces the character we call fickle and vacillating.

It is a faculty which is vitally essential to any person holding a post requiring any great degree of executive ability. Successful executives of big enterprises, you'll find if you take the trouble to check up on them, all have high heads.

Tomorrow—Mathematical Ability. Copyright, 1922, by Public Ledger Company.

LEARN A WORD EVERY DAY

TODAY'S word is PSYCHOSIS.

It's pronounced—sye-ko-sis, with accent on the second syllable.

It means—a disease of the mind, a mental disorder.

It comes from—Greek "psyche," the soul.

It's used like this—"Most of those who commit suicide are afflicted with a form of psychosis."

BON-OPTO

brings rest and a fine feeling of ease and comfort to weak Work-Strained Eyes

It Soothes, Heals, Cleanses and Beautifies

BON-OPTO Strengthens Eyesight.

SORE THROAT

IS A COMMON AILMENT WHICH UNLESS CHECKED IN TIME MAY LEAD TO A SERIOUS CONDITION. SIMILARLY A COLD OR COUGH MAY DEVELOP AND REQUIRE SUBTAINED TREATMENT BEFORE IT IS OVERCOME BUT IF TREATED AT ONCE MUCH INCONVENIENCE AND SUFFERING MAY BE AVOIDED. AN OLD AND WELL-REVEALED IS FOUND IN

DR THOMAS' ECLECTIC OIL

The Physique Type System of Tailoring: it means perfect proportion for every figure



The right sort of Clothes must come from the Designer and Cutter: the high-priced man in any good tailor shop was the Mutter; he could strut.

Scientific designing, based on seven distinct types of humanity, has reduced the cutting to a mechanical certainty.

It's the Designer—the man who can draw artistic pictures with paper patterns—who earns a large salary.

Let us show you how perfect is the harmony of design in each and every type of the Semi-ready Tailored Suit.

R. Leo Watson
183 DUNDAS STREET.



OUT TODAY

Complete April List Columbia Records

Dance Records

Good-Bye, Shanghai—Intro. "Call Me"	
Medley Fox-Trot	The Happy Six
Wimmin (I've Got to Have 'Em, That's All) One-Step	The Happy Six
After the Rain—Fox-Trot	Ray Miller and His Black and White Melody Boys
Broken Toy Intro. "My Darling," Medley	
Fox-Trot	The Happy Six
On the 'Gin, 'Gin, 'Ginny Shore—Fox-Trot	Ray Miller and His Black and White Melody Boys
Tell Her at Twilight (Just Sing Love's Sweet Song) Fox-Trot	The Happy Six
Just a Little Love Song—Fox-Trot	Eddie Elkins' Orchestra
Lonesome Hours—Fox-Trot	Eddie Elkins' Orchestra
Bow Wow Blues—Fox-Trot	California Ramblers
Smilin'—Fox-Trot	California Ramblers
Cutie—Intro. "I've Found a Bud Amongst the Roses"—Medley Fox-Trot	
	Knickerbocker Orchestra
Venetian Love Boat—Fox-Trot	
Ray Miller and His Black and White	Melody Boys
When Shall We Meet Again—Medley	
Waltz	Prince's Dance Orchestra
By the Old Ohio Shore—Waltz	Prince's Dance Orchestra
Birmingham Blues—Edith Wilson and The Original Jazz Hounds, Comedienne and Jazz Band	
Wicked Blues—Edith Wilson and The Original Jazz Hounds, Comedienne and Jazz Band	