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Our Montreal Letter

(From Our Own Correspondent)

A BUMPER CROP FOR 1925.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, just issued, the crop estimate of Canada for 1925, has the wheat yield at 381,500,000 bushels, almost 130,000,000 bushels greater than that of 1924, and beating the high-water mark of 1915 by 15,000,000 bushels. It was thought that as the season advanced, the crop would not be so large, owing to storm and drought, insects and disease. The acreage sown to wheat this year exceeded that of 1924 by about 150,000 bushels. The average yield per acre this year was 17.3 bushels, as against 11.9 bushels in 1924. The quality also promises to be fair. The effect of such a bumper crop on business in general should be good although the prices may be less than last year.

THE MODERN CRIMINAL MIND.

The crime wave which is rampant in the United States and growing throughout parts of Canada is calling for much comment from newspapers and magazines. Some writers lay the blame on the home and the schools, while others think that the clergy have failed in their duty by not instructing the youth in the true principles, character-building and the essentials of right conduct. It is a principle that when a person goes wrong, some one must be made the scapegoat. The following is taken from the New York Commercial:

Walter B. Brown, of Montclair, N.J., one of a party of excursionists on the steamer City of Boston hearing the cry, "Boy Overboard," threw off his coat and leaped into the water. He saved the drowning boy after an heroic struggle. Returning to the steamer he found that a thief had stolen his purse containing \$200 from a pocket of the coat he had dropped on the deck before engaging in his work of rescue.—News Item.

The modern criminal mind is the meanest mentally that the world has ever known. In the days of Jesse James and highwaymen of his brand, had such a one been on the boat when Brown jumped overboard to save the boy from drowning, Brown's belongings left behind would have been perfectly safe and Jesse James would

himself have jumped in to save the boy in all probability.

But the modern criminal is too low down mentally to be fitly described in a language consisting of more than 40,000 words, many of them terms of epithet, opprobrium and reproach.

The criminal of the present has no compunction against taking human life wantonly. Every gunman is a sneak. Not one of them has any reverence for anything that decent people respect of reverence. All are parasites in that they will not work; all are sneering fools who hate decency of any kind; the virtues that are worthy attributes of human beings they flout. No crime is too mean for them, no vice too low, no act too cowardly.

The modern criminal has no love for family, home or country. He will kill a baby for its bottle, if the bottle could be sold for a few cents and, as in the case cited, the spectacle of an heroic deed which should and does claim the admiration and applause of decent persons, is merely to him an opportunity to ply his hellish calling.

If to-morrow a typical present-day thug could get a few dollars by setting fire to a building and killing twenty persons he would not hesitate for a minute.

It is the sort of creature which the foregoing description fits, who come in for especial consideration at the hands of juries, courts and parole boards, composed of supposedly intelligent individuals.

While it is not possible to truthfully say a word in extenuation of the modern criminal, he has yet become the loving concern of modern "psychologists" with a penchant for coddling those who betray the most evil natures. This strictly modern practice of making pets and companions of hardened felons explains the prevalence of crime in the United States. Who will say that if the thief who stole Mr. Brown's purse were caught and convicted that he would not be permitted to go on "suspended sentence"? And who will say that if he were convicted and sentenced that some "prison reformer" would not ask that he be given his freedom? Also, who will say that if by some rare chance he were sent up that a parole board would not hastily turn him loose? Indeed, who will say that there is any likelihood that a jury would be found that would convict him?

When a few years ago, the sobbing sentimentalists were crying all over the place and declaring that rough treatment for the criminal class is all wrong, a foolish public permitted them to have their way. Now we have not only more criminals per thousand than ever, but what is quite as much to the point, the meanest brand that has ever been spawned. The more consideration they get, the viler in nature do they become.

THE NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL VISITOR.

Rev. John L. O'Rourke, for the past eight years English Chancellor of the Archdiocese, has been appointed the School Visitor for English Schools. The appointment was first made by His Grace, Archbishop Gauthier, and his Chapter, and then sanctioned by the Catholic School Commission. The new visitor was educated at the Christian Brothers' College, Longueuil, St. Laurent College and the Montreal Grand Seminary, and is thoroughly conversant in both French and English. During his term of office as Chancellor, he showed marked ability for the work, handled many difficult propositions, and always won the esteem and

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respect of those in authority of both nationalities. During the absence of the French Chancellor, Very Rev. Canon Albert Valois, who accompanied the Archbishop to Rome last year, Fr. O'Rourke performed the difficult task of attending to the work of the whole Archdiocese, containing 806 Priests. After his ordination, he was assigned to St. Patrick's Church, as Curate, and after a year there was appointed English Chancellor. Rev. John L. O'Rourke is well known to many of the Clergy of Newfoundland, being an intimate friend of His Lordship Bishop Renault of Bay St. George's. On two occasions, when he was an ecclesiastical student, he visited Newfoundland and has many friends in St. John's and other parts of the island. During his stay at the Archbishop's Palace he refused the honor of being appointed a regular Canon. He has reached his 34th year, and from his work as lecturer on Apologetics at the Ladies' Normal School at the Mother House of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, he bids fair to make an excellent Visitor of the Schools. He succeeds Rev. Father Martin P. Reid, who became Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Father O'Rourke will begin his new duties this week and for the present will be stationed at St. Thomas Aquinas Presbytery, St. John's.

Friday afternoon, Sept. 11th, will

the Metropolis on account of a tornado which swept over the city a few minutes after 2 o'clock. Dark, conical shaped clouds gathered at the Mountain vivid with lightning, and burst with a vengeance that has never been witnessed before. The Mountain saved the city from destruction. Wind, rain, hail, came thundering from the heavens, and for fifteen minutes terror and consternation reigned supreme. The elements came with a roaring, hissing sound, and then almost total darkness followed. It was a tornado, the first of its kind ever experienced in the city. The rain was whirled around in circles, the hailstones beat with vengeance against window panes and shutters, the wind uprooted thousands of trees and made kindling wood of thousands of others, horses and wagons were rolled over in the streets, the sewers were flooded, the street car service was put out of commission, in some cases for very nearly an hour, confusion reigned in schools, churches and big offices owing to the light being cut off, and over a million dollars' worth of damage was done to buildings, orchards and telegraph lines. One man was killed trying to avoid a falling wire, and two women and a boy were seriously injured. And to think that it took only from ten to fifteen minutes to cause such havoc! In some churches where the annual retreat for the school children was being held, many of the smaller children became hysterical, and pandemonium reigned for a time until the teachers and priests restored peace and quietude. In the schools the scene was one of terror for some and soliloquy for others. Some cried; others prayed; while others, again, sang. When the heavens cleared and the storm was at an end, all were glad.

THE ENORMOUS LOSS FROM FOREST FIRES.

Collier's Weekly, under the caption of "The Foot's Fire," says editorially: "Every morning in this country forest fires burn up the equivalent of a bushel basket full of \$10 bills. When the last bill is in ashes our daily waste of \$100,000 is accomplished, and we

thousands of people are pouring into the country and the most dangerous season is at hand. The year's growth is almost over. Trees are dropping their leaves, the earth is drying out, and the cinder brush is ready to crackle at the first spark.

Now is the time to use and not to destroy the irreplaceable forests. No land has been better provided by nature. Only fools will by neglect and stupidity burn up our national birthright.

DON'T FORGET THE CHEERFUL SPIRIT.

Dear Readers.—Do you always have the cheerful spirit that makes others glad to meet you? If not, why not?

Nobody wants to have much to do with people who look always on the seamy side of things. Fault-finders, grumblers, cantankerous and non-smiling people are those we desire to strike off our list of friendships. They have to be tolerated. The law forbids these "Mrs. Gummidge" type "lone creatures," who dwell amidst the mourners, to be put away until they naturally cease to be. They are weary, wanton creatures.

On the other hand, there is something buoyant and cheery and breezy about any person who can live above his surroundings—that is, can find something to cheer in every state, and who prefers to ponder on the brightness of the sun rather than discover the spots in it.

If we would sing and whistle and laugh more, heartaches would be fewer. Laughter is a contagious thing. It calls forth a similar response. People feel the tingle of life, and experience its thrills as they laugh. And there is such a lot in life to smile over.

"When troubles march to meet you, Salute them at the door; Extend both hands to greet them. Their worst will soon be o'er. Beat down their stormy bugles With your rejoicing drums. And, mailed in lofty courage, Accept whatever comes!"
R. J. LOUIS CUDDEHY.

SUMMER COLDS
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A Stitch in Time

London Daily Telegraph: (A. J. Cook, Secretary of the Miners' Federation in Britain, is urging on the Trades Union Congress the prosecution of a campaign to "win the soldiers and sailors from the capitalists.") This country, which has stood up against enemies from within and without from generation to generation with unwavering courage, cannot be intimidated by the wild men in the ranks of trade unionism. On the other hand, such ravings cannot be ignored, even though the spokesmen are disavowed by the great mass of the organized workers of the country. The Government must be on its guard.

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Warnings have come from more than one quarter that the coal trade is regarded by the Communists and their friends as merely a period of preparation for revolutionary plottings and actions.

Lone Voyager Starts on Long Trip in Arctic

OTTAWA, Sept. 15.—When Baron Byng's northward drive to the Arctic Ocean ended on August 1, at Aklayik, the northern outpost of civilization, another remarkable expedition began and, unless misfortune intervenes, it will be terminated about 12 months from now. Major L. T. Burwash, P. R.G.S., who accompanied his Excellency the Governor General to the Arctic coast, almost immediately afterwards, commenced the first one-man trip along the so-called "Northwest Passage" from west to east.

From what is known by officials of the Department of the Interior here Major Burwash is now at Coronation Gulf, about one quarter of the distance around the north and the east coast of the Dominion. The trip from Aklayik to Coronation Gulf was done by boat. From the Gulf for the remainder of the long, bleak journey Major Burwash will travel by foot.

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