

## Children Cry for



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## Relief, the Opportunity

Editor Evening Telegram

Dear Sir.—A splendid season for copy, is it not? Your correspondents have shared in the treat also—a sampling of new jams, which turn the stomach sour. Well, you say, sour stomachs and inaction are inseparable. Look you here, when matters of such magnitude as the Enquiry were in progress the press got its oil in essence, but ordinary contributors were paralyzed into silence until the hypnotic influence of the novel and the new gives place to the normal feeling of general routine, but they are content. Still, if I remember rightly, I have written you about a moon ago—the subject? Well it doesn't matter, my object in writing now is to ease my mind by making some remarks under the heading "Pit Props and Relief." Right at the beginning let me say you are to consider this communication private or otherwise, as you think best, but I would ask, in Heaven's name, where oh where is the distinction between the cutting of pit props as a means of relief, or relief gratis as far as the Government was concerned? If a man was destitute, the opportunity to cut pit props was provided as a remedy. It seems to me that to excuse themselves for losses on individual contracts on the plea that much of the amounts under those contracts had gone for able-bodied relief—pauper relief—is to ignore the oath on which they stand, or a brazen-faced admission that those in authority were trying to squander all the money they could possibly get to relieve them of. Apart from this: If relief was necessary, just how far was it necessary, and what, to a great degree, was the cause of this necessity? Could it be called relief or necessity to men who cut, or pretend to cut, pit props, and yet toward bank books showing a considerable sum to their credit? Could it be called relief to numbers of men who looking upon the transaction as meant for public plunder, dived into supplies boasting that their gatherings in would help them considerably on their next season's outfitting? But such was the case. There it was; no one seemed to care; those who willfully plundered found a new joy in their first real opportunity and the air seemed crammed with evidence that the government was guaranteeing that from henceforth life would be one continuous Alleluia. I grant there was destitution, but only by the reaction of governmental encouragement was pressure brought upon the government to a point where belief set in that the country was starving. Year after year the government had fed the poison of indolence to its supporters, year after year a fresh crowd was added to the ranks of those who ignored production by fishing in the

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passage across. It will be some time yet before permanent employment for all can become an established fact. It will be years yet before the crowd in the desert can be settled on fixed and remunerative employment. A few at a time might fare well. This would ever keep the bigger crowd at the stable industry and the bridge would be kept well spanned, but whether you realize it or not one fact stands out prominently, the foundations of our main industry are being fast undermined while yet a large crowd are adrift. Habit and necessity will demand for them support, directly or indirectly from public funds and since they have been enticed into this position by politicians who know no honor in their search for votes, who else is there to look to? They dare not refuse. "Still pessimistic" you say. There you are wrong. As I have been doing for a number of years, so now, I take in facts through my eye and eject them through my mouth. Thus they cannot effect my stomach. You believe the tide has turned. I shall, under a different belief, work just as strenuously as possible to fulfil your prediction and while I am powerless to avoid the result of much-abused economic laws, I believe in kicking against such results if it cannot be avoided. Cheerfully prepare myself to go under with a protest against blind extravagance on my lips and still holding the implements of industry in my hands. Do you see a remedy? You do! We all do. But surely you are not blind to the chaotic condition of the public mind! If we then see the remedy it is but a matter of application for desirable results! The trouble to-day is, to quote from a letter of a prominent gentleman in the city: "We all want to be leaders; there is no team work, and no one wants to be lead." If these are the facts is not a theoretical remedy valueless? If you will permit me to continue my questioning I would ask: Do you believe a gradual development of industry and an abrupt rush and change on the part of the people can work harmoniously? No, it cannot; that is impossible. Premature provision cannot possibly accommodate the multitude. This of itself on our own peculiar means of subsistence, must disrupt the standing of local economic law, but apart from this, supposing the people were solid under the sanest principles of advancement and were making a gradual shift from one industry to another as circumstance warranted, could we hope to recover without a drastic change in the moral tone of public representatives? Initiated into and practicing upon makeshift answers and deceit taught us by politicians, we have not yet become hardened in our attitude of seeming defiance and utter abandonment of regret over public wrongs as revealed in the enquiry. Of itself it gives out the impression of utter hopelessness and establishes the fact that they cannot be changed perceptibly, and while I am not anything like a pessimist at heart I grant them in the ordinary course of events three years longer to follow on their course of incapable management, and then . . . Of course a united and determined public opinion could yet effect a change for the better, but the public are now split into many sections and the politician has no doubt been quicker than I to grab the heading of a recent poem: "Divided I can rule 'em!"

Yours very truly,  
OBSERVER.  
Flat Island, Bonavista.

## Saved by Knowledge of Milking

Winnipeg, Man.—(Can. Press)—The fact that he could milk cows saved Richard Wandsworth from serving the next six months in jail. Richard appeared in city police court recently and was convicted on the charge of vagrancy. While the magistrate and the Crown counsel were debating what should be done, Major Allan of the Salvation Army, solved the problem by mentioning that there was an opening for a milkman on a Manitoba farm he knew of. The accused admitted modestly that he was a past master of the art and so the whole thing was arranged to everybody's satisfaction.

An exceptionally delicious omelet is one that is flavored with a little minced ham.

## Coming Election In Germany

"The precipitating of a general election in Germany now instead of in the summer, when one was bound to take place in the natural course of things, is due to the peculiar conditions on which the present Government holds power," says the Glasgow Herald.

"It is composed of representatives from the three bourgeois parties only, and it has never commanded a majority in the Reichstag. Its continuance in office for four months and the really valuable work it has been able to accomplish in the way of financial reform have been possible solely because the position in Germany in November last was so critical that the Socialists, who are strong enough in the Chamber to be able to overturn at any moment any Ministry they dislike, agreed to give them dictatorial powers for three months during which Parliament would not meet.

"The period of freedom expired towards the end of February, and the political crisis which has since arisen and has ended in the decision of the Government to procure a dissolution of the Reichstag, at once has been caused by the attempt of the Socialists to call in question some of the acts accomplished by the Ministers by virtue of their emergency powers. Feeling that public opinion is behind them in the policy they have pursued, Herr Marx and his colleagues have refused to submit to the criticism of a Reichstag which they hold, no longer represents the people of Germany, and they have resolved, in spite of the risks involved, to face now the exigencies and unknown contingencies of an election.

"It can hardly be denied that the accident of the occurrence of an election in Germany just at this particular stage in the development of the international situation adds very greatly to the dangers of an already complex position and, in certain eventualities, may blight the hopes of a peaceful settlement which have been slowly growing for the past few weeks. For it is unfortunately true that the coming polls will almost certainly show a considerable diminution in the strength of the bourgeois parties and the Social Democrats, and a corresponding expansion of the Nationalists on one extreme and the Communists on the other.

"The coming German elections are therefore fraught with issues of critical importance for Britain and for Europe. Their results will either make easy a courageous and definite step towards a lasting peace, or they will undo all, or nearly all, that has been so painfully accomplished towards converting Allied opinion outside Britain to moderation. The tragedy of it if reaction were to triumph in Germany just as reason seems to be coming to its own on this side of the Rhine!"

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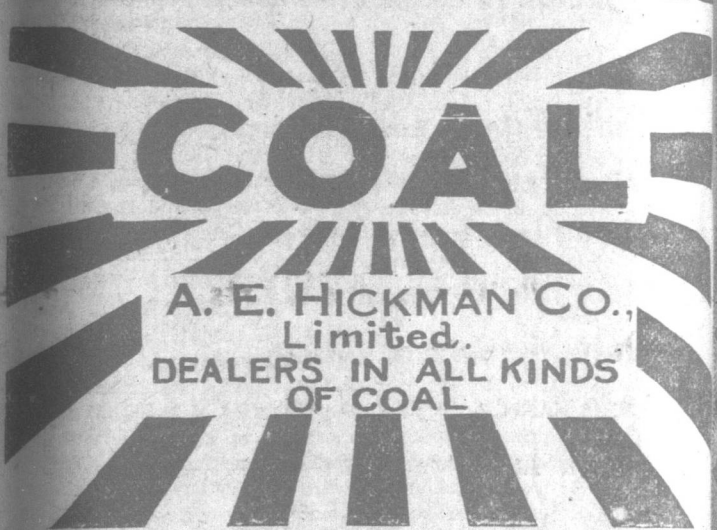
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A simple sports dress of white crepe is pleated down each side and worn with a long scarf of printed silk. Brass hall buttons are used on the vest of a frock of brown linen. A matching brass buckle finishes the belt. A tassel gives the smart Oriental touch to gloves of mode suede with

brown silk cuffs embroidered with ors. Embroidery in colored silk beading in steel or pearl heads on the silk turnback cuffs of the gloves. A great deal of fur is used in spring coats and capes. Many coats are one-button, straight models.

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