CURRENT COMMENT

Higher Cost For All But Local Paper.

Nobody on earth is so long suffering as the country editor. He can make jokes about the high cost of living even as he starves to death. Expenses have doubled, trebled, quadrupled, but he gets no more for his paper than the ancient dollar and a half, which was less than enough before the war. He pays his help more, he pays the farmer more for less food, the grocer more for his supplies, the tailor more for his clothes, the shoemaker more for his shoes, and everything else in proportion. Yet he continues to charge $1.50 and is mildly thankful when he gets this much. He is afraid of a rural revolution if he charged $2. But if he does not arrange for more revenue he will find himself in a state of suspended animation. The farmer who is getting double prices for his wheat should think little of a higher price for the home paper with its interesting local budget.

Drury Team Has Two Errors.

It looks as though the Drury Government had made another mistake. The first was in the handling of the Massey Education Commission incident, when The Toronto World foolishly stampeded them into refusing expert assistance from a group representing all the best authorities in education in the labor, the political, the collegiate, and the lay ranks, under the absurd misapprehension that capitalists were trying to overthrow representative institutions. conclusions arrived at by an independent body of educationists conducting an enquiry would be no different whoever supplied the funds, and action upon the conclusions arrived at remained entirely in the hands of the Government. A really serious encroachment on the traditions of representative government is to be feared in the provision in the new election act for a four-year term for the legislature, including a stipulation that the present body remain in power until October, 1923. There can be no objection at all to limiting the life of the legislature to four years, but the old prerogative of the people to bring about a dissolution through pressure of public opinion on their representatives should not be interfered with. It is the great safety valve of British democracy that no government can consider itself entrenched and superior to the will of the people. It is the weakness of the United States system that in spite of the utmost dissatisfaction with the governing authority, the people must sit still and wait for an appointed hour, which may be two or three years off. Mr. Drury should see that his bill sets four years as the legislative term, dating from the day of election, but the House should be immediately dissolvable on a vote of want of confidence, and at the option of the new majority.

The Population Leakage.

It has been announced at Ottawa that an official estimate of the population of the Dominion sets it at about nine millions. In some respects Canada has grown slowly, but the country has been the gainer on this account. Those who remain, who acclimatize themselves, who survive and produce an acclimatized stock are forming the foundation of a great and hardy nation such as the northern latitudes have always been noted for. There are no statistics available to indicate what the actual leakage is from the Canadian population, but considering the birthrate and the active immigration of the last twenty-five years it must be heavy. The number of Canadians in the United States is enormous. Unfortunately, too, among those who leave the Dominion are some of the brightest, brainiest, most talented and gifted children of the northern zone. Patriotism in the European sense is not a feature of this continent. Love of the land, the actual earth, the place where one was bred, born and nurtured, is a European characteristic, but the Canadian is at home in any one of the nine great nations, just as the United Stateser is at home in any one of the forty-odd. And there is so little difference between Ontario and New York, Ohio or Michigan that the Canadian does not feel he is violating any patriotic tradition in crossing his border and going into Uncle Sam's land, as the Frenchman would feel in leaving La Patrie and going into Germany. At any rate the Canadian crosses the border and leaves a gigantic inheritance behind him for those who remain. Next year's census should be taken in some more accurate and scientific way than has hitherto been the case, and only people actually present in the country counted. In Great Britain the whole forty-five millions are numbered in a single night and the advantage of this system over the American method of prolonged enumeration is very great.

A Case of Civic Financing.

In the retirement of Thomas Bradshaw from the City Treasurership of Toronto there is much to cause reflection on the part of those who have the welfare of the country and especially of civic government at heart. The finances of the City of Toronto had fallen into a woeful condition before the war owing to the policy of postponement and procrastination that had been followed by council after council of vote-seeking aldermen, not brave and honest enough to face the situation and raise sufficient current revenue to meet the city's needs. In the worst of this situation Ald. Wickett was elected. He was an LL.D. of Harvard, a clever business man, and one of the most public-spirited of the younger citizens. A dead set was made upon him by the Evening Telegram, which always panders to the baser sort, and his reforms and suggestions were sneered and jeered at in the usual style. He got other support however, especially by the Toronto World, and much was done to convince the people of the necessity for sweeping changes. Just when it was evident that the campaign was to be crowned with success, Dr. Wickett died. He had had Mr. Bradshaw in view and acted in co-operation with him till his death. The preparations he had made and the seed he had sown bore fruit, and the result was that Mr. Bradshaw accepted the position of Commissioner of Finance for the city. In its usual style, The Evening Telegram took all the credit for the appointment. How Mr. Bradshaw handled seventeen millions of undigested civic securities, introduced a new system of accounts, reformed the budget methods, hurried the collection of taxes, set the city's affairs in order to meet the purchase of the Street Railway next year, and carried the city through all the difficulties of war finance, is fairly well known and constitutes a brilliant record of financial achievement and public service. The city after great squeezing paid him $15,000 a year. He saved them nearly two millions in his first month of office. It would pay the city to give him $50,000 to stay. He goes to the Massey-Harris Corporation for $30,000 a year. Great cities must learn to pay bigger salaries.

Greenwood to Hive the Orangemen.

Sir Hamar Greenwood's appointment to the Chief Secretaryship of Ireland s a brilliant bit of statesmanship. Sir Hamar is taking his political life in his hands by accepting the post which has broken many men in the last generation or so, and offers as difficult problems as any job in the Empire. But Sir Hamar has special gifts of adroit and ingenious circumvention, and his frank and downright way of handling public situations have given him a strong hold on the people. Should he introduce Canadian methods into Ireland he will probably succeed. Their very novelty will disarm hostility. For a Chief Secretary in Ireland to go among the people, address meetings, talk to crowds, jolly the leaders and hob-nob with everybody would suit Ireland better than all the Coercion acts ever were passed, and would get further in the way of settling the "most distracted country." He is lucky to take hold of the office at a time when everybody in Ireland except the madmen, politely known as extremists, has become utterly disgusted with the state of affairs and is ready to welcome the new Home Rule Bill with its provision for six independent counties in North East Ulster, an arrangement that would be known in Ontario as "Hiving the Orangemen." Of course, they won't stay long hived. When they get a taste of ruling themselves they won't be long till they are ruling all Ireland.

Tide Still Running With Farmers.

In the election of the Labor candidate in the Timiskaming poll a shattering blow was struck at the old party system. The utmost effort is being made by both parties to conserve partisan conceptions of government and the party machine methods of electioneering. The Liberal and Coalition candidates were both regarded as strong men, but they were on weak platforms compared with the Farmer-Labor man, who had behind him the solid reputation which the Drury Government is piling up at Toronto. The old-time parties in Ontario at present are relying solely on opposition and criticism, instead of putting forward a constructive program with a stronger appeal than is made by the generous and extensive public legislation now going through the Legislature. Mr. Hartley Dewart spoiled his chances as a politician by permitting personal ambition to prevent him last October joining forces with the victorious farmers. In juggling with the anti-prohibition forces he lost a splendid opportunity of taking rank with the dominant section of the House. The Conservative party having failed to appeal to the people by holding a convention have lost most of the prestige Sir James Whitney gained for them and instead of taking the lead in further progressive measures and especially in public ownership, they have allowed themselves to be jockeyed into the minor role of opposition critics waiting for the Government to make a mistake. A long period of patience appears to be in store for both wings of the opposition.

Advertising is a force for higher honesty; for when men found that goods would sell by advertising their merit, they began to put more merit into the goods in order to advertise their merit. -- David Gibson.

THE BRAIN BOX

CONDUCTED BY E. GUNN RAMSAY.

Think!

How do you think?

How much actual serious thought goes into your daily work, your daily actions, or how many times do you act without thinking?

Have you ever studied the faces of the men and the women, the boys and the girls whom you meet day by day as you go through life? In repose, often, more often than not, you will catch your neighbor in the appearance of a "brown study."

He appears deep in thought, indeed; but make the experiment some day of asking the same man in all seriousness at several different hours of the day of what he is thinking, and how many times will you receive an answer that may lead you anywhere beyond the immediate future. He may be thinking of his next meal, of the weather, even something of his job, but how often will you find a gem of thought bubbling up which will enrich for you the day, and for him place another brick in the temple of constructive ideals.

Right thinking is the root of all true and purposeful action, action which brings results.

Therefore THINK, but think sanely, think deeply, not along the mere surface of things. Learn to look below. This is a word for both workers and employers, for the man at the head as well as the man at the foot.

You who work for a wage, for a salary, you think that you should get something bigger in remuneration. Is this thought merely a surface ripple, stirred up by the prevailing discontent around you caused by "the high cost of living," though spring not actually from an apparent need upon your part? If this is so, you will have a little farther to go. Think deeper. Why, apart from the fact that others demand high wages and that living has soared, should you, John Brown, or I Tom Smith receiver a higher wage than that at which I came into my job?

How far has the wage been earned? What new contribution has been brought to the daily task? What zeal exerted which was unknown heretofore?

Think it over. All demands upon the part of the laborer if they be honest, must be accompanied by equal results. It must be a fifty-fifty at least. We live each by the other and you or I as the workers in this world have no more right to demand from anyone more payment in return for a day's work, than that we honestly have striven to fulfill.

How About Employers?

We live, one by the other, and if the worker must think, here too is the day, if never before, when the employer also MUST THINK, and think seriously of his obligations, which, in proportion to his opportunities for service, both individually, to the community and nationally are bigger than those of any other citizen.

The employer of today must think along the line of action which will lead him into closer relationship with those who are in his service.

The gulf between the worker and the man at the head which has heretofore existed must be bridged, the barriers must come down, force from either side must give way to conference, confidence, and co-operation, the three "C's" which will lead to direct construction.

Force upon either side can only lead to the building of more barriers between employer and employed and barriers when they come to be torn down ruthlessly by the hands of those who have suffered by their obstruction, will finally lead to destruction and chaos.

Therefore give us men who will think. Men upon both sides and in every section who will think aright.

This is too big a subject to be handled in a paragraph or two. There is another issue which will be taken up in this corner next week.

A LITTLE ABOUT HAMAR GREENWOOD

A lucky accident carried Hamar Greenwood far on his way from Whitby, Ont., to the Irish secretaryship at Dublin Castle. And whimsical fate decreed that the Canadian should win fortune not by "falling on his feet" but by falling literally on his head. Indeed, after the hard knocks he got in those early days in London and the difficulties his courage surmounted, even a rebellious Ireland should have no terrors for this son of Ontario.

No bed of roses was life for Hamar Greenwood when, equipped with little else than his degree from Toronto University and unlimited pluck, he crossed the Atlantic in 1895 to try his luck in the world's metropolis. He had just celebrated his 25th birthday, and was about to make his debut on the lecture platform under the auspices of a celebrated British temperance society.

Great Ambition.

A forceful and convincing speaker, young Greenwood, who had learned the art of oratory at Varsity, and acquired the secret of self-confidence as an officer in the Canadian militia, favorably impressed the critical British audiences. But temperance lecturing was not a remunerative avocation. In fact Greenwood could just keep body and soul together. So presently he enrolled at Gray's Inn to study for the bar, the most ambitious and uphill career in England, difficult for an Englishman with legal connections, but simply appalling for an unknown Canadian.

Down to Last Coin.

"That is the last piece of money I possess," declared Hamar Greenwood desperately one day in 1899 as he met W. T. R. Preston on the strand. The Whitbyite produced this last remnant of his funds, a solitary half-crown—60 cents. Greenwood remarked that he was just deliberating whether he should make one more attempt to get some employment which would help him through with his legal studies, or throw up the sponge then and there, go to the nearest recruiting office and join the regular army in the ranks—in those days the last resort of the stoney broke.

It was here that fate stepped in. A day or so later Greenwood, sitting disconsolately a-top an old horse omnibus was jogging down towards the city to try and better his fortunes. Suddenly the ponderous vehicle in which he was riding slewed sharply on the greasy pavement, struck the curb and rolled over. Greenwood was thrown heavily on the cement sidewalk, striking on his head. Unconscious when picked up, he remained in that condition for ten days. For weeks he hovered between life and death in hospital, receiving the daily attention of one of London's most eminent surgeons, who, having met the young Canadian at a lecture, took a kindly interest in him. News of the accident brought other friends from whom Greenwood, too proud and independent to disclose his poverty, had held aloof.

Got Heavy Damages.

The upshot was that the London General Omnibus Co. paid Greenwood £1,000—nearly $5,000—damages for the very severe injuries he had received. After a lengthy convalesence the injured man resumed his studies, and thanks to the funds at his disposal was absolved from any further financial worries until he had emerged a full fledged barrister from the Temple. From the day that the bus toppled over Greenwood's fortunes steadily advanced, partly as a lawyer, but chiefly in the political field. In 1911 fortune smiled her kindest when the beautiful and charming Miss Margery Spencer, daughter of a well-known family, became his wife.

Member for York in 1906-10, Greenwood has since represented Sunderland in the British House. When war broke out he became lieutenant-colonel in a Welsh regiment, and after six months' active service was invalided home. He was created a baronet in 1915, and became deputy adjutant-general of the British army later. He was Under-Secretary in the British Cabinet for Home Affairs prior to his present appointment.

"TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE MOTORIST"

1. Don't forget to slow down at street intersections. It may save a human life.

2. Don't forget to look to the right and left before passing a railroad crossing.

3. Don't forget, when signalled by a vehicle in your rear, to turn slightly to the right and allow such vehicle to pass you on your left.

4. Don't forget the pedestrians. They, too, have rights on the streets and highways.

5. Don't forget to use extra precautions when you see a child crossing a highway.

6. Don't forget that in case of accident you must stop immediately and give your name, address and license number to the injured party or a police officer. If no police officer is in the vicinity, report to the nearest police station or judicial officer.

7. Don't forget that all motor vehicles must be equipped with adequate brakes in good working order, and adequate horns or other signalling devices.

8. Don't forget that your lights must be lit within half an hour after sunset.

9. Don't forget that safety first saves life and limb and often your temper.

10. Remember the A. B. C. of motoring—Always Be Careful.

MAY PRODUCE PICTURES.

Rumor has it that Lord Northcliffe of England, who owns half a hundred daily, weekly and monthly periodicals, including several movie magazines, is to become a motion picture producer.

The Quiet Observer

Alien Strike Promoters

Renewed outbreaks of strikes on the railways of America and in other industries are evidences less of discontent than of misdirected purpose and enthusiasm. Men who do not think for themselves but are willing to believe and follow leaders of any kind in any matter or in any walk of life without taking pains to verify the authority and authenticity of the leader and his message are bound to suffer from their negligence. It is true that men are not to blame, altogether for their ignorance, but ignorance is the result of ignoring facts as a general rule, and usually men ignore facts and are consequently ignorant because they are too indolent to exert themselves in learning, or are moved by some selfish desire which supplants their reason. It is absurd to expect a perfect sense of justice and reason in the masses of men, but if more pains were taken by those who know, or ought to know, the origin of most of the destructive agitation that is being carried on, these alien sources of trouble would be quickly recognized, the real causes of justifiable discontent would be located, and the possible elements of friction in our social and economic conditions eliminated. Of course this implies a desire on the part of those in authority also to get at the facts and know the truth, and to cultivate a sense of justice in their dealings in industrial affairs. It is only common sense, however, to preserve such a policy. None other has ever succeeded. All the same, German, Russian, and other alien agitators should be identified.

Killing the Golden Goose

The strike of the switchmen in the United States may have a basis of economic justice behind the demands made, but the strike itself is merely part of the tragedy that has been going on for some years of the killing of the goose that lays the golden eggs. It is part of our economic ignorance that we do not fully realize that when one suffers all suffer, that we are all members of one family, and that whether it be a switchman or a railway president that suffers, the rest of society suffers with him. Society is a great machine in which every nut and bolt and rivet is needed for the full efficiency of the whole. The machine may make shift for a while with much of its parts missing or broken or unused. but its effectiveness and producing power will be limited and eventually badly impaired or ended. The great war has demonstrated all this for us on a gigantic scale. Still we are not satisfied. Instigated by various motives or conspirators, society has transferred its warfare to industrialism and economics, and generals and privates of industry alike have failed to appreciate the inevitable result. The strike war stops production just as much as and in some ways to a greater extent than the military war, and as in military war the privates suffer most. It is obvious that the old economic and industrial methods require reconsideration and modification. Are the generals not equal to the task of so distributing the food and clothing and fuel which the earth produces so abundantly, that everyone will be able to have enough and be satisfied? As it is, we are increasing the general suffering instead of lessening it.

Blue Jeans in Fashion

A strike which appears to have some justification has been inaugurated in the Southern States. It is against the high price of clothes. Even in Toronto $75 is paid for a suit which could be had for $25 some years ago. This does not trouble those whose wages have been increased or whose income is of such a character that its "margin" has been unaffected by the changed conditions. But the thousands of families who depend on fixed salaries—and it is notorious that the small salaried worker is still drawing little more than they did before the war, and elderly people trying to live on their savings and small properties are in real difficulty through the high prices. The strike in the South, known as the "Tampa" idea, takes the form of wearing blue jeans or overalls instead of buying new suits. Business and professional men have adopted the uniform. In Birmingham, Alabama, a club of 4,000 men are pledged to wear the simple garb. There are certainly advantages in living South.

Cards, Dancing and Theatres

Considerable importance may be attached to the decision of the Methodist Episcopal Church at its New England Conference to remove the explicit prohibition in the book of discipline from dancing, cards, and theatres. The spirit of the discipline remains unaffected, as the prohibition is extended, as now phrased, to "practices that are seen to affect loss of moral and spiritual character." The difference is not in removing the prohibition. That is as explicit as ever. But the authority is changed. The old discipline placed the authority in the church. The new discipline places it in the individual, whose moral responsibility, his recognition of principle, whose determination to avoid worldly things both for his own sake and for the better example set for others, demand on his own moral development and the moral elevation of his character. It should be obvious that a higher stage of development has been reached by the man who avoids childish things because he has outgrown them, than by the man who abstains from them because he is afraid of a penalty attached to conduct, whether it be the public opinion behind a Methodist discipline, the dread of punishment after death, or the recognition of the inevitable degeneration of character consequent on addiction to trivial or effeminate pursuits.

An Ontario Divorce Court

There is to be a divorce court in Ontario. A great deal of feeling has raged around the matter on both sides. The proximity of the United States and the facility for divorce in the laws there has not rendered the lack of a proper divorce law in Ontario such a hardship as it might have been. Besides, all the nine Provinces, except Quebec and Ontario, have divorce courts, and Quebec does not—academically—believe in divorce. Ontario will be in line with seven of her sister provinces in affording to rich and poor alike the remedy which only the wealthy in Canada can secure. For those who regard marriage as a religious ceremony or rite there is a phrase of it which seems to have been entirely overlooked. The text is constantly quoted in this connection: "Those whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder." But surely the converse of this is just as true: "Those whom God hath separated let not man bind together." It is true that marriage is a divine institution, but marriage in the abstract and marriage in concrete individual cases are different. Bishop Fallon has recently referred to mixed marriages as a scandal. He would not consider God guilty in these cases of causing the scandal. The effects of ill-judged human action may surely be remedied by well-considered judicial human correction. There are evidently plenty of such cases in Ontario. Eighty in Toronto alone have applied to the Senate this year.

An Englishman on Ireland

Philip W. Wilson, the Washington correspondent of the London Daily News, gave an exceedingly fair-minded presentation of his views on the Irish situation to the Canadian Club at a recent luncheon. "I observe," he said, "that the Canadian clubs avoid all discussion of politics or religion, and that is why, I suppose, you have asked me to speak on the Irish question." He Dismissed DeValera's assertion that Irishmen wanted Germany to win the war, by declaring that from his knowledge of Irishmen this was a great slander on the Irish people. He thought mistakes had been made in failing to recognize and acknowledge the heroism of the Irish regiments in the early days, when they had sacrificed themselves for the common cause. The grievances of Ireland were religious, financial, agrarian, and parliamentary. Mr. Wilson showed how these had been removed. The tax levies on Ireland were $15 a head as compared with $80 for Scotland and $60 for the British Isles generally. He thought Pitt had been guilty of a blunder worse than crime in destroying Irish parliamentary institutions instead of developing them. The difficulties about Home Rule were in Ireland itself. He had asked leading Belfast men what they feared from the South. They replied, "We are conducting industries. They are conducting agriculture. We are not sure they will understand all our needs." Mr. Wilson did not understand the cause of the great laughter that broke out, occasioned of course by the strict parallel between the Toronto merchants and the Farmers' Government in Ontario, of which he was evidently not aware. Belfast industries relied wholly on imported iron, coal, wood and flax, a tariff on which would stop their work. Mr. Wilson left the impression that he looked for a solution through the new plan of a double Parliament with a united general council.

Always Two Sides

There is some excuse for the citizen who refuses to take sides in the tariff disputes. The one thing certain about tariff changes is the utterly unexpected results that follow, whether the changes be upward or downward. There is no hard and fast rule that makes it certain that either high tariff or low tariff, protection or free trade, is the best for a country. Countries have flourished under all these forms and have failed to prosper under all of them. Britain has been astonishingly successful under free trade, and the United States under protection. In Australia one colony adopted one form and another colony another with equal success. Similarly in South Africa, Natal and Cape Colony offer contradictory experiences. It is impossible to dogmatize on the subject. The citizen must take pains to inform himself in regard to the special local conditions to be considered, and form his judgment as best he can from the probable results.

Made in Germany

It is not unnatural to contrast the conduct of the terrorists in Ireland with that of the Germans as reported by correspondents from the Ruhr district, where the recent insurrection was being suppressed. The Germans, so ruthless in Belgium and France, took the utmost pains not to cause any more damage than they found absolutely necessary in their own land. The carnival of murder, incendiarism and destruction in Ireland is carried on by men who have no thought of the true interests of Ireland at heart. Mercenaries, subsidized by German and American money, it is not the advantage of Ireland, but the injury of England they seek, and instead of trying to injure England they turn their evil power against Ireland and Irishmen.