

REWARDS FOR BIG FAMILIES IN FRANCE

Paris, Nov. 29.—Ninety French families were awarded 25,000 francs each today by the Académie Française for their patriotic merit in bringing up large families. They were the first awards under the terms of the will of Theodore Cœnac-Jay, a French philanthropist, and were presented by R. Poincaré. The 90 families had a total of 1222 children of which one family had 20 children; four 19 each; three 18; five 17; six 16; twenty 14; eighteen 13; and ten, 12. The others were smaller. The awards made regardless of wealth or position, were influenced by the fact that every member had lost two or more members in the war.

Business is generally quiet throughout Canada, although holiday trade is commencing to show large volume. The attitude of the buying public continues to be one of waiting and carefully watching the deflation of prices, which is now strikingly apparent in almost all lines of trade.

GERMAN TOYS COMING TO CANADA

It is estimated that nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of German toys have been shipped to Canada during November for the Christmas trade, which equals the total amount shipped from England to Canada from January to October.

German toys are flooding the British market to such an extent that the British toy making industry has been seriously crippled. The overseas department of foreign trade reports that toy import houses are already stocked with German goods and it is too late to take steps to restrict these imports. The trade department estimates that 75 per cent. of the toys on the British markets for Christmas are German made. They cost about half as much as the British made articles, says a London despatch.

"Gazing out into the dim future," said the orator, "we see far back upon the desert sands of time the footprints of an unseen hand."

CANADA IS GOOD CUSTOMER OF UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Great Britain and Japan were the only ones of the larger countries that took less goods from the United States in October than during the same month a year ago while Canada, Mexico, Germany and the Dutch East Indies were the only countries from which the United States received more goods than during the corresponding period of 1919.

Goods shipped to Great Britain were valued at \$160,973,821, a decrease of \$4,000,000 while shipments from Great Britain to the United States were valued at \$33,617,133, a decrease of \$8,000,000.

Exports to Canada of \$86,643,891 showed an increase of \$19,000,000 while imports from Canada were \$71,541,276, a decrease of \$16,000,000.

At the market at Fredericton N. B. last week pork was offered at 17 cents per pound by the carcass and 20 cents per pound by the quarter, but with little demand.

WHY FRANCE IS RAPIDLY RECOVERING

(From the American Banker)

One of the chief reasons for the rapid recovery of France from the effects of the war is that in no other country in the world is property so evenly and so widely distributed. Figures showing briefly the extent of this distribution of wealth have been received by the Bankers' Trust Company from its information service in Paris. These data are as follows: In France, property is taxed in proportion to its rental value. In 1913, the last normal year, assessments on unimproved property numbered 13,392,000; on improved property, they totalled 6,478,000. As compared with this total of 19,870,000 assessments, there were at that date 23,000,000 adults living in France.

VICTORY BONDS ARE SAFE

(From the London Advertiser.)

The fact that Victory Bonds have been depressed slightly since being thrown on the open market should not bring about any lack of faith in them. There isn't the slightest doubt but that there will be a rise in values before long. Investors in the bonds know that the various issues can be redeemed at the par figures at the time arranged for, while in the meantime they yield good interest. The real value of the bonds was not shown in the figure reached on the first days of open trading. In fact, purchasing them at present quotations indicates wisdom and foresight, as they will make a most profitable investment. Back of the Victory Bonds stands the resources of this country, than which there could be no stronger guarantee.

The Practical Work of a Mining School.



(1) Mining students ready to go underground in a coal mine near Sydney, N.S.

(2) Students examining the great landslide at Turtle Mountain, Alberta.

Not very many years ago a great many people looked on an education at the University as unnecessary and perhaps even harmful for a young man proposing to enter business or manufacturing. The old professions of Law, Medicine and the Church were, of course, different, and demanded college training; but fitness for success in even the greatest industrial or engineering undertakings was commonly supposed to be best gained by apprenticeship in an office or works, and the boy who left school at fourteen to run errands and sweep out the office was often lauded as having outdistanced his rich neighbor who had "wasted" four or five years in learning a lot of theory, and with it acquired habits of luxury, and a sense of his own superiority to other men.

The above belief was due in part to ignorance of what college life really is, and in part to a failure to distinguish between the old and new methods of teaching. Fortunately, time has cleared away much of this misunderstanding and has proved to all observant people that nothing can equal a scientific education as a preparation for any branch of advanced industrial work, but it is doubtful if even now the public understands just what is done by our Universities in training young men for the Engineering Profession.

Perhaps no clearer illustration of the modern method can be found than in the teaching of Mining Engineering as given, for instance, at McGill. The students begin their course in October and spend seven months attending classes in Mathematics, Physics, and other fundamental subjects, and in carrying out elementary experiments in the laboratory. Then, after the spring examinations they go to a camp in the country, and do practical surveying for four weeks. This ends their obligatory work for the year, but they are urged to spend at least the main part of the vacation in Machine Shops or on Surveys or other engineering enterprises, and it is significant of the earnest spirit of the students that fully 90 per cent. do this now at the same time save good

wages and thus acquire at least a fair part of the money needed to meet their next year college expenses.

The second year is similar to the first, except that the work both theoretical and practical is more advanced, and these first two years are the same for all Engineering students no matter what branch of the subject they propose to practice; but in the third year, they specialize, and the miners give a considerable part of their time to Mineralogy, Geology, etc. The practical work at the end of this year is still further specialized and is in the form of a travelling school. Sleeping cars are chartered for a month or more, a diner is engaged when necessary, and the party accompanied by a professor and a small group of competent instructors, is taken to some important mining district. About one-fifth of the time is given to practical field Geology—another fifth to visits to Ore Dressing and Metallurgical plants, and the remainder to actual visits to mines carefully selected in advance so that the widest possible experience can be gained. The students go underground, spend their time watching, and if possible working, with the regular miners, and each day after returning to their travelling home they compare experiences and write up notes, under direction of the staff. At one end of the school proper all of the men are given opportunities for employment for the remainder of the summer in the mines visited, and thanks to the broad-mindedness of our Canadian Mine Managers (many of them old McGill graduates) the students thus get invaluable experience, and at the same time earn very substantial pay.

The value of this very practical summer school can only be fully appreciated when the men return to college for their fourth and final year, which is devoted to a study of the advanced technology of Mining. Matters which might otherwise be difficult to understand are quickly appreciated, the interdependence of theory and practice are made clear, and the students complete their course with a more mature and balanced understanding of their professional duties and responsibilities.



(3) Students operating a Rock Drill at Phoenix, N.C.

than could possibly be attained by any amount either of study or of practical work taken alone.

This Mining Field School was instituted at McGill over twenty years ago and has since been carried on without interruption, except that it was curtailed during the war. The extent of ground covered may be gathered from the fact that British Columbia has been visited no less than ten times, Nova Scotia six, Newfoundland twice, Michigan and other United States mining districts three or four times, while Cobalt, Porcupine, Sudbury and other nearby mining fields are almost always touched on the way to more distant parts.

The illustrations which accompany this article have been chosen to show the lighter side of the excursions, and it is needless to add that no part of the course at McGill is more popular than the "Mining Trips."

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