

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

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FOREST PRESERVATION

MOST people appreciate the fact that forest fires represent great public loss in the destruction of timber. In the hot days of the last couple of weeks when the smoke of burning forests was hanging low over the towns and cities well removed from the danger of contact with the flames, how many realized the various other ways in which these fires take money out of the pockets of all the people of the community?

Ontario's Forests largely account for her healthful, moderate climate, neither unbearably hot nor unbearably cold, but subject to hurricanes and furious tempests.

Ontario's Forests regulate the flow of her rivers by conserving the moisture of the rain or snow, preventing damage from spring floods and erosion of the soil from hillsides, such as ruined great areas of land in China and other Eastern countries.

Forests are assessors of health and strength. Forests are an inspiration to clean, wholesome living. Ontario's forests are a refuge from the grind, dust and strain of cities.

Much of the loss from forest fires is due to carelessness, and so is preventable. The way toward prevention is through education. The individual citizen must be made to see that it is directly to his or her advantage to do everything possible to prevent forest fire.

THE CRIME WAVE IN AMERICA

IN the absence of reliable statistics, penologists and chiefs of police in the United States are debating whether or not the "crime wave" which has swept over that country

is really a crime wave or not. It is pointed out that much of the recent criminality is of a new kind—bold and reckless with little evidence of preparation—and has therefore attracted more than the usual attention from the press. But there are some chiefs of police in cities supposed to be noted for their crimes who contend that the volume of crime has not increased since the war. One gathers that the work of professional criminals, who normally commit the greatest number of offences against the laws does not get so much publicity for a variety of reasons as the operations of the amateur, who is more easily caught and convicted.

Dr. George W. Kirchwey, the noted penologist, is of the opinion that the prevailing unemployment is largely responsible for the numerous robberies and burglaries, the effect of unemployment being aggravated by the social demoralization and moral deterioration which is one of the aftermaths of the war. The crime wave, he thinks, is not likely to subside until a new era of industrial prosperity absorbs the submerged tenth of the population.

While the enforcement of the prohibition law is notoriously defective in the large American cities it is interesting to note that the commitments for drunkenness in the City Magistrate's Court of New York fell off from 4,926 in 1915 to 76 in 1920, and that petty crimes have been similarly affected, though not to the same extent.

One outstanding feature of American life is the large volume of crime, compared with older countries like England. Raymond Fosdick in his study of American police systems says that in 1917 and again in 1918 New York had six times as many homicides as London, and from 56 to 67 more than the total for the whole of England and Wales. While the imperfections of the American systems of administering criminal justice, which Ex-President Taft described some time ago as a disgrace to civilization may account for the lawlessness of Americans to some extent, it is obviously not the whole explanation.

TAXES AT DOORN

THERE is something pathetic in the All Highest fallen and being forced into the role of tax dodger in the little town in Holland where he has taken refuge. The authorities at Doorn assessed their distinguished visitor along with the other residents, and we suppose they did not show any reticence in fixing the amount. The ex-Kaiser protested. Thereupon the callous burghers have replied in effect that if Wilhelm doesn't like the way the town is run he may go back where he came from.

That puts it up to him in a rather nasty way. To go back where he came from would just now be inadvisable. Besides, the home folks are paying hatefully high taxes too, and many of them have an ungrateful idea that if Wilhelm hadn't gone off on the loose they wouldn't now be levied on from head to heel and compelled to spend most of their time working for tax collectors.

THE MASTER OF HIS FATE

THERE ought to be a lesson for those who are easily discouraged, in the example set by James H. Rawlinson, a former Canadian soldier. Rawlinson is totally blind. Yet he has learned to write shorthand by a special method and to operate a typewriter. He wrote on the Canadian civil service examinations for stenographers and obtained a percentage of 80.5 on the test.

He has been appointed clerk stenographer in the offices of the Canadian Department of Immigration in London, England, and called last Thursday to take his new position. Rawlinson is an optimist—a cheer-

ful, hopeful sort of chap whom nothing could discourage. He is making good in an occupation in which sight is an almost absolute essential. When you feel a bit down in the mouth, as many people do in these unsettled days, think of how much worse things might be. Your handicaps are probably not to be compared with Rawlinson's.

WAGES AND PRICES

THE long expected era of lower prices and wages is upon us and while the process of readjustment is necessarily a somewhat delayed one it is being carried out successfully and in most instances with the sensible co-operation of all concerned. The latest number of the Labor Gazette shows a reduction of 34 per cent. in the average family budget in June, 1921, when it was \$11.16 as compared with \$16.92 in the same month a year ago. It also quotes the prices of 53 articles of home consumption which show a decrease of 41 per cent. within the last year.

These figures would go to show that the cost of living is more than keeping pace with that of lower wages. It is possible, however, that during the next few months the reduction in the cost of labor will more than keep up with the reduced cost of living.

AN EFFECT OF THE WAR

MUCH pessimism has prevailed concerning the spiritual effect of the war, but a more cheerful view of one of the results of the conflict is held by a western clergyman, who asserts that the average soldier is a better man for having been in the army. In this he is only reflecting the opinion of many of us who observe the former soldier. We know that to make general the statement that the war has brought out permanently the baser human attributes of those who became the defenders of our country is gross libel. The boy we knew before the war is no worse morally for his experience, and in many instances his character has improved.

It seems that there could be no other logical result. When a lad severed the home ties, he put himself into a position where he must necessarily do some serious thinking about the future. With not only the possibility but the probability that he never again would see the ones who loved him and whom he loved, it is not likely that his trend of thought did not tend toward that which is uplifting and of a kind to develop a strong moral fibre? The clean-living youth who went to war still is as pure as he ever was, with the added experience which makes him more firm in his belief as to which road to follow, and the few others are no worse than they would have been anyway. Aside from physical effects, we must believe that the soldier is a better man for his experiences. Let us grant him that, for it is little enough compensation.

THE MIRACLE OF RESTORED FRANCE

ONE of the most astonishing achievements in the work of reconstruction following the war has been accomplished in France. While there has been strife and industrial disagreement going on in other countries, France appears to have been working with united ranks in peace just as she fought in the war. The results of hard, steady work have been simply astonishing. Where before the war there were 6,870,000 inhabitants in what became the devastated regions, there remained when the armistice was signed only 1,894,000. Now the persons in their regathered homes number 4,100,000. Out of the 232,000 damaged homes only 13,000 are now unrepared. More than half of the arable soil of the district is again productive.

In the principal industries of France the revival is a record of triumph—Coal production in 1921, 22,476,000 tons; in 1920 more than 25,000,000; iron ore output up from 4,422,000 tons to more than 19,700,000; pig iron from 2,412,000 to 3,317,000; and unmanufactured

steel from 2,100, to nearly 3,000,000. Throughout the war France had a colossal foreign trade, with her imports almost the same as in 1919, her exports doubled. In the first quarter of this year of 1921, France sold more goods abroad than she bought from abroad by a million francs.

At the same time while 5,000,000 wage earners are out of work in the United States, while Great Britain is filled with strikers and other unemployed and a tale of industrial depression runs the world over, the high water mark of the jobless in France, was recorded last April with only 84,800. Today the number is down to 60,000—in all France.

If there is any pathway toward the recovery of national progress and prosperity which existed before the war, France has certainly already found it, and it consists in patriotism, united effort, and hard work. It would be an irony of history if France, beaten almost into the dust as the theatre of conflict in the war, were to recover more rapidly than some of the nations with less material damage. After all the national spirit counts for more than anything else and in this France has been superb from the very first.

THE MODERN GIRL

IS THE modern girl as good as her grandmother? Evidently Mrs. Kendal, the veteran actress, is of opinion that she is not. Indeed, she is quite convinced about the matter. Speaking at an "at home" at the Women's Institute in London the other day, Mrs. Kendal (so well known before marriage as Madge Robertson) made a strong plea for a return to mid-Victorianism. Women, she said, did outrageous things today—things they would never have dreamed of doing in dear Jane Austen's time. Then, if they received a proposal, they promptly fainted. In du Maurier's age the pretty creatures said "Ask mamma!" To-day the poor dears said, "All right, old bean." She preferred the middle ages when they said "Ask Mamma."

Thus far, thus bad? Mrs. Kendal, it will be noted, takes full advantage of the privilege of the old to exalt the manners and morals of their youth over those of the degenerate present. One can readily imagine Mother Eve—all forgetful of that memorial incident in the Garden—admonishing her grand-children much in the same spirit as Mrs. Kendal rebukes the "flappers" of today, and probably with quite as good reason.

The mid-Victorian women had no doubt their good points; they were estimable ladies many of them, and there is no reason why the people of today should hurl brickbats at their dear grandmothers. But all things considered, there is no reason to suggest that the mid-Victorian girl who fainted when she received a proposal is better by a single jot or tittle than the girl with the tennis racket and a spirit of jolly comradeship who responds with a careful "All right, old bean," to the invitation to run in double harness.

THE BUSINESS OF A PARSON

Bishop Williams in Canadian Churchman. I am convinced that if we are to get an increase in candidates for the Ministry, and anything like a regular supply of candidates, the work of getting them must be taken up by the Clergy systematically as a normal part of their duty. Until it comes to be regarded by the Clergy as such, the securing of candidates will always be, as it has been and is now haphazard, irregular and most unsatisfactory. Surely finding candidates for the Ministry is an even greater work than finding and training candidates for Confirmation. Might not the two go together? Confirmation is the Ordination of the laity. In preparing young men for that Ordination why should not the thought of the other be then suggested?

Then let me urge all who are engaged especially in boys' work to keep the Ministry before the boys as a possible goal.

"THE HOME BREWED HAT"



IT GENERALLY DEVELOPS AND AWFUL "KICK" —Robert Lemen.

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

Excerpts from the press of Canada, Great Britain and from the leading papers elsewhere for "Ontario" Readers.

YOUR LUXURIES.

During the single year 1919 the people of Canada spent \$300,000,000 more for luxuries than was spent in the country for education since Confederation, according to a statistician employed by the Government at Ottawa. Starting figures.—Vancouver Sun.

LOOKS HOPLESS.

Only someone who is agin the government can settle the Irish question, but the trouble is he cannot settle it unless he is in the government. Then he is no longer agin the government, and consequently he is not in a position to settle the question And there you are!—Kincardine Review.

USELESS CAMPAIGNING.

J. Castell Hopkins, who has always considered it his duty to keep a watchful eye on the affairs of the Empire, agents danger ahead. Just when the whole machinery of imperialism seems to be running smoothly, Mr. Hopkins warns us that while visible enemies of the empire have been overthrown, "there is an organized campaign for Canadian independence which is unseen." This may be serious, but the question naturally arises, why should anyone start a campaign for something that already exists?—Woodstock Sentinel.

TREATMENT OF A FRIEND.

An enthusiastic American engineer named James Kelsey went to Russia to see the Bolsheviks how to rehabilitate their railroads. He was such an idealist that he volunteered to work without pay. His very first report on the situation complained of graft. He was at once locked up and was kept in prison for eighteen months. He has just been released, but on condition that he shall not leave Russia for eight months. The tragedies of Bolshevism are found in the stories of men who once believed in it.—Buffalo Express.

MIGHT BE WORSE.

According to a correspondent writing from Dublin on the Irish situation, "Canadian home rule has been agreed upon as the form of government for Ireland. Ulster is to have the same status as Quebec." If events shall prove this prophecy to be well founded, Ireland can still look for many fiery days ahead. Quebec and Ontario have not distinguished themselves by harmonious team work—a fact which was brought out very clearly in the recent war. Still, they manage matters better than do Ulster and south of Ireland. Better any sort of a working agreement than the present era of murder and terrorism.—Philadelphia Record.

buys, proving that the public has both money and good sense.

APPARENT, INCONSISTENT.

(Columbia S. C. Record) We don't care to hear any thrif talk from a government that goes on building \$40,000,000 battleships for the junkmen.

CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH

(Toledo Blade) Holding the disarmament conference in America means that it will be conducted in the English language, will be an advantage it will have over the one at Versailles.

HARDLY DIGNIFIED.

(Philadelphia Record) Mr. Asquith says: "So long as America finds her way to the international council table it matters little by what door she enters." But it always looks undignified to crawl in under the canvas.

THIRTY.

(Passing Show) In many London barber shops the price for a haircut is now sixteen cents, while a shave costs only six cents. This probably explains why a Scotsman entered a hair dresser's establishment recently, and asked to have his head shaved.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

(Montreal Gazette) Kingston (Ont.) has a street-car service on Sunday, to enable the citizens to escape from the heat to the cool shores of Lake Ontario. The excuse serves at the start. In the end cars are likely to be kept because the public finds them handy.

BUILDING STAGNATION

(Toronto Globe) Investors will put up with inconvenience and resort to makeshifts, and there will be stagnation and unemployment until building costs fall to a more reasonable level. If the building schemes and plans suspended throughout Canada until prices recede were to be carried out the stimulus would be felt everywhere and in every branch of business.

DANCING.

(Kitchener Telegraph) In a municipal dance pavilion in an Ohio town, there were, despite orders, some who insisted on toddling and set-stepping and camel-walking. And so all were called together and given this speech: "Dance as you would if your mother were here!" This is the best that has yet been said in behalf of clean dancing. There is not much danger of a girl dancing the wrong way if she can be made to visualize the reproving eyes of her mother watching her.

ENVIABLE POSITION OF NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Norwood—The result of the Lower School Examinations Entrance to Normal by the pupils of the Norwood High School shows the entire class to have passed.

Hyatt & Hart, Picton, will establish a flour mill if the council will grant them a fixed assessment of \$1,000 for ten years.

The steamer Mapleboro, en route to western points with package freight, went ashore in the north channel, because prices come down the public's Prescott.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

(From the Ottawa Citizen)

Lieut.-Col. W. N. Ponton, on his election as grand master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, A.F. & A.M., gave utterance to a sentiment respecting the Capital that might well be impressed on the minds of those who are in the habit of thinking of this city in its individual rather than its national sense. Ottawa, in its attempts to secure adequate recognition from the government in the way of grants for public services, has frequently been met with the statement that the administration has done much for the city and should not be asked to do more or that this city is what it is largely because of the establishment here of the seat of government. Col. Ponton, when seen after his election to the high office to which he was elevated by his brother Masons, said:

"I am proud of our capital city. I say 'our' because we who come here from other cities insist on sharing it with you. Everyone agreed that before we just knew Ottawa. Now we understand Ottawa. It has been a revelation." The Grand Master also spoke glowingly of the local arrangements, of the versatility of the Ottawa people, the splendid drive around the city, and said he was coming here again soon.

Col. Ponton has the right idea regarding the Capital. Ottawa is not an individual city in the sense that other centres in the Dominion are; it is a national city, and should be as regarded more generally than it is. The Capital belongs to the nation, and should be considered in that light. Any improvement, any progress or extension of the Capital should be a matter of pride and concern to the rest of the country. The more dignified and beautiful the capital of the country the more advanced, generally speaking, are the citizens of that country, for the Capital is the representative city, the one that receives all distinguished visitors on great political and other missions and the one in which centres the political and social life of the nation. A Capital of mean streets would be a humiliation to the people of a self-respecting country. But we have too long had the idea that if the legislative buildings and the official quarters of the capital are elaborate or dignified the country has no concern with their surroundings. This is an idea that, we are glad to know, is rapidly passing. The people of the Dominion are beginning to appreciate the duties of nationhood more and more. We are emerging from the crown colony stage and the vague overseas dominion status which we held, and are conscious of a new dignity. That dignity should be reflected in a more general desire to see Ottawa worthy the importance and interest which attaches to it as the Capital of Canada. Outside altogether of the other qualities of which Col. Ponton speaks, of the hospitality and friendliness of Ottawa to those within the gates, all Canadians who can should make it a point to visit the Capital at some time in their lives. It should be a mark of patriotism to be able to say that one has been in the national capital, has seen the legislative buildings and other parts of the democratic machinery by which the business of the country is conducted. A visit of this sort will give any Canadian who has not hitherto made it a new conception of the greatness, the achievements, the potentialities and possibilities of his country. He will learn more of the system of actual government, of its history, and its operation that he can ever acquire by any other method. He will be impressed with the extent, the resources and the development of his native land. He will appreciate that he is a citizen of no mean country.

What Canada needs is only to know its capital better in order to have it a better capital, one more worthy the nation which it represents. A "See Ottawa" movement should be sentimentalized, if not organized, in every center outside the Capital. It would help much to impress a sense of Canadian nationality upon many on whom that responsibility now rests more or less lightly, and would teach the coming generation something that would prove of incalculable value to them and to the country in the future.

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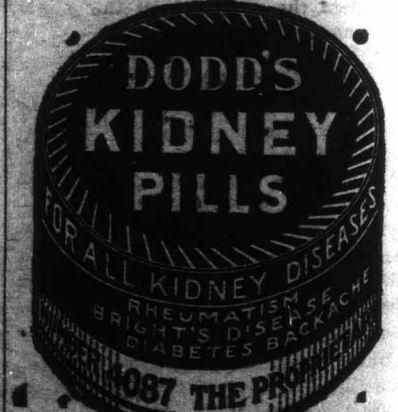
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MAURE BURNS 3 DECKS

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