The Quiet Observer

Hon. Arthur Meighen.

As the first Ontario man to attain the premiership of Canada, Hon. Arthur Meighen will have the sympathy of his provincial compatriots. He is, however, characteristically a westerner, cool, able, prepared, aggressive in attack when pressed, but like all men of true courage, not looking for trouble. He is shrawd and far-seeing and as a debater is not surpassed. His powers as a speaker are of the legal order, and he is logical and analytical. Thoughtful, concentrated, and absorbed in affairs, he is perhaps less of a "mixer" than those who have less on their minds, but his methods succeed, and he is never found wanting. His selection as premier has been received by the press of both parties with favor. Liberals recognize him as an honorable opponent, but they are quite clear that he is a Conservative, and as such, that his premiership means the end of coalition and the return to party government. The Conservative press sees nothing to regret about this, and is glad to have a definite decision arrived at. It is the custom to speak of Mr. Meighen as a young man. He is 44 and to the man of 24 that age may seem patriarchal. But the fact is that a healthy man of 44 has a quarter of a century's work in him, and if the new premier is to be regarded as a dominating influence for 25 years to come in the history of Canada his personality, his talents and attainments must be a matter of interest to his fellow citizens. It is worth noting that the leader of the Opposition, Hon. W. L. M. King, is also an Ontario man, and not two years older than Mr. Meighen. It will be a study to follow the careers of these two men.

High Cost of City Life.

The United States is becoming a land of big cities. The new census shows sixteen of over 400,000, and twelve of over 500,000. These are: New York, 5,621,151; Chicago, 2,701,212; Philadelphia, 1,823,158; Detroit, which jumps from ninth place, 993,730; Cleveland, 796,836; St. Louis, 773,000; Boston, 747,923; Baltimore, 733,826; Pittsburgh, 588,193; Los Angeles, 575,480; San Francisco, 508,410; Buffalo, 505,875. Montreal and Toronto will rank in this list after the next census and will probably displace San Francisco and Buffalo in the first dozen. The growth of city population becomes a very serious problem in the national life, however. At one time about two-thirds of the people fed the other third. Now one-third of the people is expected to feed the other two-thirds. No wonder at the high cost of living. It is the high cost of city residence that has to be considered.

Jones' Shipping Act.

It has always been a sore point with the United States that her merchant marine has been unable to compete, or perhaps one should say dominate, in the world's shipping. Again and again efforts have been made to place United States bottoms on a more favorable basis than those of other nations. The fear of retaliation, either threatened or about to be resorted to, has deterred such efforts in the past. Germany was able to build up a finer merchant marine than the United States under the same conditions, and it has never been shown that Britain has in any way handicapped her United States rivals in this respect. Her ports and coal depots are open everywhere to the shipping of the United States as to her own. America could engage in British coastwise shipping had she a mind to it. Congress has at last passed a law which not only infringes the principle of equal treatment but actually violates twenty-four commercial treaties entered into with other nations. One of the things asked for is that American mail shall be carried in American ships. It is said that of $3,000,000 paid for carrying mail every year, all but $500,000 is paid to foreign vessels, chiefly English. But if all mail is to go in United States vessels, then the mercantile world will suffer by the delay, for the essentials of a mail service is speed. The real reason for the failure in growth of American shipping is that the United States people are not sea-going folk, and that the cost of their shipping is greatly higher than that of British, French, German, Dutch, Scandanavian or Japanese shipping. Until Uncle Sam can reduce his freight rates on a basis of lower costs he cannot compete with the maritime nations who now hold the world's sea traffic.

Anarchism in Ireland.

Ireland continues in a state of turbulent upheaval brought about by the unruly ignorance of a possible five per cent. of the people led on by American agitators, and the cowed submission of the terrified people. Sir Edward Carson has now recognized that the same emissaries who came from New York to Ireland last year not only had an Irish office in New York, but in other parts of the city had Indian and Egyptian offices. Perhaps the British government will listen to Sir Edward Carson, but it should have been well known to them that German, American, Russian and other international intriguers have been conspiring since the war measures were relaxed to overthrow British rule in Ireland as a beginning in the overthrow of the British Empire itself. If the facts were openly and plainly discussed instead of hushing them up under the present policy of silence by which it is hoped to allay religious bigotry and political animosity, it would be found that neither religion nor politics had any real influence in the Irish situation and that the whole conspiracy represents the worst elements in international anarchy.

General Dyer of Amritsar.

Brigadier General Dyer, who turned his rifles on a crowd of unarmed Hindus at Amritsar, killing 500, wounding 1,500, and leaving them unattended, where they lay, appealed from the decision of the commander-in-chief in India removing him from command, and the Army Council has given its decision confirming his loss of rank and his reduction to half-pay. This is the very least the Army Council could do, and in view of the enormity of the tragedy the punishment is light. General Dyer's contention was that his action was necessary in order to maintain the authority of the government and that "he would have looked like a fool" had he not fired. It would have been better to look like a fool than feel like a murderer. A Cabinet minister observed that he could not be acquitted on an error of judgment. It should be quite clear that if it is necessary to shoot down and slaughter unarmed, unresisting and admittedly peaceful crowds, it would be wiser to abandon government altogether. It will take a long time to wipe out the memory of the Amritsar massacre in India.

Trade With Russia.

Soviet Russia and Bolshevist Russia are the problem of Europe. It is not clear that the soviets or councils are all clear bolshevist, nor is it clear that all bolshevists admire the typical bolshevist. The more I see of men, said a cynic, the more I like dogs. So the Russian sovietist might observe, "the more I see of Bolshevists, the more I like tsars." Even Emma Goldman, the New York anarchist, who was understood to have a stomach equal to any political mess, has revolted against Leninism and yearns for the liberties of New York once more. Truth to tell, these European agitators do not know when they are well off. Obsessed with hostility for tyrannical government in Europe they are unable to understood free government in England or America and they keep on agitating against a name instead of trying to understand an idea. Emma Goldman has the idea by this time. Mrs. Philip Snowden, a British firebrand, refusing to believe the newspaper reports of Bolshevism, went to Russia to see for herself. She returns convinced that not half had been told. But the story brought back by the Anglo-Saxon Sheba of the Muscovite Solomon is of an entirely different nature to that taken to Ethiopia in days of old. Meantime commerce must have its way and the United States has removed restrictions on trade except in regard to war materials. The negotiations carried on by Gregory Krassin with the Prime Minister of Britain are likely to be followed by trade activity. None of the established governments, however, is willing to recognize the Lenin rule, and careful observers believe that the Lenin administration is growing weaker.

Using Old Locomotives.

An ingenious use for old railway locomotives has been found by mounting a tender over the running gear and by turning steam from the engine boiler into it, using it as an auxiliary tractor. The boiler is found to be capable of generating sufficient steam for both sets of cylinders. The hauling capacity of an engine has been found to be greatly increased by this means and the effect on heavy grades is markedly advantageous. As a method of using locomotives whose boilers are worn out, the plan is also of economical service. In view of the competition of electric power it is important to use every means possible to get the most out of the fuel value of coal and to increase the carrying power as well as the life of the locomotive and no better suggestion has been brought forward in recent years. The idea, though, is not new, having been introduced more than fifty years ago in England. The whole subject of traction is under review in connection with the progress in electric locomotion and the development of water power. The use of coal for steam generation is a most wasteful process, only five per cent. of the energy in the coal being utilized.

Protests in Palestine.

All is not peace in Palestine. It was thought by some that if the Jews could be restored to the Holy Land that the millenium would shortly arrive. It appears, however, that Palestine is as full of the Hevites and the Jebusites, the Amalekites and the Midianites as ever it was in the form of Christians and Islamites, who protest that they have prior rights in the country and that the Jews have "no status in the country. The Arabic press is loud in opposition to Zionism and this is not at all as might be expected on religious grounds, but on economic and national matters. The Arab, Christian and Mohammedan people of Palestine consider themselves Syrians and regard Palestine as "Southern Syria." The opposition to Zionism and what they call the "Zionist peril" has united the Christian and Mohammedan people to an undreamed of extent, and they are not going to give way to the new arrangement without strong protest. More particularly are they concerned that the sacred places of Palestine should remain under their protection and in their possession. An Arab national paper published at Damascus refers to "the sepulchre of Jesus Christ shedding its light" at Jerusalem and states the fact, which should be better known, that "among the Arabs Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary, holds the same place as Mohammed."

Tips For Motorists.

Nothing is more frequently forgotten by the city motorists than the law and the fact that pedestrians have the right of way over everything else. It is a matter of precedence. First come the footmen; then the horsemen have precedence, for that was the next means of locomotion after walking. Then come the carriage or vehicle of whatever character. Next comes, not the motor-car, but the bicycle. This is in the order of their adoption for practical purposes. Probably the steam tractor has the next right of way, and finally and last of all, comes the motor car. It is natural, perhaps, when a man pays as much for a car as he has for his house that he should think everything else should get out of his way. The law is of a different view. A Toronto coroner emphasized the point at a recent inquest over a little boy who was killed, when the low speed of the car was advanced as a plea in mitigation. "It doesn't matter about speed when people are in the way who might be killed. There is no right of way in the presence of danger. No matter how certain a motorist is that he has the right of way, a pedestrian must always have the preference, and need not go at more than average speed to get out of danger."

Farm Outlook.

A recent return of the Ontario department of Agriculture is very cheerful about the forage crops. Clover was showing a better yield than had been anticipated, but nothing much has been expected. Sweet clover has been good and alfalfa a full showing, and the second growth everywhere is excellent. Wheat is in good shape, and corn, except where affected by pests, is in satisfactory condition. Recent rains have put the root crops in good shape, but the difficulty with roots, especially mangels, is the lack of labor. Roots need hoeing and do not thrive without attention. The closing of the schools releases some labor, but the great need of the rural districts is settled and residential labor. It is not anticipated that any improvement in this respect will be possible until the Hydro Radials are constructed. An interesting side-line is bee culture, and for those whose colonies survived the winter the profit is good. But there is great weakness in the colonies and it is difficult to get bees from the south. The honey pasture is plentiful for those who can use it.

Group Government.

Objections to group government are legitimate enough under the present electoral methods, where the groups do not and in fact cannot represent a majority of the voters. Where three or four candidates are running in a constituency under the present system, a minority, and sometimes a very decided minority, of votes elects the winning candidate. When a group of members is elected to a parliament or legislature under such a system, they represent as a whole a minority of the people, and do not in any wholesome sense represent the real views of the majority of the people. It is to such groups that objection may legitimately be taken, and it is in such forms of group government that it has been found that corrupt influences and undesirable deals come into play. The only remedy for this state of affairs is proportional representation by which, while groups of members may be returned, these groups never represent a minority, but always a majority quota of the people. Moreover, this method of election secures the election of the ablest and strongest and most respected men in every community, with the result that any combination of such men in the groups that may exist after such an election would be of an entirely different character and on a different basis from that which occurs under the present minority selection method. In Canada, and particularly in Ontario, the adoption of proportional representation, which has been so satisfactory in Manitoba, where it has had its initial trial, would be of the greatest advantage to the country in securing the return of the most representative men. The genius of the country politically certainly runs on party lines, but the present electoral system leaves no free play for irregular, dissentient opinion in the country, the entire suppression of which under the party system, even to the suppression of the regular opposition altogether, is not a healthy condition. Proportional representation secures party government at its best and when the growth of heterodox political views warrants, gives them fair share in the deliberations of the legislatures and parliaments.

Dickens' Blind Side.

In connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens on June 9, the London Bookman has an article on "The Blind Side of Dickens," in which his keen eye for human detail is contrasted with his indifference to historical or topographical values. In "A Tale of Two Cities", none of the great historical figures of the French Revolution are so much as alluded to, and Scott's "Fortunes of Nigel" furnishes a far more vivid picture of London in Stuart times than "Barnaby Rudge" of London in the eighteenth century. The London of which he wrote was always the London of his youth, and he only introduces railways into two of his novels, "Domby and Son" and "Edwin Drood." He lived in the land of romance, which is the land of youth and imagination. He did not care for the realism of contemporary photography. In all this he follows the greatest literature which is always concerned not so much with places and events as with the people who have to do with them. How very little historical color or topographical detail, for instance, one gets in the Bible. Moreover, Dickens' imagination was dramatic, not to say stagey. It is in dialogue and action, not in scenery, that he is strongest. And all this contributes to his hold on his readers who, for the most part, want to know what people say and do and not when and where they lived.

CANNING FRUITS WITHOUT SUGAR

Much of the Small Fruit Crop May Be Conserved By This Method.

Due to the scarcity and high price of sugar the possibility of much of the crop of small fruits going to waste is greatly increased. There is a method of canning without sugar, and, to secure the best information available on the subject, the Commission of Conservation invited Miss Jeanette Babb, Instructor of Household Science at Macdonald College, to prepare a short paper. Miss Babb especially emphasizes the caution that in sugarless canning the utmost care must be observed, and every rule strictly followed, otherwise loss of fruit and wasted effort may result.

"Fermentation and decay are caused by the bacteria, yeasts and moulds, which are ever present in the air, coming in contact with fruit. We must, therefore, destroy these forms of life present in the fruit and in the containors and prevent their further entrance into the containers, by sealing and sterilizing or boiling. This is what is termed canning.

"There are many reasons why canned goods spoil. Some of these are: Because of imperfect jars; use of old or poor rubbers; use of stale products; being too slow; filling too many jars at once; inaccuracy in time of boiling; failure to test jars after sterilizing, and careless storage.

"The equipment necessary for canning is as follows: Wash boiler, or large kettle, with an air-tight cover; fitted rack for bottom or boiler; good jars and covers properly sterilized; good rubbers; long-handled spoon or silver knife, strainer or clean cheesecloth for washing fruit, blanching and cold-dipping, boiling water, and clean towels, all of which should be sterile.

"To prepare the jars, test them first for leakage, by filling with water, fitting on rubber, sealing tightly and inverting on a dry table. If no moisture is seen on the table the jar is safe. Sterilize the jars and covers by placing on rack in boiler, cover with cold water, bring water to boiling point, and boil for fifteen minutes. Sterilize the rubbers in a shallow dish of boiling water for five minutes.

"In the cold pack method the importance of the two terms, blanching and cold dipping, should be emphasized. Blanching is to dip in boiling water, and keep under the boiling water for from a few seconds to five minutes, according as to whether the fruit is of the soft or hard variety. Cold dipping means the immediate plunging into cold boiled water, to set the coloring matter, to aid in keeping the fruit whole and to make it easy to handle.

Preparation of Fruit.

1. Select when it is at its best—thoroughly sound, ripe but firm and free from bruises.
2. Grade as to size and quality for sake of uniformity.
3. Can the day it is picked, and as soon as possible after picking, especially where no sugar is used.
4. Clean fruit and prepare as for table use.
5. Blanch in case of hard fruits.
6. Cold dip.
7. Pack products quickly into jars, which have just been removed one at the time from the boiler, using a sterile knife or spoon handle for packing.
8. Fill with boiling water, insert knife to let out air and fill again to top with water running over jar.
9. Put on sterilized rubber, cover, and partially seal at once.
10. When all jars are ready, place on rack in boiler and cover with water of the same temperature as jars, keeping the jars separated.
11. Cover boiler, bring to the boiling point and boil until the fruit is cooked.

(a) Soft fruits require from 10 to 15 minutes where sugar is used. When no sugar is used we add 15 minutes more to the required length of time with sugar.

(b) Hard fruits with sugar require from 30 minutes to one hour plus twenty minutes without sugar.

12. Uncover boiler at end of time for sterilizing or boiling, allow steam to escape and seal jars tightly immediately upon removing from boiler. Invert until cool.
13. When cool screw tight again, wash outside of jars, label and put away in a cold, dry, dark place.

HELENE CHADWICK, A Goldwyn Repertory Player
Leading Woman in the Rupert Hughes comedy, "Scratch My Back."

FACTS ABOUT CANADA

An Indian chief who was very much in the limelight when the western coast of America was discovered first was Chief Maquinna, of Vancouver Island. He had his camp not far from Fort Nootka, the place Captain Cook founded in the after days of the 18th century. He clashed with some of the first visitors, but on the whole he maintained a friendly attitude to the newcomers. Possibly it was because he saw opportunities of favorable trade that he was for a time so courteous. But after a time he became a very dangerous man and later he was responsible for some appalling tragedies. In 1802 he murdered seven British sailors who had deserted their ship and sought refuge among his people. Then the next year the SS. "Boston" was captured by his band because he thought he had been insulted by the captain of the vessel. He made the capture of the ship by bringing some of the warriors aboard to dance before the captain. At a signal given by the chief, the braves leaped on the unsuspecting whites and murdered all but two members of the crew. They were kept prisoners and slaves until 1805, when another ship appeared. As the chief was anxious for trade, he had a letter written by his prisoner asking for business, but unfortunately for the chief, the writer told his story of imprisonment, so when the Indian went on board the vessel he was held until he agreed to release his captives.

This taught the old chief a lesson and for the rest of his life he left the whites alone fairly well. His decision was hastened by the fact that in 1805 a lone white survivor of a ship that had been taken by the Indians farther north, touched off the powder magazine of the vessel and blew himself and over 100 redskins to pieces with 9,000 pounds of powder. Whites were much more respected after such a demonstration.

A BRIDE, HER CAKE, AND ITS SUPERSTITIONS.

The custom of including the thimble, wedding ring, and other similar objects in the wedding cake is comparatively modern.

The ring signifies that the person who receives the pieces of cake containing it, will be the first to wed. The thimble dooms the recipient to an old maid's fate, while a coin portends wealth. The button foretells bachelorhood.

Bride Cuts Cake.

A bride should cut the first slice of the wedding cake as it will bring her luck. However, it is unlucky for her to bake the bridal cake. If any mishap befalls the cake, it portends sorrow in the bride's early married life.

To Keep Piece of Cake.

If an unmarried woman eats a piece of the cake that the bride has left on her plate, she will be married soon. For an unmarried girl to carry a piece of wedding cake in her pocket until the honeymoon is over, means that she will marry before the dress is worn out.

When there is a wedding in the family for the first time a piece of the bride's cake should be left in the house until all the daughters are married, otherwise they will remain single

The History of a Name

WATKINS.

Variations—Watson, Waters, Waterson, Watts, Watkinson.
Racial Origin—Medieval French.
Source—A Christian Name.

As a family name, of course, Watkins is a purely British product, with a decided Anglo-Saxon influence apparent in the ending, not only of this name, but of all its variations.

The explanation is this. It was taken to England as a Christian name by the Normans at the time of the conquest, and through the several centuries in which close communication was maintained between the Normans in England with Normandy it became quite widespread. It began to develop into a family name at about what might be called the middle period of family-name formation; that is to say, at the period when the Norman population of England decided to consider itself English, and the Anglo-Saxon tongue is modified form began to reassert itself.

The Christian name from which it developed was Walter, and the specific person who gave that name popularity on the continent just prior to the Norman invasion of England was the saintly Walter who lived in the dukedom of Aquatanie about the year 990. The more famous Walter, famous in the historical sense, that is, Sir Walter. Abbot of Fontanelle in the middle of the twelfth century, probably did not have so much influence on the popularity of the name in England, for by that time the ties with the continent were less strong.

The name was often pronounced, and even spelled "Wattere"; and also contracted into "Wat." The ending "kin" was the regular diminutive of the Anglo-Saxon tongue, and the final "s" indicates a shortening from the ending "son."

DO YOUR JOB.

The business world is full of young men whose worth is not appreciated. They are always talking about it. They are so busy talking that they can hardly find time to do anything else.

If any one is promoted over them it is because he had a "pull" with the firm; the manager is something between a bat and an owl, and the board of directors are senile old gentlemen who know nothing about anything.

There are no words more necessary today than—"Do your job." They are not musical words, nor particularly refined. They are even distressing words to a large number.

Do your job.

Few employers are totally devoid of common sense, and most of them know, when a thing is well done, who did it. Also they know when something is badly done.

By all means be ambitious, but don't tell everybody how valuable you are—prove it.

Do your job.

There is enough health and sanity in those three words to cure all the ills of this troubled world.

GERMAN WAR LOSSES.

Recent statistics published in Germany on that country's war losses state that 1,350,000 men were killed. There are today 520,000 war widows, according to the statistics, 1,130,000 war orphans, and 500,000 maimed or consumptives supported mostly by charity.

The only quadruped that is known that can not swim is the camel.

Norway, though "dry," permits the sale of light beer and very light wines.

X-rays are being used successfully to bring out erased parts of ancient palimpsest writings.

To reduce fire danger 400 miles of telephone lines will be installed in Canadian timber lands.

Experiments are being made in equipping lighthouses with radio to send guiding signals to ships.

Before the end of the year it is predicted there will be passable north and south trunk roads extending from St. John, N.B., to Miami, Fla., and from Victoria, B.C., to San Diego, Cal.

As a school for their instruction prior to the beginning or the 1920 road work, three hundred inspectors and other employes of the Pennsylvania State Highway Department are conducting a two weeks' conference at Harrisburg.

The task of scrubbing unpainted floors will be materially lightened if a few drops of oxalic acid are sprinkled upon them.

What Would You Do Without Newspaper Advertisements?

What if there were no advertisements in any newspaper?

Lost and found articles might never be restored to their owners.

Buying, selling and renting houses would be greatly delayed.

Merchants would be compelled to depend almost entirely upon those who passed by their stores for their trade.

Such a condition would set the hands of the clock of progress back two hundred years. It would limit trade. It would bring delays and annoyances and make purchasing risky and expensive.

This goes to show how important newpaper advertisements are in our everyday affairs.

Read them fully and faithfully. It may mean many added advantages in your life and dollars in your pocketbook.