

Guide-Advocate

Watford, Ont.

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HARRIS & CO.
PROPRIETORS

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WATFORD, DECEMBER 22, 1916

NOTE AND COMMENT

Rigid economy is the duty we owe to ourselves and to the men at the front. It is treachery to spend a single penny on unnecessary luxuries. To squander money is to squander victory. Neglect of the easy duty that falls to us at home must imperil the triumphs gained in the battlefield. The obligation belongs in varying degrees, to all classes. No one has the right to buy anything that is not a necessity. The nation is staking its all on the issue. The individual must do the same. London (Eng.) Express.

A very good instance of how the food situation is under the control of the middleman is shown by the Dominion Canners' organization. This organization fixes the prices to be paid the grower of tomatoes and other products for canning purposes, and absolutely fixes the price the retailer shall sell the canned goods for over his counter. So absolute is this control that no one can buy these goods for reselling to the consumer unless he guarantees to charge the buyer the price fixed by the canners' organization. Is there any other country the world over that would stand for this kind of thing? We rail against combines in restraint of trade, and yet we allow a big monopoly to get control and practically stifle competition. —Canadian Farm.

One thing the Department of Militia is seeking to do now is to have all recruits examined by a medical board, and the examination made decides whether the recruit is to be rejected or passed, so that there will be no training for months and then finally on the eve of departure for overseas, rejection comes. What a disappointment it must have been to the hundreds of men of the 149th battalion to find, after training for nearly a year, they were unfit. In some cases men have relinquished a good position to join the army and on the first few examinations have been passed only to be finally rejected. With the new scheme of the medical board plan, a man will know whether he is physically fit. This is the plan which should have been adopted in the beginning. However, it is some satisfaction to know that at last the medical examination of recruits is being put on a proper basis. —Theford Tribune.

Protect the child from the ravages of worms by using Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator. It is a standard remedy, and years of use have enhanced its reputation.

Owing to an anonymous letter received by Mayor Henry of Ridgetown, threatening to burn the mill and several other places, a special guard has been put on for a while.

Experiments are being tried with an internal combustion engine that is driven by the explosion of dust.

The smallest known bird is a Central American humming bird that is about the size of a brown bottle fly.

On Sale Everywhere.—There may be counter-merchants who do not keep Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, though they are few and far between, and these may suggest that some other oil is just as good. There is nothing so good as a liniment or as an internal medicine in certain cases. Take no other. The demand for it shows that it is the only popular oil.

TRINIDAD'S PUZZLE

Mystery of the Island's Curious Lake of Pitch.

HOLES FILL UP OVERNIGHT.

And Great Trenches More Than Three Feet Deep Will Be Obliterated in a Week—The Great Mass is Solid, Yet in Constant but Slow Motion.

Though disappointing at first sight to people who have the crater of an active volcano in mind, yet the famous "pitch lake" of Trinidad is remarkable enough to satisfy most thoroughly long ere the visit has come to an end.

The lake is a level plain about a hundred acres or so in extent, surrounded by low hills and dotted here and there with bushes and trees. The surface is not a shimmering black, as might be supposed, but a dull, grayish blue color, intersected with pools of shining water. Altogether it is a very prosaic looking place, giving no hint of its real interest.

One can walk where one pleases on the surface of the asphalt without any fear of sinking in, for it is quite solid enough to bear one's weight. If you stand in one place for a little while it feels hot to the feet, just like an asphalted street on a very hot day.

Much of the time a fresh breeze blows, and one remembers with amusement the stories of the imaginative writers who talked about stifling heat and oppressive atmosphere.

The digging of the asphalt is a simple operation. A mattock is the only tool required, and under its blows the pitch breaks readily. The negroes employed are very skilled in the work and break out lumps a couple of feet across, far too heavy for an ordinary man to carry.

Only a very small amount of the material gets broken into little pieces, so that scarcely any baskets are needed to carry the asphalt to the cars. A laborer simply lifts one or two lumps, puts them on his head, walks a few yards and drops them into the car.

The crude asphalt, as broken out, is somewhat brownish or earthy in color. It is usually quite wet and filled with many holes, like bubbles, measuring up to an inch or more in diameter.

The gang of barefooted workmen in one place may number thirty men, of whom half a dozen do the digging. They work on a space perhaps sixty feet long and forty feet wide, and in the course of a day they will dig down to a depth of three feet, or more in some places.

Go to that same spot next morning, and you will find it a little rough, but approximately level with the rest of the lake. The hole has been mysteriously filled up during the night, and in the course of a week all traces of the digging will be obliterated.

This does not mean necessarily that fresh asphalt has come into the lake from underground sources. On the contrary, the excavations are filled by a very slow settling or leveling of the surface asphalt. There is no such thing as "new" asphalt, by the way, for the transition from liquid petroleum to solid asphalt by nature's process involves a period of time that must be calculated in centuries.

The digging done in past years has caused the general level of the lake to sink several feet, so that it is not absolutely inexhaustible, as some people imagine. It is believed that fresh asphalt very slowly pushes itself upward into the lake from the subterranean depths, but how large a quantity is thus added annually has not been calculated.

Near the middle of the lake the material is less hard than elsewhere, and in a few places soft asphalt may be seen in small, irregular patches oozing up from below. This fresh asphalt is of about the consistency of putty and can be kneaded and pulled in the hands without softening them greatly. In the main, however, the lake is solid asphalt.

No one knows the depths of this mysterious lake, the only information on the subject being the fact that long ago a boring was made to a depth of 135 feet without reaching the bottom. The "cores" of this and other borings show that in consistency the asphalt remains the same to a very considerable depth.

Curious as it may seem, there are many evidences that the entire mass comprising the lake is in constant but very slow motion. The surface is a series of great folds, and in the creases between these the rain water gathers. One writer has aptly compared the surface of the asphalt to the skin of a great elephant, the creases being the folds in his hide. Along the edges of the pools of water grass, bushes and small trees take root, forming green "islands" of greater or less extent.—Victor Pitt-Kethley in Wide World Magazine.

An Aid to Canned Music.
In the Woman's Home Companion a writer makes the following suggestions: "Into a blank book I copy the

words of songs and operas that I buy for my phonograph and hand this book to my friends as I play the records. Understanding the words perfectly adds much to their pleasure."

His Interest.

Mrs. Quizzer—Didn't I hear that you were interested in the steel construction business? Mr. Doolittle—Oh, yes; I'm deeply interested in it. Whenever I run across a gang of structural workers I stand around and watch them by the hour.

Do not be too credulous, yet if a sign says "Wet Paint" believe it—Youth's Companion.

A Bright Little Miss.

The charming little girl here pictured is named Virginia. She was kind enough to pose for the camera man.



Photo by American Press Association.

MRS. VIRGINIA THAW.

and he quickly snapped her. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Thaw 3d, and she lives at Southampton, N. Y.

Perils of the Woods.

"Johnny, why is it dangerous to go in the woods in summer?"
"That's easy. 'Cause the bullrush is out, the cowslips around, the grasses have blades, the flowers have pistils and the little twigs are shooting."

Twenty Dollar Gold Pieces.

The value of the gold in a twenty dollar gold piece is \$20. Copper is used as the alloy, and the intrinsic value of the twenty dollar gold piece would, therefore, be \$20 plus the copper used, which, in proportion to the quantity of gold, is one to nine.

Greatest Stimulus to Song.

"Just what, indeed, is the connection between water and melody science has never explained, but a fact it is that the most unmusical soul in the world has only to enter a bathroom to let loose heavenly sounds."—Philip Curtiss

Appropriate.

Willis—Do you wear any insignia on your golf coat? Gillis—Yes. During the winter the moths laid out a complete eighteen hole course on it.

Man thinks and at once becomes the master of beings that do not think.—Buffon.

Too Convenient.

"We had a scheme to arrange a checking room so that lady shoppers could check their husbands."
"How did it pan out?"
"Wouldn't work. We didn't know what to do with husbands left over thirty days."

Wrong Position.

"You've gone and put the prizefighter's picture at the bottom of the page."
"Well, what of it?"
"If you have any regard for the fitness of things make it an upper cut."

Reliance on the right is expressed by defiance of the wrong.

HAPPY THOUGHT RANGES

Still lead the sales in Canada, as they have for the last thirty years. Latest designs on our floor at right prices.

RADIANT HOME BASEBURNERS

Are powerful heaters and easy on the coal bill. Ask your neighbor who has one. We have a few left at last year's prices.

PERFECTION OIL HEATERS

Are satisfactory and convenient for fall evenings or that cold bedroom in winter. We have them at \$3.50, \$4.00 and \$4.50.

The N. B. Howden Est.



See Our Furniture First

You need not buy because you come here to look. We are quite content to leave it to your own good taste. We are anxious however that you do not commit yourself to the purchase of furniture, until you have seen what this store is offering and you have no idea unless you have been here very lately. Let us figure on your furniture outfit. Perhaps we can save you money. It will cost you nothing to see anyway, visitors always welcome

MASON & RISCH PIANOS

Agents for Mason & Risch Pianos, Gramophones, String Instruments, Sheet Music, Edison Records, &c., and all kinds of repairs. New and second hand sewing machines and all supplies.

HARPER BROS.

PHONE 31.

FINE FURNITURE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS UNDERTAKERS

TRENOUTH & CO.

DEALERS IN

Flour, Oatmeal, Cornmeal, Wheat Kernells, Flaked Wheat and Barley, All kinds of Feed, Grain, Seeds and Poultry Food.

We Carry a Full Stock of

INTERNATIONAL STOCK FOOD

FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, HOGS AND POULTRY.

CALDWELL'S MOLASSES MEAL AND THREE DIFFERENT MAKES OF CELEBRATED CALF MEAL.

ALL KINDS OF GRAIN TAKEN IN EXCHANGE! Chopping and Rolling Done While You Wait

PHONE 39

OUR SPECIALTIES THIS MONTH!

STORM DOORS STORM WINDOWS
CISTERNS STOCK TANKS

WHEEL BARROWS

If you are contemplating buying a Wheel Barrow see ours. We have manufactured a quantity with solid oak handles and best of material throughout.

See our Roof Cement for repairing old roofs, also Arco Sealit. This will stop a leak instantly, once and forever.

Est. 1870.

G. CHAMBERS EST