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London, Ont., Wednesday, May 4.

DOING SPLENDID WORK.

Comparatively few people, even in the rural districts, realize the value of the co-operative work carried on by the Experimental Union. An immense number of experiments have been made, and data of the greatest value secured. The production figures in Ontario for the last year available show that the estimated value of the principal grain crops was \$203,033,142. This included the following: Oats, \$76,572,899; fall wheat, \$35,698,096; mixed grains, \$26,403,773; barley, \$19,146,902; corn for husking, \$15,400,838; spring wheat, \$13,903,841; buckwheat, \$5,727,413; field peas, \$4,794,268; rye, \$3,531,031; field beans, \$1,154,081.

The annual report of the Experimental Union points out that the total market value of all the farm crops in Ontario for 1919 was \$397,238,400. It will therefore be seen that the market value of the grain crop for that year was about 51 per cent of the total value of the farm crops of the province.

One of the great objects of the Experimental Union is to establish throughout Ontario the extensive cultivation of a few of the very best varieties of farm crops. Hundreds of named varieties of grains have been carefully tested at the Ontario Agricultural College for five years and upwards. Only those varieties which have made high records and show promise of excellence are used for co-operative experiments; therefore only a very few varieties are used in these co-operative tests. There have been far too many varieties of some classes of farm crops grown in Ontario. Many of them are brought into the country by agents, and are frequently purchased by farmers, who are attracted by beautiful illustrations and by extravagant advertisements. They are sold at comparatively high prices, and it has been proven that in some cases they are simply old varieties under new names. When new varieties are introduced in this way they are sometimes quite inferior to the kinds which have been thoroughly tested at the college and are afterwards used in the co-operative experiments. Farmers who pay high prices for untested varieties, which afterwards prove a comparative failure, have only themselves to blame. The Agricultural College and the Experimental Union conduct experimental work with those classes of farm crops which are now used on fully 90 per cent of the cultivated land of the province.

The co-operative work of the Experimental Union has been conducted for a greater length of time and in a more extensive way than similar work in any other country. The work from the beginning up to the present time has been entirely voluntary on the part of the experimenters. The tests are conducted by the farmers themselves through the help, co-operation and guidance of the Experimental Union. The fact that this work is voluntary is probably one of the greatest reasons for its development and for its success in past years.

WHAT IS HOLDING UP THE BUILDING PROGRAM?

With the housing shortage in London as acute, perhaps more acute than ever, rents high and still mounting, there is obviously need for a large amount of construction work. The problem is to get it started. Small, reasonably-priced homes are required in large numbers, but very few are being built, especially for rent. In spite of the fact that London's building figures made a new record for the first

four months of the year, houses to rent have seldom been so scarce. Some small homes are being built, but they are not for rent. One man who got plans ready for a large apartment is not going ahead with the work. He says in order to get even reasonable returns on his investment he would have to ask \$100 a month rent. He does not believe he would be justified in doing this. This man knows something about building conditions, and he says a great deal of the expense involved is due to high labor costs. Materials have come down, but until he can see his way clear to build for a good deal less than he can now he will not go ahead. A few days ago a citizen asked for figures for a residence. He was willing to go as high as \$10,000. The total was \$14,000. He is laying the proposition over indefinitely. The same thing on a smaller scale is being done by many others who would like to build, but do not feel justified in going ahead.

The suggestion was recently made by a local architect that if the various trades would each take 10 cents an hour off their wages they would have the best deal season they have ever had and be money in pocket in the long run. There appears to be a good deal in this. Not only would it help the men, but by creating a demand for material supply work for factories.

In connection with the general situation the Contract Record says: "The action taken by some builders' exchanges and contractors' associations in revising the schedule of wages to be paid this season has naturally been resented by the trade unions affected. Wages have been gradually raised right along the line, contributing in a very appreciable way to the higher cost of building, which, Mr. Thomas Adams notwithstanding, has resulted in would-be investors declining to build to meet the requirements of housing in particular.

"The union, speaking as the organizations of the men, declare that there is no justification for this lower schedule, that the price of commodities has not come down to such a level that the men can live even in moderate comfort on a lesser wage than prevailed last year. The argument that building is at least a seasonal occupation is also put forward, it being contended that comparatively high prices are needed in order to counterbalance time lost due to climatic conditions.

"The fact is, the men are not inclined to meet the changing conditions, and some are even claiming higher pay. Manufacturers in nearly every line are working on a narrow profit, and in some instances are carrying on at a loss, due to conditions over which they have no control. Contractors are alive to the fact that the public can only be induced to build on a basis of lower cost, and this involves a smaller profit to the contractor and a reduction in wages paid to the men, combined with more efficiency on the part of the latter. Each has to bear a portion of the smaller returns. Many constructional materials are cheaper, but as labor is by far the most important item in building, it follows that the greatest saving will be in cheaper labor. Notwithstanding the opposition of the unions, wages are lower this season, and there are reports that the men are also giving better service. There is a very urgent demand for tens of thousands of houses, but they will not be built if the men are able to enforce the standard of wages paid during the war. This enforcement spells non-employment for the men and the locking up of the capital of contractors.

"The futility of the policy of very high wages is illustrated by the possible closing of the shipyard of Canadian Vickers, Limited, Montreal. Owing to the demands of the men the company has been unable to obtain further orders, and the directors announce that unless a more reasonable attitude is shown, the yard will be closed for twelve months, involving the dismissal of thousands of men."

ENTER COMET.

The scientists say that we are to have a brush with a comet some time in June. No one seems to mind, however; business goes on as usual. The arrangements for the heavy-weight championship, plans for summer outings, plans of new buildings for Western U. are developing, regardless of that sublime event, and it is not expected that summer examinations and executions will be pulled off on schedule time.

But men's minds may take a new turn if the comet comes into full view along in May. When she gets within hail, so to speak, only a few million miles away, it is pleasing to think how she may grow and ripen night by night, till she has a face like a full moon, and then larger. By the first of June imagine her near enough to show in the daytime, and by night look like half the sky on fire, with her tail thrashing

round the other half of the heavens. Then we shall know that she is pretty near and about to be present. It would be quite unnerving, just to be waiting for the bang.

H. G. Wells once wrote a story about a collision with a comet. He made out that it did little harm, and a lot of good. People were stunned for a bit, and then recovering were put into universal charity with one another. The millennium had come. A delightful poet, Lascelles Abercrombie, has written a dramatic piece called "The End of the World," in which an English village is shown expecting destruction by a comet. At the last minute, almost, the blazing meteor sheers off, and their bacon is saved. The variety of sentiment and emotion among the villagers is rather amusing. So it may be with us in general if something exciting really comes about in June, 1921.

LETTERS

TEAMSTERS' WAGES.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:
In regard to the statement of the chairman of the works committee re the article in the Free Press of the 20th April, that the teamsters' contract of \$11 per day is untrue, as we are paid by the hour, at \$1.10 per hour, we are much surprised to think that the chairman of the board of works is not better posted in regard to the wages of the teamsters. We hope this will reach the attention of the citizens, so as to give them a fair understanding. Teamsters working for the city have only had an average of four days a week during April. Some days they have to drive from one end of the city to the other, and when they get there they are sent home because of no work. The team owners pay their drivers for wet days as well as dry, as they pay their men by the week.

Hoping this will find favor with our fellow-citizens. Yours respectfully,
W. J. GOODLAND,
Secretary Team Owners' Association, London, May 3.

OTHERS' VIEWS

A THEATRE IN THE ROCKIES.

[Canadian Forum (Toronto).]
We hear this month of a novel theatre in Naramata, B. C., which has been constructed by Mr. Carroll Atkins, dramatist and fruit grower. The theatre is situated on the third floor of a fruit-packing house in the midst of lakes and mountain scenery. Its purpose is stated on the opening program, dated November 3, 1920: "We feel that we have reached the point in our history where we may look for a Canadian literature to record our achievement and it is in this faith that we have built this theatre for the giving of Canadian plays by Canadian actors. We hope that it will be used by the young actor as a training ground for his abilities and by the young poet as a testing ground for his work; and we have great pleasure in offering it to them, for the service of beauty and for a true expression of the Canadian spirit." Mr. Atkins wishes to get in touch with established or would-be actors and dramatists in any part of Canada and to assemble them during the summer months, housing them rent-free, and to have them work on the theatre as a testing ground for his work; and we have great pleasure in offering it to them, for the service of beauty and for a true expression of the Canadian spirit.

GERMANY'S SOLE HOPE.

[New York Times.]
For months past the German Government and people have been playing a Turkish role. Turkey used to delay and palter with the powers in the confident expectation, based on long experience, that they could not remain in agreement and so that she would get off scot free. Whether their demands related to Bulgaria or Armenia or Bosnia or Montenegro, Turkey invariably resorted to shuffling and evasion and waiting for the break in the concert of the powers, which too often came.

THE SUSPICIOUS SOVIET.

[New York Times.]
Persons who like to believe the best of their fellowmen will be distressed at the news that the "Soviet" Government of Russia has decided to admit no more workmen from the United States until that Government is permitted to establish an emigration agency here. That day, it may be predicted, is a long way off, so Americans, "laboring" or otherwise, who like to think how much happier they will be in Russia will have no chance to find out. Cynical persons might suggest that this is the reason for the prohibition; the Bolsheviks do not want their American friends to be disillusioned.

It seems certain that the reason for this sudden raising of a barrier around the earthly paradise is the fear of the Bolsheviks that spies will come in from America disguised as workmen. There is no need of spies to tell the truth about economic conditions in Russia; what those conditions really are is apparent from the reports even of visitors favored by the Bolsheviks.

A WISE MOVE.

[Financial Post.]
In order to increase the consumption of milk—and their own ultimate profits—the Toronto milk producers have decided to reduce prices. This might be termed a practical brand of direct action. It is a course which manufacturers and workers generally might very well consider in seeking a solution of their problem of maintaining markets for their various products or services.

STILL A MYSTERY.

[Vancouver Province.]
Scores of worried-looking men in Montreal were attracted by the announcement of a lecture on "The Mystery Explained." When they found it had no reference to making out income tax returns they left the hall in disgust.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY'S QUESTIONS.

- 1—Sir Robert A. Falconer is president of the University of Toronto.
- 2—The Mackenzie River is 3,000 miles long.
- 3—Dr. Samuel Dwight Chown is general superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada.
- 4—The title of "honorable" is given to judges of the supreme court of Prince Edward Island.
- 5—Lighthouses, beacons and buoys are established and maintained by the Federal Government.
- 6—Earl Grey was the ninth governor-general of confederated Canada.
- 7—Sir William Macdonald is a prominent Montreal tobacco manufacturer and philanthropist.
- 8—Saint Vallier was sent out from France in 1835 to succeed Laval, first Bishop of New France.
- 9—The strength of the active militia of Canada before the great war was 6,815 officers and 68,991 men.
- 10—The Canadian Pacific Railway has a fleet of 59 steamers.

TODAY'S QUESTIONS.

- 1—Who was Susanna Moodie?
- 2—Who is general secretary of the missionary society of the Church of England in Canada?
- 3—How long is the Saskatchewan River?
- 4—What administrative department has charge of inquiries into causes of shipwrecks and shipwreck statistics?
- 5—How many members has Yukon in the House of Commons?
- 6—What is the meaning of the title "K. C. B."?
- 7—What are the regulations of the postoffice savings banks?
- 8—How many foreign consuls and vice-consuls are in Canada?
- 9—Which two provinces have the largest Indian population?
- 10—What was the total number of paroles granted to penitentiary convicts from 1898-1918?

EVERYTHING

A SMALL CATECHISM.

Why are children's eyes so bright?
Tell me why.
'Tis because the infinite
Which they've left is still in sight,
And they know no earthly light—
Therefore 'tis their eyes are bright.

Why do children laugh so gay?
Tell me why.
'Tis because their hearts have play
In their bosoms every day,
Free from sin and sorrow's way—
Therefore 'tis they laugh so gay.

GOT IT CORRECT.

The cub reporter was grinding out a marriage notice. Finally he brought it up and laid it on the city editor's desk.
"Mr. and Mrs. Blank announced today the marriage of their daughter to take place next Monday."
"Huh!" grunted the editor, "you can't say they announced a marriage yet to take place."
Agitated the cub jabbed away at his typewriter. And when he brought it back this time it read:
"Mr. and Mrs. Blank predicted today the marriage of their daughter."

THE KETTLE.

(Ella Wheeler Wilcox.)
If things are not all shipshape,
I do not fume or fret;
A little clean disorder
Does not my nerves upset.
But one thing is essential,
Or seems so to my thought,
And that's a tidy kitchen
Where the kettle's always hot.

In my Aunt Hattie's household,
Though skies outside are drear,
Though times are dark and troubled,
You'll always find good cheer.
And in her quaint old kitchen,
The very homeliest spot,
The kettle's always singing,
The water's always hot.

O, there's naught else so dreary
In any household found,
As a cool and sullen kettle
That does not make a sound.
And I think that love is lacking
In the hearts in such a spot,
Or the kettle would be singing,
And the water would be hot.

CAN YOU BLAME HIM?

[London Tit-Bit.]
"Where's the man who runs this restaurant?" asked the disgruntled patron.
"He's gone out to lunch," replied the waiter.

CYCLES OF SPRING.

[J. Lewis Milligan.]
We shall awake upon some April morn
And find ourselves in Springland once again,
Roam the dear haunts of youth where
Love was born,
And smile through tears at Winter's
For we must hold that beauty never dies,
That pain alone is mortal, and the years
Bear us on wings beneficent and wise,
That joy moves round in cycles with the spheres.

The Sun that brought the first glad dawn of Spring,
And ripened the sweet fruitage of our prime,
Shall sure return, and with his coming bring
Yet fuller life from soil enriched by time.
Dead leaves augment life's resurrection powers,
And all the summers past shall strengthen ours.

SOFAS AND THE FASHION.

[New York Sun.]
Can it be true that a high priest of furniture, mystery, lazing forth from Grand Rapids, Mich., has proclaimed the doom of the parlor sofa? How often has Father sprawled on a Sunday on the monument of domestic comfort, smoking as he read, and dropping asleep upon the tolerant pile or its enduring leatherette! How often has Son, when the time hung heavy, started up reclamation work in the great dusty fissure between the back piece and the profoundly cushioned lower-down part, rediscovering a lost lozbe, a marble, a stub of lead pencil, a nickel and even Aunt Samantha's comb, strangely missing since her visit of two years ago! Perhaps Uncle Ned has played on this very soft his indefatigable prank of pretending to sit inadvertently upon reclining Baby; later, as the years rolled, he still played it upon Baby's doll, and

later yet, Baby no longer, she plumped with devastating force on the parlor sofa, together with two other girls and a little boy, on the occasion of a game of going-to-Jerusalem at her birthday party. The sag-in-the-cushioning recalls the time the upholsterer could not ever make things quite the same again.

But, later yet, the old sofa did good service, despite its years. It bore the weight of "young men" who began it all about the time the presiding genius of the household created for Father that upstairs smoking den. Homely old sofa that it is, Cupid has sat there playing chaperon. It has heard vows exchanged and plans made; plans that involved furniture as glorious as the sofa was in its own young prime.

SERVED THIRTY YEARS ON DIRECTORS' BOARD

ST. THOMAS, May 3.—The funeral of Samuel Bucke, held this afternoon from the family residence, con. 12 of North Yarmouth, to St. Thomas Cemetery, was private. He was one of the founders of the Yarmouth Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and served on the board of directors for 30 years. His wife predeceased him last January. He is survived by three daughters, Alma and Ida, at home, and Mary, teacher at the Yarmouth Heights school; two sons, Arthur W., at home, and Alfred E., on the 12th concession; one brother, George, at Harrisville, Mich., and three sisters, Mrs. John Jeffery, Appleton, Wis., Mrs. John Lorne, and Mrs. Samuel Cole, West Lorne, and Mrs. Hannah McPherson, Wilton Grove.

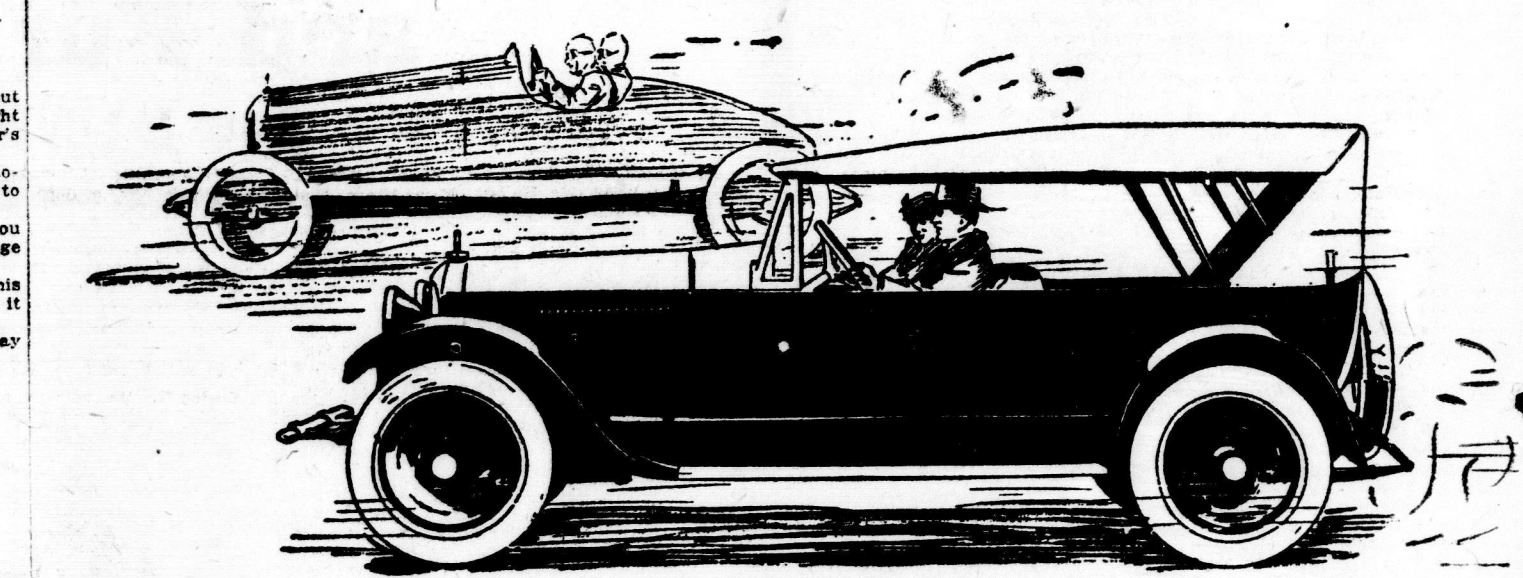
The funeral took place this afternoon at Union Cemetery of Thomas B. Palmer, aged 56, who died at Port Stanley following a brief illness with pneumonia. The services were conducted by Rev. Mark Turnbull. Mr. Palmer leaves his widow and one daughter Pearl, and one son William at home; also one sister, Mrs. James Dixon of Caledonia.

WAGE AGREEMENT DISCUSSED.

Atlantic City, N. J., May 3.—Representatives of a number of Canadian firms were present at a meeting of the National Bottle Manufacturers' Association held here today. A new wage agreement was under discussion. The present scale expires August 31. The meeting today was for preliminary discussion and final action will be taken at the annual convention to be held in Montreal in July.

RESIGNATIONS LIKELY.

Berlin, May 3.—Belief was expressed in political quarters here today that the refusal of the United States to deliver the German counter-proposals on reparations to the entente would necessitate the resignation of Chancellor Fehrenbach and Foreign Minister Simons.



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