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London, Ont., Monday, May 9.

THE RENTING PROBLEM. The housing scarcity continues to be one of the most serious difficulties which the larger communities from coast to coast have to solve. Shortage of dwellings of all kinds, especially the smaller and moderate-priced homes for workingmen, and high rents for the few places available, are resulting in a general wall that is making Atself heard in no uncertain manner. According to the Montreal Star, the answer lies entirely in the hands of the workers. The Star says, in parts

When RENT stands at the door of the home and warns all but the wealthy away, it is a far more savage menace to the economic sanity of the community than a thousand of the community than a thousand Red' emissaries. But when RENT writes 'Welcome' on the door-mat, it weaves a spell before the portal which no Bolshevik folly can pass. 'Who fixes the Rent?

"The men who build houses. When there are plenty of houses, rents fall for the same reason that eggs get cheaper in the spring.
When building stops, rents go up
automatically for the same reason
that food does in a beleaguered city. can no more do without ses than they can without food. If the price of clothing soars too high, we can wear our old clothes; but we can neither re-eat the meals of last year nor house ourselves over again on the rent we paid before the

"Who are the men who build houses? Mr. J. B. Carswell of Torronto told the 'Building Industries Parliament' yesterday that 80 per cent of the cost of building is labor. The rest is profit and material. Mr. Carswell put the actual value of material at 5 per cent. That is, the building of a home is accomplished a triple alliance of workers, capitalists and Providence. three, the workers contribute eight

parts out of every ten. "We leave the answer to you: labor is the house-builder. Labor gets \$8 out of every \$10 which is required to build a house. Rent is only interest on the cost, and will inevitably as the cost falls. Even if capital and organization took nothing for their services— which they have never showed any disposition to do-still 85 per cent of the cost, and its resultant rent, would remain absolutely untouched

-unless labor relented. "Mr. John Bruce, a representative of the labor group at the con-ference, declared that "labor was opposed not so much to wage reductions as to reductions in the standand of living." This is a highly in-telligent attitude. Money is only worth what it will bring in the means of livelihood. It is useless to get nominally high wages if the purchasing power of these high wages is no higher than was that of the previous lower pay. The Gernan is not enriched by stuffing his pay envelope with depreciated marks. In the last analysis, the ingman is paid in food, clothes and RENT. To reduce his rent is

equivalent to raising his pay.
"But the glorious situation today in Canada is that he can reduce his own rent by building more houses. That is, he can raise his own pay, and 'the bosses be blowed!' At present he is actually reducing his own pay by building conspicuously fewer houses. Mr. J. M. Piggott of Hamilton reported to the conference that 'the building industry today is practically flat on its back. For March, 1921, contracts let for building totaled only \$36,800,000 in Canada, as against \$55,700,000 last year. Construction contracts all over Canada in the three months of 1921 were 35 per cent lower than the same three months last year. The heaviest falling off was during March, when the building outlook ould be at its rosiest'

### DUNSANY AND THE POETRY OF

The poetry of Ireland has always been a "poetry of escape." Even without the Romantic Movement it would have been that But Romanticism is precisely that mood or frame of mind which is always seeking new and untried avenues of escape from the familiar into the unknown. Here, then, are two lines of force moving out of quite different sources, but converging in the

Condon Adustiser poets or as the most audaciously open places, where the grasses al-

Lord Dunsany has had a glimpse from a distance. He simply leaves them alone. No other of Erin's thousand poets has escaped so completely from these fearsome twins as Lord Dunsany, or built so impregnable a fortress against them. He leaves behind him both modern and ancient Ireland, and even that enchanted region of Old Irish legend in which so many of his fellows have lingered. He would not deny that some fine gold of fancy may be found there, but he thinks it too much cumbered with the baser metals of fact.

#### THE ISLAND OF YAP.

A recent number of the Paris "L'Illustration" contains an informing article on the Island of Yap. Situated to the east of the Philip-Spain along with the Philippines his fathers, and the bugies of France his fathers, and the bugies of France sounded taps over a brave career. He after the war of 1898. Yap is the sounded taps over a black eagles in Germany had faced the black eagles in Germany northwest angle of the Caroline in 1870-71. He saw the Prussian hay group, sold by Spain to Germany at less again he came to the French army that time.

seized the Carolines, including Yap, of a lieutenant of sappers and he wore and agreed to aid the Allies on condition that she should be confirmed in possession of these islands, as well as of Klao-Chow and Shantung. But the assent of the United States to this transaction was not cought as that country was then not yet associated with the Entente against Germany. But this is no valid reason to the Washington Government why a strategic point like Yap should be appropriated by Japan without the United States being consulted. There has been annoyance enough over the Japanese retention of Shantung against the wishes of China. So the United States insists on a revision of the arrangement

giving a mandate over Yan to Japan At Yap is a junction point of important Pacific cables. One proceeds from there to Borneo and Java, another northwest to Shanghai, a third northeast to Guam and Honolulu. Guam is another cable centre, with lines to Manila and Hong Kong, to Yokohama, and to America. The double possession of Yap and Guam would give the United States a stronger position against Jananese advance in the western Pacific.

But a fight over Yap would remind one of Hamlet's words on Fortinbra's invasion of Poland: "Fight for a plot

Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause.

Which is not tomb enough and

To hide the slain." There are just about 60 square miles in Yap. However, a pawn may

be an important piece on the great chessboard of diplomacy.

VIOLETS.

"Where the violets give the fragrant vale A blue embroidery

Every day of spring that dawns in blue and gold is an invitation to the woods. New leaves, breeze-stirred,

little changing shadows over the avenues, dandelion-dotted lawns. and the blue sky over all, serve but all commodities caused by the war, duras messages of the purity of wild loveliness awaiting us in the woods. To have missed the hidden places

of violets for one springtime is to have been poor in woods-memories until their coming again. To have one's particular haunt to seek, to have been in recent years. A Montreal find the little traces of old paths remembering and waiting is to find this spring in the marshes of Otonobee happiness akin to rapture, and a River and Rice Lake would make a hundred Hudson seal coats valued at sense of freedom that belongs to \$32,000. A hundred of such coats might things worth while.

Quite unsuspected from a busy roadway, and, "Oh, so near to London," there is a thorn wood with a no count of the enormous cost of curing setting of old oaks further along its and dyeing the garments therefrom. These paths, and little gentle slopes to tell operations are enormously costly, espethe story of the beauty of lowgrowing, leaf-lit, sun-shimmered cost of dyes. It is a very good muskrat trees of hawthorn. Little paths guide though as the Globe remarks, they may the way to all the sacred beauties of be worth \$5 to \$7 a piece when cured this sanctuary of birds and flowers, dyed and placed upon the market as and reveal the fact that it is known and loved by many gypsy-hearted folks. An old roadway intersects, and leads down a long, slow slope to a distant picture that is particularly lovely at sunset time, of an old red barn set in green meadows, and seemingly close to clustering orchard trees in bloom, then a scrap of proper Government authority. No per blue sky outlined irregularly by treeboughs of the woods through which

the old roadway winds. There has been no gradual coming same direction. When these two im- of the violets this year. Browning state control in British Columbia is that pulses are brought to bear on one speaks of "banks that had violets and the same individual we may ex- opening from sleep like eyes," but pect a noteworthy result. Because the abundant rains and few very the trafts drawn from one line of warm days coaxed these little blue

romantic of Romanticists. Perhaps most hide their little faces, darker in the shade, paler in the sunshine,

with white butterflies floating over one shoulder of two terrifying above them "like flowers in the air," worth and other greater poets, and casional touch of gold from the taller try to convert them from cannibal- yellow variety. Mrs. Mitford, in her ism. He does not even stand, like sketch on "Violeting," writes: "But Carlyle or Leopardi, and revile them I can at least snatch and prolong the with pure flowers, and my heart with pure thoughts; can gladden my little home with their sweetness; can divide my treasures with one, a dear one, who cannot seek them; can dream of them when I fall asleep."

# **OTHERS' VIEWS**

influence if he had espoused the cause roundings, her failure even of the United States a little harder an enemy, leaves one with a during the recent war with Germany.

THE OLDEST POILU.

[Philadelphia Public Ledger.] Surely the soul of Charles Surugue was played into Valhalla by the drums of France! Surely Napoleon and all his marshals, all the great captains of France, stood at attention when the In his 82nd year he was gathered to subjects. teer again he came to the Fron n 1915 and saw France take her revenge upon the Prussian. When he died he commanded the burial honors his ancient breast the ribbons upon his ancient breast the ribbon of the Legion of Honor. Three time was he cited in orders before the armis tice. And he was seven years past the when he joined the French army at Souchez in 1915! He was not the sort that carried a field marshal's baton in his knapsack; but France and all that France stands for is well served by such as Charles Surugue. His was the spirit that makes France great upon the battlefield.

SERVICE THE FIRST CONSIDERA TION.

While the Ontario Legislature, under the influence of Sir Adam Beck and the hydro-electric political machine, was killing the McCrea bill which would give to the railway board the power to rease street railway fares when More necessary to maintain service, Bion J. Arnold, the transportation expert retained by Sir Adam Beck and the hydroelectric, was telling the Sutherland commission that service could not be But we hall with satisfaction provided for less than a seven-cent fare ation. As the situation now stands th private companies have been delivered into the hands of the hydro. They are operating at heavy losses, in some cases on fares about half what experts would call for to pay for service rendered, while the London and Port Stanley line —Beck's pet radial scheme—operates under a Dominion charter and gets a higher rate than any other radial in the province and while special legislation can be secured for public ownership roads to increase fares, as in the case of the seven-cent bill for Guelph.

Of course, private corporations must be prepared to stand by their charter agreements-even though there have been instances where the governments which issued them have not. And they can be restrained from increasing their fares no matter what their losses may be. But they cannot be prevented from relinquishing their charter privileges and discontinuing service. It was in this connection that the McCrea bill was designed-to permit the railway board to step in and operate, on increased fares if necessary, in the event of the com-pany being forced by operating losses into a position where service could not

There is nothing particularly new in the hydro policy in this instance, but it smacks of that now familiar Prussian-ism for which the distaste of the public

s growing. THE PRICE OF FURS.

[Quebec Telegraph.] Many people have a very exaggerated dea of the value of raw furs and of the profits resulting from handling them out one of the greatest difficulties in the trade, and one of which few people have any adequate conception is the great instability of values. A few years ago trappers of muskrat skins were paid from ten to sixty cents each for them made of dyed rats and the high cost of ing which period some rare dark colored skins were sold for over five dollars each. A year ago there was quite a slump in raw furs, though prices never declined to anything like their previous upward turn, and furs of all kinds are higher than a year ago, though nothpaper recently reported that six thous-and muskrats which had been caught easily be worth the figure mentioned but to estimate the unmanufactured skins at that value is to display but lit and dyeing the skins and of manufac cially since the increase of the or seven years, in wages and in the Hudson seal.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPERI-

[Detroit Free Press.]
After a period of bone-dry prohibition British Columbia decided to try a plan which will sell two quarts of distilled liquor or twelve quarts of malt liquor entation of a written permit from the son may use more than ten permits a The law also prohibits public drinking, punishes drunkenness, and otherwise attempts to prevent abuse of the privileges which it grants.

absolute prohibition proved unenforce able. Instead of prohibition the provention ince was drenched in bootleggers' whis-key. All of this accords with the experience of many states in the United States his mental ancestry are so strongly bits of subtle loveliness to quick, sorroborated by those drawn from warm life, and lavish carpeting of the movement and found that it did not prohibit. But the usual practice on this side of the line was to return to the meadow grasses and dim, cool woods-

either as the most Irish of Irish places. Under the thorn trees, in a nuisance of itself that another dry era British Columbia is trying to find middle ground as South Carolina did with its dispensary system. Possibly they can manage the thing better in Canada than they did in South Carolina, where the dispensaries were a failure giants whose names are Here and there is indeed a wonderful "blue but the possibility that any attempt by a WENING. giants whose names are Here and there is indeed a wonderful "blue government to go into the liquor busi-8670 Now. He does not stop, like Words- embroidery" of violets, with an oc-

> A COLORLESS WOMAN. [London Spectator.]

The ex-German Empress Augusta fleeting pleasure, can fill my basket Victoria was one of the most colorless and uninteresting women who ever to have been able to make very my er dreary role of Imperial "Hausfrau." This was the part for which the emperor, with the instincts of a theatrical manager with an inefficien see them when I shut my eyes; and actress to provide for, had cast her She did not even bring up her own children, who had English nurses till they were old enough to have drill sergeants. For her the crown have been a tragic ornamen indeed. She lived the whole of her natural life with a haunting consciousness of her failure to live up [Buffalo Express.]

Senator La Foliette's eloquent espousal of the cause of Ireland might have more any impression at all on her suran enemy, leaves one with a sense of abject pathos. As the writer of her obituary in the Times points out, the war, the defeat of her country, and her own flight came as utterly incompr hensible and meaningless catastrophes which she was totally incapable of adjusting herself. She died in complete and tragic ignorance that the world had changed beneath her. But, at any rate, pines, it is about half way between them and Guam, another possession of the United States, acquired from the bearen of the United States, acquired from the United States, acquired from the large of the specific to the heaven of all good wars show that despotism is an even greater riors. Surusue died in Paris this week. if her life showed nothing else it did

# **EVERYTHING**

The Eton College Chronicle published the following I lines, under the heading
"A Birthday Letter," on the occasion
of Prince Henry, third son of the King, attaining his 21st birthday on March

Dear Prince Henry March is ending, and you'll soon be twenty-one. So congratulations sending, Eton greets her son:

Knowing well that you'll remember many things you've learnt to know Since that morning in September Several years ago

You'll remember first arriving, lonely shy, a little sad, How you found with hope reviving, Things were not so bad.

You'll recall, with some elation, how you qualified to pass than one examination (Thanks to Army Class);

Every type of simple fraction soon was Things you cannot do;

and not remember how You were forced to sit and shiver, While you learnt to row; Cannot, when in Eton High School

Cannot cross the ancient River Thames

thronged with boys of each degree. Fail to murmur, "Ah, that's my street As it used to be." So the academic hen, regarding you

as still her son, ks. "Good luck to you, Prince Henry. Now you're twenty-one!"

MAY HARP HIGHER. [Alumnus.]

Tessie-Agnes always finds some thing to harp on.

Bessie-Yes; I only hope she'll be as fortunate in the next world.

"A PURITAN" [Stewart Mitchell.]

stand, Where tides of trade and venture

Round the firm sanctuary of her feet, Gazing afar with vacant eyes, her bland Bronze lips unconscious of the lifted hand That beckons men into her judgment

Here where the pilgrims of all nations Luring their hearts into her promised

She will not learn to love men for their strange Unsteady ways-forgets the brave are

out of men proved and wonderful to range The whole world. Hope like hers has

never sung. mutely waits the old, false dawn of change;

With eyes that see not, lips that lack their tongue. A CONUNDRUM IN ECONOMICS.

[Toronto Telegram.] An inquisitive contemporary asks What did Toronto do with all the dayight it saved last summer Some observers claim that the mild winter was largely due to the calories carefully conserved by the city of To-

onto last summer. It is only fair to state that this view s not favored by the Meteorologica Bureau, whose experts still believe in the theory of the aphelion and perihelion.

PRINCE DANDELION. [Thomas E. More.] The Prince of Dandelion wandered forth

upon the green, And flung his golden banner to th sunshine and the breeze; Behind him trooped the daisies, and the crocuses were se

Like tiny pages, in his train, beneath the maple trees. Sir Robin Redbreast piped a note as

royal heraids do, And from the lists of field and fell

there rose a sylvan crycry of royal welcome to a royal Prince and true, Whose domain is a flowerland beneat

so Phoebe bird and Bluebird and the raucous calling jay, And every winging creature in the skies of tender blue, Sang welcome to the Golden Prince and

to his fair array,
Whose jeweled trappings flashed and
burned and hid the earth from

The violets in purple robes ran racing And baby Birdeyes peeped and peere from every sunny place To watch the merrymaking of the dance ing daffodils.

ile laughter seemed to ripple from each lovely flower face. THE COUNTRY NE

paper is greater than one would, at first consideration, imagine. Indeed, the small town journal oftentimes fills a social need which the papers in large cities are not permitted to fill.

Community spirit is fostered by these

papers and they link up the various ac-tivities of a district in a manner which enriches that district's social life.

THE GROCERY BOY. [Arthur Guiterman.]

Now what should I do when the Grocery Boy Is knockin' and whistlin' an' callin'

A-cleanin' the panes in me oldest of "Come down!" sez he, laughin'. Sez I what are ye meanin' by comin' se

no lies, But all the pertaties have tears in their eyes

Because of the coldness of maids in these parts.

The onions are breakin' their poor little hearts: beans an' the leeks an' the parsle

are green With longin' for someone-ye know An' see the young radishes blushin' all

red, An' look how the cabbage is hangin' its Then don't ye be haughty, an' don't y be cruel, But open the gate, now, an' take them

what would ye do with a saucy young limb Of a Grocery Boy that can blarney lik

#### THE NEED OF FAITH. [Manchester Guardian.]

We had to fight the greatest of warr and we are getting some of the wounds of it now. Most of us, in all classes, are wounded in our faith in things that we ook for granted as true before the war. death and cherished symbols shown up as old rags, signifying nothing. How is that which can move mountains pressions of a spiritual loss of informed building experts that building The red dips. Long shadows grow rust and friendliness between men can be done for as low a cost within To one rich gloom, as homeward go pressions of a spiritual loss of

of a wide decay in personal the next six months as within the next | The scuttling hares whose white tails self-mastery? Well, how is it that anyone ever recovers from any very bad
illness? You collapse from the height of

be Land is cheaper than it will ever be
flash. your strength and are wasted and bled and enfeebled almost to death, and then, when you have hardly sprength to turn in a bed, some natural miracle fills war, land values are jumping and will to be a superscript with the strength of the strength of the superscript war, land values are jumping and will be the superscript war, land values are jumping and will less a dozing mare. Night sung land values are jumping and will less the last lullaby of birds jump still higher. We can make no more land. Three-fourths of life's anxieties you with power to turn out the giant disease that your full force could not land. keep from getting in at the door. That are over when a man owns his home. It improves his standing, his credit, his pride, his manhood and his citizenship."

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Packages 15<sup>‡</sup> ½ Ib Tins 85<sup>‡</sup>

The Tobacco with a heart

is the hope left to us now.

OWN YOUR OWN HOME.

[News Bulletin.]

DUSK. (Westminster Gazette.) "Opinion prevails among many well-

Cut Brien

VHCDOHUTD,

Cut"Brien

And sleepily I seek my home Who ask from day's distemper some Dear refuge at the dusk of night Still haven from harsh seas of light Tired senses all to sleep are curled Their doors fast shut upon the world nd friendly stars like tapers shine



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