CURRENT COMMENT

ADMIRAL BENSON AND BRITISH WOOL

It is no news that some United States officials and citizens do not like Great Britain. Admiral Sims' revelation that Admiral Benson had told him not to let the British pull the wool over his eyes, and that the Americans would as soon fight the British as the Germans, need astonish no one. To begin with the first part of the admonition was a complimentary recognition of British astuteness, a quality in which they had been supposed to be deficient. Admiral Benson and his like were really afraid that Britain might get ahead of them in some way. This would indicate that men like Benson and Lodge register fear when Britain is in question. That there is no need for such an attitude of mind goes without saying, and only a very small percentage of United States people entertain such a feeling. What is true, however, is that Americans do not like English people as well as they like Canadians. But there is not the slightest excuse for translating this distaste into fear. Americans are almost universally admired in England, just as they are "worked" in Scotland, and worshipped in Ireland. It would be a grave mistake to read more into Benson's remark than is warranted. Benson is a bureaucrat and his sentiments would be dangerous in a Government like that of the late Czar in Russia or the Kaiser in Germany, but in a democracy like the United States they can do no great harm, as the exposure by the Congressional Committee indicates. The solid opinion of the Republic will stand behind Sims and his results with war when Benson has been forgotten.

THE LAW OR THE LAW GIVER

Max Armstrong, a representative of advanced "red" views, speaking in Toronto recently at "The People's Forum," demonstrated the existence of a class of men in society who, by their partial education, have been led to deceive themselves and mislead others. Speaking of religion, he said: "If anyone in this room believes in a God—well—let him go ahead and believe." Mr. Armstrong's "God" is a belief that if the wage system were abolished, and all production be devoted to use and not to profit, there would be an end of all earthly troubles. He has too much faith in human nature. What he denounces as "God" is for the wise man a recognition of immutable law. Law is just as definite and unchangeable in the moral and ethical and social worlds as in the physical or scientific worlds. The failure to understand or to appreciate this fact lies behind most of the wild efforts of amateur reformers. What we need most of all is a knowledge of natural laws. The more human law is brought into harmony with natural law the better for the world. Natural law arises from the operation of a Principle in nature, which may be called God or anything else, or denied altogether. It makes no difference to the operation of law. Under this all-dominant law, rigid justice is measured to the world and its people. Nothing is to be had for nothing. Every result must be worked for. The laborer cannot be cheated. He gets assuredly what is his own. The man of wealth will lose everything he does not administer wisely and for the benefit of those for whom the Great Law has entrusted him with a Stewardship. Mr. Armstrong cannot be deprived of his reward by any human agency. The law is unchangeably just. "It knows not wrath nor pardon; utter true its measures mete, its faultless balance weighs; times are as nought, to-morrow it will judge, or after many days." It has been the fault of western civilization in worshipping the Law Giver to forget all about the law. So far Mr. Armstrong is right, but he may make the same mistake the worshippers of God have so generally made and omit to take account of these inescapable laws, so different from those of human law-courts.

ELECTION REFORM IN ONTARIO

General satisfaction seems to have been given by the provisions of the new Election Act, although one politician described the placing of the election lists in the hands of a judge as likely to cause the judicial robes to be dragged through the mire. If our judges cannot be trusted to prepare a voters' list it is difficult to imagine who could be trusted. The aim of the new legislation is evidently to remove the whole election machinery from partisan influences. Rabid partisans on either side of politics may not like this, but the people as a whole are not in favor of partisan methods. The tendency of the new regulations is distinctly democratic. This is seen in the abolition of the property qualification for candidates; the provision for people to vote who have moved from one district to another before elections, and for patients in hospitals to exercise the franchise. Nothing is said of proportional representation, but it is understood that this important reform in the principle of voting will be introduced at the next session of the legislature, when the question of representation by population must also be dealt with. This really means redistribution, but with proportional representation redistribution offers none of the thorny problems which attend it under the present system, in which the temptation to gerrymander is irresistible to the partisan politician. Proportional representation, with its method of large constituencies following natural boundaries, renders it impossible for any majority to be deprived of its authority, or the will of the whole people from finding expression.

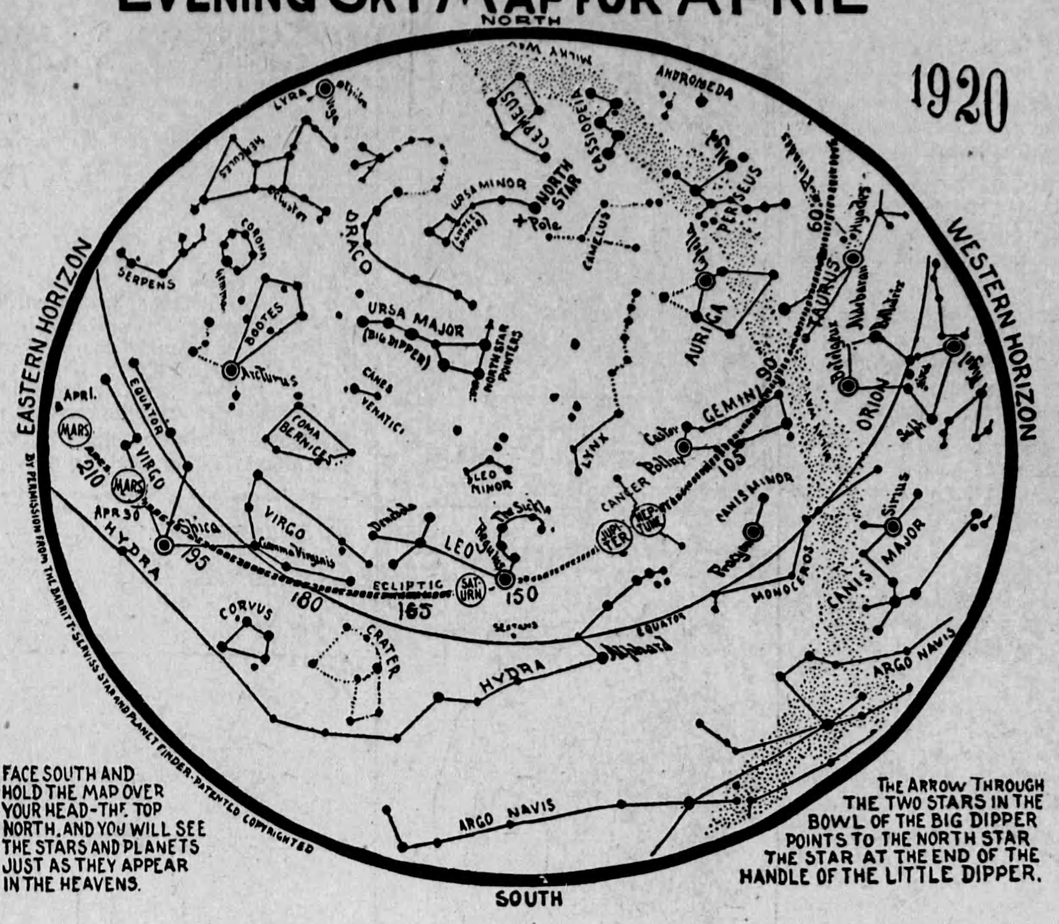
MONEY IS NOT WEALTH

A well authenticated story comes from England describing the action taken by a leading firm of piano makers, who find themselves unable to carry on business in spite of a huge demand, a splendid modern equipment and ample capital, because the workmen employed refuse to speed up in production. The head of the firm declared that two men in the United States produced as much as twenty-six of his, and that competition under such conditions was impossible. Reliance on the so-called but utterly fallacious "law of supply and demand" is the origin of this difficulty, and employers and capitalists who have encouraged the idea that things were valuable because they were scarce are responsible for the situation. Everybody who knows that sometimes a dollar will buy nearly two bushels of wheat, sometimes a bushel, and sometimes, as at present, less than half a bushel, ought to be able clearly to see the difference between money and wealth. The farmer knows, too, that when it is said there is no demand for wheat, there are always people starving to death for want of it, and that what should be said is that the means of distribution are inadequate wealth,—that is, true wealth, not money which is only the symbol of wealth and is useless unless it represents values, is the product of labor. The greater the production, the greater the amount of real wealth. As long as workmen as paid in money-values instead of wealth-values the opposite idea is supported under the belief that the less wealth the more money is to be had in exchange for it. It may take a long time to undeceive the English workmen in this respect. They must learn that there is an unlimited demand for every useful thing produced by labor. The more things are produced, the more wealth there is if the unlimited market can be reached, and this is where distribution comes in and becomes one of the prime reasons for securing the cheapest means of transportation. England, with her dominant shipping interest, if her workmen would produce, could easily compete in the world-markets with the United States, which protects herself in her home market against such competition by her high tariff.

MR. CLARKSON'S AUDIT

A report on Hydro Electric activities in the province has been made for the Government by Mr. G. T. Clarkson. A number of critics who do not know anything about the affairs of the Hydro Commission, and who do not understand its principle of supplying power at cost, have been in the habit of declaring that the system was bankrupt and that its liabilities were overwhelming. The same critics declared when the project was first started fifteen years ago that it could never succeed, that it would never use 10,000 horse-power, and that it would bankrupt Ontario. It has done none of these things. It has reduced the cost of power to one-third of the former prices charged by private companies. It has saved Ontario millions and millions of dollars in this way besides contributing in a remarkable degree to the development of manufacturing interests in the province, and assisting indispensably in the provision of munitions during the war. The only debt the Hydro Commission owes is due to the last mentioned service as a result of the order of the Dominion Power Controller to the Toronto Power Co. to deliver power to the Hydro Commission for munition plants. The Commission expected to pay $13 for this power, but as the result of a law suit the courts have ordered the Commission to pay about $450,000 more than was estimated. A deficit with accounts of the Ontario Power Co., which was purchased by the Hydro Commission, resulted from the cost of a third pipe line which amounted to $3,500,000 to supply 50,000 horse power to munitions plants. It is proposed to spread this cost over an extended period. Instead of criticizing these expenditures the sensible people of the province will be glad that the Hydro Commission was in a position and had the spirit to make them. The adjustments in rates made from year to year to secure the supply of power and light at cost are sometimes a little in or a little over the mark, but the following adjustment balances the account. Mr. Clarkson's report as a whole is really a splendid testimonial to the enterprise and success of the Hydro Commission.

EVENING SKY MAP FOR APRIL



FACE SOUTH AND HOLD THE MAP OVER YOUR HEAD-THE TOP NORTH, AND YOU WILL SEE THE STARS AND PLANETS JUST AS THEY APPEAR IN THE HEAVENS.

THE ARROW THROUGH THE TWO STARS IN THE BOWL OF THE BIG DIPPER POINTS TO THE NORTH STAR. THE STAR AT THE END OF THE HANDLE OF THE LITTLE DIPPER.

Ursa Major, the Greater Bear, more familiarly known as The Big Dipper, is a very conspicuous object in the April skies. This group, like the poor, we have ever with us in our northern latitude, and its position in the sky is an index of the changing seasons. At present it is almost directly overhead; in the summer evenings it is in the northwest, in the autumn it lies low on the northern horizon and in the winter it is in the bleak northeast.

Although the Dipper is by no means the most conspicuous object in the heavens; it represents to many people their one bit of knowledge of celestial figures. This may be due to the fact that its shape is easily remembered, and that the two outer stars in the bowl point ever to the pole star.

The idea of the habits of a bear is well carried out by the position of the constellation during the winter season. The bear lies on his back apparently sleeping through the winter months, but awakens in the spring time and immediately begins his foraging habits.

There is a charming legend about these stars which the Indians tell their children. In this story, the group of stars contains the bear and also some pursuing birds. When the bear awakens from his long winter sleep these birds pursue him, but after his long sleep he is fleet of foot and is gaily indifferent to the pursuit. Many of the birds, represented by neighboring stars, tire of the race and drop out until only three are left, represented by the handle of the dipper. In the autumn the bear lags in the race and is overtaken by the birds. He rears in self defence, but is killed by an arrow shot by robin, and falls over on his back.

With his usual greediness, Robin hastens to feed upon the bear, and gets badly spattered with blood. He flies to a celestial tree and endeavors to shake off the tell-tale marks, but nothing will remove the crimson spot upon his breast. In the autumn tints of the foliage are to be found the vivid reminders of the blood which robin spattered far and wide. Through the winter, the bear sleeps his long sleep, but the spirit of Spring touches him with her life wand, and he comes forth again to be relentlessly pursued in his yearly race of life.

Ursa Major was also known in England as Charles Wain or Waggon, for Charles I. of England, and was in those days regarded as a celestial time piece. Shakespeare in King Henry IV. refers to its position in the sky as telling the hour:

"Heigho! An't be not four by the day
I'll be hanged:
Charles' Wain is over the new chimney. . . . ."

The line drawn through the stars in our map marked "North Star Pointers" passes almost directly through the pole of the heavens and revolves with the constellation every twenty-four hours. The starry hands may therefore be said to trace their path unceasingly over the great clock dial of the northern sky.

Between Ursa Major and the north pole winds Graco the Dragon, which is also an important constellation and will be described in a subsequent article. The two Spring constellations, Leo the Lion and Virgo the Virgin, described last month, are now finely in view in the heavens.

In studying the stars, it is very essential to remember that the face of the sky changes with the seasons. There are special constellations for every season, and stars for every mood,—dim stars and bright stars, small stars and big stars, red stars and white stars, amber stars and blue stars; whatever type we seek we can find waiting for us in the lonely silence.

Along the line in the map marked "Ecliptic" will be found the planets. Mars and Jupiter are the bright lights in the evening sky, Mars in the east and Jupiter gliding into the west. It seems hard to believe that we can ever chat comfortably to Mars when we are told that a gulf of 54 million miles lies between us.

THE BRAINBOX

CONDUCTED BY E. GUNN RAMSAY.

Talents wanted.

What have you?

What do you think you have?

Is there a market in your part of the world for talent?

Do you mean to create a demand and then to help to feed it?

How far you have demonstrated the fact that you possess initiative, brains and talents in your present line of business by progression, by aptitude, and by good work?

Spring is on the way. It is a great time for new ideas. In many of us "spring fever" takes the form of a feverish desire to get out and dig. Almost everyone, even the laziest soul, becomes possessed of a craving to get up and do something.

What big thing are you going to do?

Spring time is a great season for cleaning and clearing up. It is also the time of all fresh-growing things upon the earth.

Are you growing?

Why not do a little mental spring cleaning, and make up your mind to cultivate more?

In his book of talks upon success, George Matthew Adams says: "I will make this day worth while. I will drop the past, remembering it only as a valuable path through which I have walked into the NOW. I will take up the work of this day as a personal pledge to do my best—with interest and enthusiasm. I will do the things I have failed to do before. I will attempt new things that I know that I can do. I will go ahead. . . . . I will be loyal for the concern for which I toil. I will be faithful to all my trusts. I will master the smallest detail. I will boost—not knock. I will do—not intend. I will get things done. I will work because I like to. I will be fair and just because there is no other way to win. I will do right because it is right. I will drink defeat if it comes—sometimes as good medicine. I will sweat by courageous effort—determine to succeed at all times. It will make this day worth while."

Is not this, after all, the best way to begin every day,—to start off with the resolve that we will play a straight game whatever may come. Only so will you ever deserve success when it comes to you and be able to grasp the handle of opportunity. Only so can you give that service to your country which is rightfully anticipated of every true citizen.

THE CANADIAN NAVY

It was obvious enough when the news came that the naval service was to be demobilized that it was not the intention to discontinue but to reorganize it. Partisanship was served, however, by making the least probable deduction. Three days later it became fully apparent that Admiral Jellicoe's recommendations were not going to be scrapped, nor the offer of $16,000,000 of warships by the British Admiralty lightly put aside. Far more important than ships are the men to operate them, and if the second hand navy now offered to Canada did nothing more than supply the necessary training school for a future marine corps, this would be great gain. Sooner or later Canada must assume all the responsibilities of nationhood, and as long as there are Prussias in the world, actual or potential, so long will it be necessary for other people to protect themselves and their weaker neighbours from the brutality and rapacity of the immature and unmoral races of the earth. "The poor ye have ever with you," said the Master. There are always evolving from the lower ranks of humanity nations which care nothing for the traditions and codes of others.

They may come out of Europe, like the Prussians, or out of Africa, or out of Asia, or even out of South America. The millenium is a long way off yet in spite of the laudable hopes of some pious people. Nation-building is still to be carried on with the vigilance of Nehemiah.

CARPENTIER IN PICTURES.

Georges Carpentier, world war hero, idol of France, heavyweight champion of Europe and the most talked of man in the world to-day, has been signed by Robertson-Cole to appear exclusively in motion pictures distributed by that firm.

SOME FIGHT.

Two Giant Actors Will Spill Blood in Bill Hart's Next Release.

Look for a lot of "good red blood" in Bill Hart's next picture. It will have a fight between Bill and that other giant actor, Tom Santschi, and no one need look for a pink tea affair. Hart plays the role of a soldier returned from overseas and Santschi the part of a saloonkeeper near the water front in San Francisco.

Advice to Motorists as to How to Handle Their Cars

Slamming on the brake is perhaps responsible for more tire trouble than all else. The motorist should always apply his brakes gently, for every time they are jammed on they lock the wheels and run up tire bills.

Then driving with under-inflated or deflated tires are two inexcusable faults that shorten the life of tires. A deflated tire should always be removed It is far less expensive to come in on the rim.

Driving in ruts or street car tracks is equally hard. Such carelessness wears the casings down to the fabric in a line following tire circumference.

The careful motorist never drives with tight chains. Chains properly put on are loose, so that they can work about. If this is done the cross chains will not strike the same spot at each revolution and the wear will be more evenly distributed.

The old adage of "a stitch in time saves nine" certainly applies to a tire cut. Although it is often impossible and impractical to immediately attend to a tire, the thrifty motorist makes it a rule to repair his casings at the earliest possible moment.

The too general practice of bumping into the curb when parking results in blisters. This seldom affects the exterior of the tire, but the tube becomes overheated by friction from the broken carcass, and a blowout is inevitable.

Oil is one of the greatest enemies of rubber. Within a comparatively few hours a tire becomes blistered from coming in contact with a fatty substance. By using a gasoline-saturated rag grease and oil can be removed from the tire at a great saving to the motorist.

THINGS MADE OF WOOD.

Here are some of the strange uses made of wood and its by-products:

"Silk" socks, made from wood fibre, which look like silk, feel like silk, but are far cheaper than the real thing.

Sawdust sausage casings, in which wood, converted by chemical processes into viscose, is used instead of the old type of sausage casings, produced from the by-product of the slaughter house.

Wood flour phonograph records, compressed under enormous power, to help make music from sawdust.

Tanbark shingles, made from the waste hemlock bark, after it has been through the tannery.

Paper milk bottles to help fight the high cost of living, by saving the breakage of enormous quantities of glass bottles in the kitchen and by the dairyman.

All of these unusual commercial articles are made from what was once waste of the sawmill.

TELESCOPE REVEALS ICE CAPS ON MARS

Question as to Whether Place is Inhabited Is Declared Beyond Human Solution

Sending wireless messages to Mars and Venus, and the possibility of projecting a rocket to the moon, are subjects of recent speculation which have excited keener interest in the solar system.

"Mars always challenges interest," says William Joseph Showalter in a communication to the National Geographic Society.

"Its day is about the same length as ours, but its year is nearly twice as long. Although astronomers generally take less interest than laymen in the surmise as to whether the other planets are inhabited, since they, more than laymen, realize that that is a problem that must in all human probability remain unsolved, the question is more often asked about Mars than any other planet.

Venus' Day 224 of Ours.

"Venus was an unusually interesting object in the sky during July of last year. Not again until February, 1921, will it appear as bright and fair in the evening sky. It has phases like the moon, and these can be seen even through a good field glass. Its day is believed to be the same length as its year, which is 224 of our days.

"It is quite generally believed that Mars has ice-capped poles. The telescope reveals white spots at the poles that have every appearance of being like our ocean Polar region. They advance toward the equator in winter and retreat in summer. In the summer of 1916 Pickering, who, with Lowell, has led the school of astronomers who believe they can see canals on Mars, said that he found the white caps stretching farther down towards the equator than he had ever seen them before.

"He said that if there was any connection between the weather of Mars and that of the earth, the winter of 1916-17 would be the coldest in many years. And it was. May it yet be possible to do long-range weather forecasting on the earth by studying the waxing and waning of the ice cap of the South Pole of Mars?

Pictures the Solar System.

"Perhaps our most graphic picture of the solar system is given by Herschel. Imagine a circular field two and a half miles in diameter; place a library globe two feet in diameter in the very center; eighty-two feet away put a mustard seed. The globe will represent the sun and the mustard seed Mercury.

"At a distance of 142 feet place a pea and another at 215 feet. These will represent Venus and the earth, both as to size and distance. A rather large pinhead at a distance of 327 feet will speak for Mars and a fair-sized tangerine a quarter of a mile distant will stand for Jupiter. A small lemon at two-fifths of a mile will play the role of Saturn, a large cherry three-fourths of a mile distant will answer for Uranus and a fair-sized plum at the very edge of the field will proclaim Neptune."

"BLACK ROD" MAN HAS "CUSHY" JOB

Gentleman of King's Household Has Really Nothing To Do

King George has appointed Lieut.-Gen. Sir W. P. Pulteney as gentleman usher of the Black Rod in succession to the late Admiral Sir Henry F. Stephenson. The office is one of those purely ornamental ones which are numerous in this country. "Black Rod," as he is called for short, has next to nothing to do and gets $1,000 a year for doing it, and a suite of apartments, rent free, in the House of Lords.

He is a glorified messenger of the hereditary legislators. When on duty he is gorgeously attired in court costume with knee breeches and a plumed cocked hat and a dandy little sword by his side. The emblem of his authority is an ebony wand, but he never does anything with it.

When members of the House of Commons are summoned to the House of Lords to hear speeches from the throne or the Royal assent given to acts that have been passed, Black Rod enters the Upper House and makes his way to the "woolsack" on which sits the robed and wigged Lord Chancellor. He is told to inform the members of the House of Commons that they are wanted. Then he has to walk half way to the door backwards, making a bow at every few steps and looking very solemn.

When he arrives within a few yards of the door of the House of Commons the Sergeant-at-Arms of that body, who is on the lookout for him, shuts the door in his face. Black Rod has to suppress his feelings and knock humbly at the door.

Then the Sergeant-at-Arms opens a little panel in the door and asks him what he wants, or something to that effect, and Black Rod tells him what he already knows. Then Black Rod is admitted. This little bit of comedy is supposed to indicate that the House of Commons does not take any orders from the House of Lords. Then Black Rod, with chastened mien, advances to where the Speaker sits in state and in Norman French delivers his message.

In dressing up your old car for the coming summer's touring, the cellular part of the radiator should be painted —not with the often-used aluminum paint, but with lamp black, which radiates heat more readily and does not assume the dead look which aluminum paint takes on after it has been heated for a number of times.

A very good radiator paint is made up by stirring about four ounces of lamp black in a mixture of three ounces of boiled linseed oil and one ounce of turpentine. A sprayer, such as often used for spraying body polish on the car, makes an excellent device for applying the radiator paint to the insides of the cells which cannot very well be reached by means of a brush.