

The Weekly Monitor

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ADVERTISING
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7TH, 1925.

IMPROVING THE BIBLE.

The world is full of people who believe that an improvement upon Nature, who prefer the life painted and the butterfly glided, says the Montreal Star.

One feels sorry for their ill-directed imagination, and indignant against their colossal egotism. But the individual who invites the strongest censure is he who elects himself the world's arbiter as to the English of the world's greatest literary masterpiece—the Bible.

From time to time we hear charlatans proclaiming that the day has come to throw aside the Bible of King James and substitute for it something modern, colloquial, snappy, up-to-date. These deluded facturers claim that the public of today is tired of the Old Version, and would prefer its Bible worded like its advertisements and its daily conversation on the street. And of all people in the world, from all places in the world, a Scotsman, of Glasgow, Dr. James Moffatt, has now come forward with a modern Old Testament, translated from the original into modern colloquial English.

The samples already to hand indicate that the new version will be most effectively robbed of the dignity, beauty and majesty of the old. Such cheap truckling to colloquialism as calling the City of David 'Bethsburg' is a fair sample of the spirit behind the work. The new generation is expected to talk about 'a barge of cypress wood' instead of the Ark that has stood for thousands of years as the symbol of a new world. And so on.

One hardly knows whether to laugh at this pitiful exhibition of vulgarity—or to frown upon it. Certainly it would be laughable, were it not so pitifully pitiable. The use of archaic words in the Bible is sanctified by such authority as even a blatant exponent of modern 'pep' in literature would hardly dare to challenge, were it possible to bring him face to face with the sober reality for a moment. Moreover, the most impressive and most beautiful passages of all literature are to be found in the Old Testament, and it is in part their archaic form that lends them their wondrous charm.

It seems incredible that anybody could be found with the scholarship to translate the Bible from the original and get such a distorted sense of literary decency as to pretend to improve upon the Version followed by long centuries of usage all over the world. The whole thing is an appalling example of that lack of balance and absence of elemental good taste that marks so much of the modern world. It will doubtless create a nine-days wonder, but it is assuredly destined to find its way ultimately to the scrap heap of foolish things best forgotten. There is a curse at the end of Revelations Dr. Moffatt and his publisher would do well to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.

THE MEXICAN DICTATORSHIP.

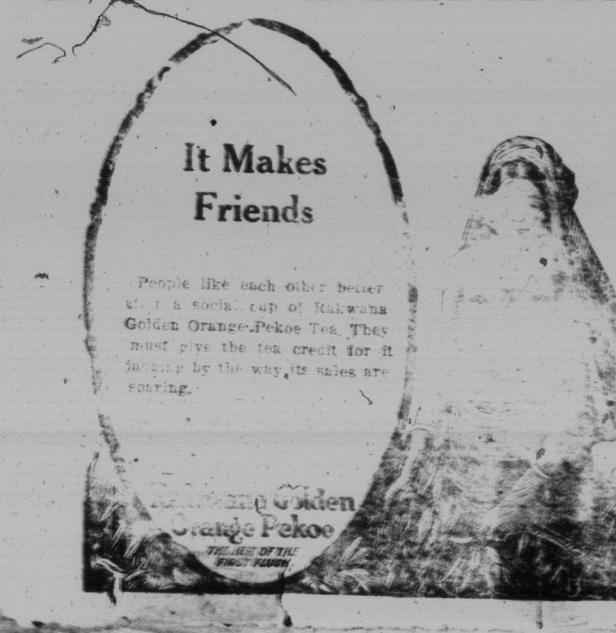
Springfield Republican: It is not likely that, in spite of Mexican sympathy for Russia and its doctrinaire statesmen, anything like a dictatorship of the proletariat, even a nominal one, will be tolerated by the new president. Mexico has no such group of 'intellectuals' as Russia has and its wise leaders will not expect to carry idealism farther than Lenin.

THE WIRELESS BEAM.

Manchester Guardian: It looks as though before long the 'beams' system will have brought about the direct communication of commercial ideas and the Dominions which has for many years now been the province of Dominion, Premier and Imperial Conferences. The world moves rapidly and the distances between the different parts of the Empire are so great that the mailed letter, the telegraph and the aeroplane are often slow and much in time. But the wireless beam, set fully apace by the Dominion and the Mother Country to keep them in touch with each other, is a fast and cheap telegraphic system essential otherwise there is always the likelihood of imperfect understanding. We shall not always be able to agree together even in the light of full knowledge, but at all events we shall avoid the dangers that spring from partial or obscure information.

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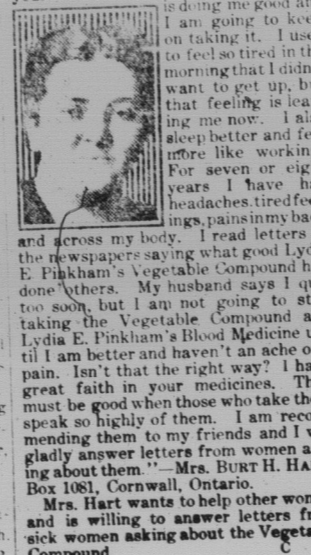
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OUTRAMP.

The many friends of this plan are... to learn of the illness of Dr. Brown of Port George.

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TOR-LECH AND THE LEAGUE.

London Daily News: His Lordship's moral and material worth to the nation as an exponent of League ideals is indisputable. He has done more than any other man to make the League intelligible to the people of this country and to give it actuality. He knows the work of the League from the inside as few others know it. He is an enthusiast about the League, but he is also a realist with a shrewd understanding of the state of the States at the present moment that such a man is a member of a Tory Government.

CANADA IS PLANNING FOR THEM.

Singapore Free Press: One aspect of the matter appears to have lacked development—juvenile migration. There is not enough work in Great Britain to provide a career for all the young people who are leaving school every year, and the surplus had much better go where they have a good chance of success than remain in their own country with practically no prospects excepting that they are adequately safeguarded, these young people would be afforded the best start in life which they could be given.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

London Morning Post: Mr. Sidney Webb and others who believe that men can be made virtuous by Act of Parliament, especially if it carries out some scheme of nationalization, can find nothing in the world's experience of state-owned railways to warrant their dreams. In 1919, when the railways of the island were temporarily taken over by the Ministry of Transport—here was a working model of State ownership—the railway workers, under the leadership of a Privy Councillor, seized the occasion to engage in a strike to the immense injury of the community as a whole for reasons of self-interest. There is absolutely no reason to believe that anybody comprised, least of all, the railway employees themselves, would derive the slightest benefit from the nationalization of railways.

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THE PLACE OF THE EXTENSION SCHOOL IN THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM.

W. H. Brittain, Professor of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Truro, N. S.

Professor J. M. Trueman has developed the idea of a "Farm Course" adapted chiefly to the needs of the average farm boy who aims subsequently to return to the farm. The development of such a course, sound lines would undoubtedly be a step in advance of anything the Agricultural College has done for the farm boy, but I am concerned, at present, in explaining how it is proposed to relate the work of this course to the other activities of the institution and more especially to that of the Agricultural Extension School and to the regular degree course. With a little intelligent effort it should be quite possible to make our two or three day short courses, the extension school, the farm course and the regular course, all definite parts of a definite educational policy, and to weave our, at present, scattered efforts into one continuous fabric. The two or three day short courses should be made to advertise the extension course, the latter to feed the farm course and it, in turn, to nourish the regular or degree course.

The Agricultural Extension School, providing as it does four weeks of intensive training along lines best adapted to the needs of the district in which it is held, carried out in a strictly rural setting, without the distractions incidental to an urban environment and with the necessary buildings or elaborate equipment to overawe the student with the machinery of instruction, appears to offer for constructive effort upon the part of Departments of Agriculture. It may be said that these have been tried with success in the past, but that they too have failed to meet the present emergency. There are several good reasons for this. One of the most important of these is that in some cases, at least, the courses have been too long and that too much has been attempted. The function of these schools should be to arouse an interest in better farming among the young men and to encourage them to study their own business on their own farms. To attempt to duplicate the work of a college course without suitable laboratories, equipment or instructors, or to prolong such a course beyond four or five weeks, is, in the opinion of the writer, to invite failure. Longer courses should be offered only at the central institution. Another difficulty is to secure teachers of the right type. The work should be done by a man who makes a hobby of it, a district representative is not necessary of the type to succeed as a teacher. In a recent article on the subject of extension schools it was stated that the attendance was poor even though the boys and their fathers were pleaded with in an effort to secure attendance. This also indicates a possible reason for the non-success of the rural extension work.

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MORNING

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