

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.
Morton & Herity, Publishers.

THE DAILY ONTARIO is published every afternoon (Sundays and holidays excepted) at The Ontario Building, Front St., Belleville, Ontario. Subscription \$3.00 per annum.

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO and May of Quince Chronicle is published every Thursday morning at \$1.50 a year or \$2.00 a year to the United States.

JOB PRINTING—The Ontario Job Printing Department is especially well equipped to turn out artistic and stylish Job Work. Modern presses, new type, competent workmen.

Subscription Rates (Daily Edition)

One year, delivered in the city \$5.00
One year, by mail to rural offices \$2.50
One year, post office box or gen. del. \$2.50
One year, to U.S.A. \$2.50

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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1918.

THE PRICE ASKED

The price asked for the Bay Bridge by the proprietary company is \$85,000. This is said to be \$7,500 less than the actual cost to them, according to the letter Mr. Porter has addressed to the city.

The Ontario has no desire to misrepresent the position of the Bridge Company in any way. We wish to be perfectly fair to the owners. We wish also to be perfectly fair to the public. This bridge, although it has fallen into private hands is a great public utility. It was lowered to the extent of \$45,000 by the public funds of Belleville and Ameliasburgh. As a public journal The Ontario is in duty bound to consider the problem that has been forced upon us by the owning company.

It is perfectly natural that the company should desire to obtain as much as possible from its investment, either by way of sale or from dividend. No one can blame Mr. Porter for putting up as good a fight as he is able in the interests of his clients. As the representative of West Hastings Mr. Porter has chosen a most extraordinary course in taking up a case diametrically opposed to the wishes and welfare of his constituents, but that is another matter that will be dealt with at the proper time.

The question is—should the City of Belleville and the Township of Ameliasburgh pay \$85,000 in order to get possession of this bridge?

This question may be answered by asking another—what is the bridge worth?

In the report of Mr. Porter's statement before the Private Bills' Committee it is stated that the bridge has not paid its owners a dividend of one per cent. That is to say this investment of \$92,500 does not give to the investors a return of \$1000 per annum.

For how much should a property sell that pays an annual dividend of less than \$1000? Most investors would hesitate to put more than \$10,000 to \$12,000 in such an enterprise, especially when there is rapid depreciation and the certainty of heavy maintenance charges.

If the company chooses not to sell the bridge as a going concern but to dismantle it and dispose of it as scrap, how much would it be likely to receive?

One of the best authorities in Canada on scrap metal has informed us that the steel work of the bridge, sold as scrap, would not realise a net price of more than \$19 a ton. Would the owners of the bridge realise anywhere near \$85,000 by selling the metal for less than one cent a pound? Ask some of the dealers.

In view of the representations made by the company's sponsor and solicitor in reference to dividends and in view of the price of scrap metal it would appear that \$85,000 was a pretty extravagant price. If that sum were cut in two it would seem to be more within the bounds of reason.

The amount paid or invested does not necessarily represent the true value of any property. Belleville, Ameliasburgh and private citizens put \$75,000 into the original bridge but a mortgage of \$40,000 took it. The question that any would-be purchaser would ask, is—How much is the annual dividend? If told that it was less than \$1000 he would not care a kilogram how much it cost the first owners or the second owners. He would merely be concerned with prospective dividends and would make his offer accordingly.

Surely the Bridge Company does not intend that this price of \$85,000 is to be taken seriously.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Now that the city is starting anew, with a new garbage collector, a few suggestions might be in place as to the improvement of this civic necessity.

First, if the City Council would order the

separation of the garbage, having all food waste of whatever kinds placed in a container apart from all other kinds of garbage, two decided advantages would be gained. This food garbage could be turned into pork, and its absence from the dumping grounds would remove the cause of many foul odors, and some disease.

Garbage fed pork has been tried in many cities, and has received the approval of the health authorities. How it could be turned into pork in Belleville is a problem for the City Fathers to solve, but it is very likely that some one or more pig raisers would gladly collect this portion of the garbage for the sake of getting hog feed without paying for it.

The second suggestion is that steps be taken to prevent the over loading of the garbage wagons. It is a sight all too familiar on our streets to see these wagons loaded way beyond their capacity, and yet at every house more garbage is dumped on top. The inevitable result is a litter of garbage of all sorts—ashes, tin cans, bottles, papers, etc., strewn along the roadway in the wake of these wagons, besides papers constantly being blown upon the lawns. All this is a very common occurrence, and could easily be stopped, either by taking smaller loads, or by raising the sides of the wagons. In the interests of the good looks of our city it is to be hoped this will be stopped, and these tin cans and other forms of unsightly garbage be kept off our streets.

The third suggestion is of less importance, but it is worthy of mention none the less. That is, that the drivers of the garbage wagons be instructed in the rules of the road. It would be difficult to find more persistent "road-hogs" than some of these garbage drivers. Whether they have a load or not they keep to the centre of the road and compel others to turn out. Several times the writer has come up behind them when they had an empty wagon. Instead of turning out to give half the road, these drivers have turned around in their seats and laughed at and scorned the ones coming up behind. Recently a gentleman who had been annoyed almost beyond measure by these drivers saw one of them coming towards him. Being in no particular haste at the time he turned out and gave a little more than half the road and then stood still for the garbage wagon to pass. Instead the garbage driver stopped and insisted vehemently that the other get out of his way, and threatened to damage the gentleman's car if he did not do so. Instead of moving on the gentleman alighted from his car and measured the road and proved to the garbage man that he had given more than half the road, and would give no more. After much violent talk the man turned out and passed the car, and the gentleman won his case that time. Cannot something be done to prevent the recurrence of annoyances such as this?

—Contributed

CITY PLANNING

The following remarks on 'City Planning' were not written by the editor but by a contributor to our paper. They contain so much practical commonsense that we have thought it well to give them the place of the usual leader today. Every one of our citizens can gather much good from a careful perusal of this article.

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As was noted in yesterday's issue, another one of our old-time city play-grounds has been given over to the builder, and taken away from the children. By the end of this building season that old playground, which used to be a frontage of two lots on Albert street and five or six lots on Foster avenue, will all be built up. No more will the rising generations of boys practice ball and play their youthful matches on this worn old sod. No more will the boys of the east hill be able to congregate there and lie about the grass in careless and happy abandon, basking in the sunshine and reveling in the very joy of being young, with nothing to do but live and grow and be happy.

Some four or five years ago the part of this playground that fronts on Albert street was built up. Last year an encroachment was made on the Foster avenue section, and this year plans are under way to build up the whole of this long vacant property.

The city is glad to get the houses. They are urgently needed, and are not being built fast enough to supply the demand. But the city also needs its boys, and anything and everything that will make them better boys. This war is waking us up. We are beginning to appreciate the value of our boys, but we have still much to learn, not only as to the value of the boys, but also to our duty toward them.

We don't have to look very far to find men willing to spend an hour or so a day training a horse or a dog, but who give the training of their boys over to the day school, or to the chance training of the street. While we appreciate that a horse or a dog must be trained

from early days if we expect to secure the desired result at maturity, the training of the boys is too often neglected or he is apt to train himself as best he can.

It is the same with our cities. We just let our cities grow up as individual caprices, ambition, or money lust may dictate. We do not stop to think or realize that definite far-seeing plans must be laid in the city's early days if we expect or hope for the best results in after years.

Year by year our playgrounds are growing less, as they are being claimed by the builder. We lost one exceptionally fine playground when the "Hospital Lot" was allowed to be built on. There are probably thousands of men now scattered over the globe who have fond memories of happy hours spent on the old hospital lot. There used to be much talk of retaining that lot as a permanent civic playground. But nothing was done, and the chance was lost. One by one other playgrounds are being taken from our boys in the same way, through lack of foresight on the part of our citizens and the city officials and city fathers.

Other cities have done the same thing, and have found to their cost later on that good boys are worth more than good buildings, and that playgrounds are essential to producing the right kind of boys. Then at considerable cost playgrounds have had to be provided, for the boys yet to come, though too late to help the boys from whom their elders had learned this lesson.

It would cost very little now for this city to set aside plots of vacant land in various sections of the city to be forever kept vacant for the sole use of the children as playgrounds. And these should not be too far apart either, or too few in number. It is not safe for small boys to play in the vicinity of big boys playing ball. They are apt to get hit and badly hurt. The girls also need fields for their own use, in which they can play "girl's ball," and other girlish games, without being hampered by the presence of big boys on the same ground.

There are still opportunities to procure suitable vacant lots or groups of lots in various sections of the city which could be adapted for this purpose, although many of the best of these play-grounds are already lost forever for this purpose. The city of course would lose the taxes on all properties set aside for such purposes. But the eventual gain in making the city a better place in which to dwell, and in producing a better grade of manhood than can be developed in street or backyard only, would more than offset the small loss in revenue.

It is to be hoped that something definite will be done in this matter before it is too late to do aught but regret our shortsightedness.

KULTUR

Nothing the Germans may practice in the way of brutality, obscenity, desecration and destruction in the future can cause us to think much worse of them than we do now. We know the creature as he is and label him for what he is worth; and thus, when we hear that the German soldiers are killing all the wounded left lying on the field in the path of their advance, we do not feel surprised, and it is greatly to be questioned whether our sense of loathing is intensified. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots?" We do not know that either feat has ever been accomplished. In the same way, a German reared in an atmosphere of "KULTUR" can never be expected to transfer himself into an atmosphere of CULTURE.

What the Greeks expressed by their "paideia" and the Romans their "humanitas," we try to express by the word culture. When, therefore, we speak of a cultured person, we mean one whose moral and intellectual nature has been refined through a process of religious and secular education. In fine, such a person is looked upon as one who is above thinking basely, and one to whom the commission of a base act is impossible. Since, however, the German has proved himself capable of violation and brutality, pillage, plunder and arson, of wanton cruelty towards the sick, wounded, helpless and weak, of conduct at once obscene and infamous towards women, old and young, we cannot imagine for a moment that his kultur is in any way related to our word so similar to it—in sound at least.

German literature is full of the phrase "the soul of the German people." In so far as this soul has been materialized quite thoroughly within the last forty years by its allegiance to 'kulture' we can understand why it is that the moral side of the German character, if not the intellectual, has been stunted and denied a fuller and higher development. Kultur, as the German knows it, is a purely material unfolding of a person; or, to put it differently, it is the education of a man toward best fitting him for the pursuit of material ends. It means comprehensively, civilization, and embraces the whole system of social, political and commercial life—"the schools, the parliamentary system, the industrial life, the technical skill, the military system, and everything which distinguishes the civilized man from the savage." Thus it is

that the cultured German is the man who by education is entirely subordinated to the state. He himself is nobody; that state has become his deity. Whatever the state demands of him, he must be ready and willing to give.

The prosperity of every country or state—deny it who will—is judged in terms of profit and loss. The amazing material strides made by Germany since the Napoleonic wars, have riveted the eyes of the world upon her as one of the most prosperous of European states. Now consider the fact that every German is cultured into helping to extend in any way possible to him the material progress or prosperity of his country, and we are able to see why it is that the moral progress of such a people has been left in abeyance. Such arts and crafts as were calculated to help the state to material pre-eminence among the other nations of the world, were to be diligently wooed, nothing else mattered. This has been the gospel of modern Germany; and, while it is true that a section of the community did strive for the higher things of life, the vast majority neither did nor wished to so strive, simply because it had been schooled in the tenets of kultur. A nation of this sort must first be punished, and then tutored along lines of culture. Meanwhile beasts can only be expected to act as beasts, though the blood of their victims cries out for vengeance.

Summarized from the "Action Francaise" February 25, 1918:—"Thirty French women, interned in Holzminden prison camp, having refused to make sandbags for the enemy, were locked up in a barrack without food or light. They remained there from August 15 to September 19, 1917, and would have died of hunger but for charitable persons who managed to hand them a little food. As they refused to capitulate, their mattresses and bed coverings were taken away, and finally the woollen garments which they were actually wearing. Their tortures would never have ended if a delegate from the Spanish Legation at Brussels had not visited Holzminden on September 17. The unfortunate women were allowed to leave their hovel an hour before the arrival of the visitors, who was, however, placed in possession of the facts. The official order whereby the women's mattresses and bed covers were taken away from them also prohibited them from receiving any letters or parcels; even post cards were forbidden."

People in Britain who will persist in using spirits and beer will have to pay higher in proportion by the new taxation, the former being almost doubled and the latter quite so.

OUR FIRST FIGHTING FAMILY

More than 100,000 persons named Smith are in the Government list of soldiers, sailors and marines and their beneficiaries. Talk about your stone walls, your human monoliths! Can they match the army of the Smiths, Smiths, Smiths?

There's Alf Smith from Alabama,
And Billy Smith from Butte,
And Clarry Smith from Cofferdam,
As scrappy as a Ute,
And Danny Smith, who says "I am
One ornery galoot!"

There's Eddie Smith of Mississipi,
And Frankie Smith of Mass.,
And George Smith, whose dexter grip
No German can surpass,
And big Hank Smith, who loves to dip
His nose in poison gas!

There's Izzy Smith from old Manhat,
And John J. Smith of Maine,
And Kansas Smith from off a fat
And thirsty Western plain,
And Larry Smith, whose habitat
Was mid the sugar-cane!

See Smiths named Moses, Matt and Mike,
Napoleon, Nat and Ned!
Orestes Smith is on the hike,
With Patrick Smith ahead,
And Quintus Smith, a chap I like,
By Rollo Smith is led!

Bold Sammy Smith of Skag-u-ay
Ranks Tommy Smith of Troy;
Ulysses Smith of Put-In Bay
Greets Victor Smith with joy,
And Willie Smith's intense "Hoory!"
Shows he's no mommer's boy!

Here's Xerxes Smith, who, by his name,
A conqueror must be,
And Yankel Smith, who left his dame
East of the Bowery,
And hot Zach Smith is in the game
For U. S., you and me!
Foolish women! think you freedom's sons are
myths?
Look upon the legion of the Smiths, Smiths,
Smiths!

—John O'Keefe.

Other Editor's Opinions

PRINCIPALLY A VOTE-CATCHER

F. F. Pardoe, M. P., admits that "during the last election the promise was made that farm labor would be conscripted," but points to the new circumstances overseas as the reason for the change. The truth is, the promise was made without any thought being given it except that it would catch votes.—London Advertiser.

THE FRIEDA HELD CASE

Miss Frieda Held's resignation once more presented to the board of education, withdraws the case from further discussion by that body. But it does not withdraw from the memory of the citizens the narrow minded prejudice of those who refused to do justice to the soldier's fiancée. It is things like these that serve to keep alive, if not to justify the prejudices of the pacifists and pro-Germans who assert that the British are as bad or worse than the Germans.

When the board of education, which is supposed in some degree to represent the intelligence of the city, takes such a stand as disgraced them in the case of this much abused teacher, we can hardly expect the aliens in the country fully to accept our professions of principle, of fairness, of tolerance, of just dealing at their face value. We must practice what we preach, and when we yield to no one in our desire to see real pro-Germans and alien enemies of every description properly and stringently dealt with, we are not serving our own cause by unworthy harshness and unjustifiable persecution.—Toronto World.

MAKE A COMPLETE JOB OF IT

Irvin Cobb says that what is necessary is to knock the mania out of Germania. Go ahead and knock the germ out while they are at it. Nothing like making a complete job of it.—Brookville Recorder Times.

TEARS THAT DID HIM HONOR

Princes Lichnowsky, the former German ambassador to London, says that tears rolled down Mr. Asquith's cheeks when war became inevitable. Mr. Asquith has no need to be ashamed of this disclosure. Every teardrop testified to the sincerity of his efforts to prevent conflagration.—The Globe.

GOOD HEARTED MEN

"There was great competition for the undertaking, and we could only use a very small proportion of those who volunteered," said the first lord of the admiralty in his report of the Zebrange and Ostend raids. That's the stuff of which the British soldiers and sailors are made. Not even the most ferocious hogs hold them back; discipline alone does that.—Montreal Herald.

IT IS THE SAME IN PERTH COUNTY

The prosperity of the farmers in Simcoe County is strikingly testified to by the large number of mortgages on farm property that have been discharged during the past year. Answering a query from the Barrie Examiner, Deputy-Registrar Montgomery pointed to a pile of documents in front of him—all documents for discharge—and remarked: "That's what came in on the last mail." A few years ago the staff were kept busy writing out extracts necessary in connection with the applications for loans. Now comparatively few farm mortgages are being recorded, while the discharge of such documents are daily going through.—Collingwood Bulletin.

THE KING IN THE FIRING LINE

Most of us will envy King George the experience—as thrilling perhaps, as could fall to any man's lot—of visiting the front, as he did last week in the full fury and hurrying business of the great battle. In the two days' journey of 300 miles, undertaken at the shortest notice and without preparation or ceremony of any kind, his Majesty saw British in arms at the supreme hour of its existence, threatened but confident and unshaken. With such a spirit moreover, there is that without which the most perfect courage and devotion would have been helpless to avert disaster; sound and far-seeing organization in every particular of the gigantic military effort now being put forth in answer to Germany's last bid for crushing victory.—London Daily Telegraph.

ESTABLISHED

French Food

German Empire Land, Char Rost Near

GERMAN ARTILLERY

(Special 4 p.m. De) LONDON, May morning near Morla north of Kemmel, the

FOE

(Special 4 p.m. De) LONDON, (office enemy last night not another successful Russian artillery was the German and Austrian troops. This of southwest of Mor

SOVIET TROOP

(Special 4 p.m. De) MOSCOW—ROST in the Don Cossack sian Soviet troops v who had held Rostov

DEBATE ON AUST

(Special 4 p.m. De) LONDON, May at their meeting at papers say, selected ia and Poland.

FRENCH C

(Special 4 p.m. De) PARIS, May 15 tacked German positions and captured them it is announced official and were beaten there was violent between Montdidier and

RUMANIAN CAV

(Special 4 p.m. De) LONDON, May manian cavalry passed front.

AUSTRAL

(Special 4 p.m. De) LONDON, May Lancourt the German Australians later r prisoners.

DR. BELAND

(Special 4 p.m. De) OTTAWA, May Buelow, son of former turned in England.

U. S. LOA

(Special 4 p.m. De) WASHINGTON, loans of two hundred million to France. o