The Quiet Observer

Ontario Crops Good

Anticipations of the crops in Ontario continue to be favorable. Essex began the fall wheat harvest week of July 12, and though the straw is not heavy the grain yield is good. The abundant rain has promoted the second growth fodder. Alfalfa in particular is described as making tremendous growth. The rain has been excellent for root crops, but for weeds also, so that much hoeing has been necessary but not always available. Potatoes are likely to be a good crop. Early tomatoes came in at $3 a basket, and the earliest run of green peas ever made for the Lambton Packing Co. was reported on June 29. All the first crops appear to have been good in spite of some local disasters. Norfolk reported yields of strawberries at from 8,000 to 10,000 boxes an acre. The country as a whole never looked so fresh and flourishing and if warm weather continues through the harvest period Ontario will have cause for another jubilant Thanksgiving.

Leading Strings for Leaders

If we are to believe the leading party newspapers the end of coalition government has not only arrived, but a new era of party government has begun in federal politics. The signs to be relied upon are the installation of Hon. Mr. Meighen as prime minister, and the withdrawal of Hon. Mr. Rowell from the government. Which is another way of recognizing Mr. Meighen as par excellence a Conservative, and Mr. Rowell similarly a Liberal. The Conservative press does not appear to be perturbed over this, but there is some division of opinion in the Liberal papers who do not think that the prominence given Mr. Rowell is compatible with due party respect to Hon. W. L. M. King. There need not be any difficulty in determining the merits of the one or the other until they have come into competition and it has not yet appeared that any competition exists between Mr. King and Mr. Rowell. The latter has a considerable record of political and public service behind him. Mr. King has not yet attained to such eminent office and his political service has been of a different character. It is not among the leaders but among the followers that division may most reasonably be looked for. In view of the coming election, whether it be one year or two years off, the rank and file are more anxious about who is likely to be successful as a leader than the leaders are themselves. After all, the people may have more to say about it all than the politicians, the papers, or the leaders on either side.

Another Valuable Product

Amber has been discovered at Cedar lake, eighty miles southwest of The Pas, Manitoba, adding one more to the valuable products of the country. Hitherto the only thing approaching amber and found in quantity has been the amber-like resin known as chemawinite or cedarite, found on the Saskatchewan. John Murray, former editor of the Canadian Mining Journal, reports a plantiful supply scattered about the sand the mud of the lake. Amber has been found on the shores of the Baltic and North Seas, but chiefly on the promontory of Samland. This amber has been broken off the deposits in the ocean bed. Pit amber is dug from blue clap strata. This true amber is technically known as succinite, and differs in hardness from other fossil resins. It gets its name from yielding on dry distillation succinic acid. Amber is used for beads and other objects, and very largely for pipes. Among about a dozen varieties of amber, Simetite or Sicilian amber is one of the most important, but in recent years Burmite, as Burmese amber is known, has been largely used. Like everything else, amber has trebled in value since the war, but before this its value had greatly increased. The discovery in Manitoba is therefore important. Amber was known as electron to the Greeks and from its properties we derive the name of electricity.

Canada and Westminster

An appeal has been sent out by the Dean of Westminster Abbey for $1,250,000 for the preservation of the venerable pile which is threatened, as it has been for many years, with decay and destruction. A great deal has been spent upon renovation and renewal, but more drastic treatment is still necessary. It has been found necessary to underpin the whole of the foundations of St. Paul's Cathedral, owing to the construction of underground railways and other works, which have sapped the original base. Winchester Cathedral has just undergone similar renewals, and it is probable that Westminster requires something of the same kind as well as renovation of the superstructure. It is difficult to think of any other building in the world as containing so rich and hallowed memories as Westminster. At all events, for the British people, it is the shrine of all shrines. To Canadians it has the direct interest, as the Dean points out, of having been the repository of thirty or forty flags during the war of Canadian corps. They were draped over the monument of General Wolfe, and the Dean hopes that the Canadian government will send a couple of colors to be a perpetual adornment of Wolfe's monument. Would it not be a fitting tribute to place the colors of the Princess Pats in this hallowed place?

The Hydro and Politics

or not, many people regard the appointment of a commission to investigate Sir Adam Beck's Hydro Radial Commission as a reflection on Sir Adam Beck. The Farmers' Sun calls on Sir Adam to resign. The provincial Liberals of the Legislature passed a resolution asking for the reorganization of the Hydro Electric Power Commission. The municipalities have regarded it as an attack on the man who has served them faithfully for 17 years and they have rallied to his defence, and called upon him to accept the offer of a nomination to the Legislature made by the constituency of North East Toronto. The object of most of this is to get the Hydro Electric projects into politics so that patronage may be dispensed in the recognized way. Should Sir Adam agree to sit for North East Toronto it will be for the purpose of keeping the Hydro system out of politics. To put it under political control would mean its ruin. The municipalities, which are chiefly concerned, are well aware of this. Apparently, however, to keep Hydro out of politics, Sir Adam must be in politics, and should he re-enter the Legislature, students of provincial politics regard him as the biggest figure in Ontario at the next election.

Hydro's Incredible Success

Details of the financial position of the municipalities in connection with the Hydro Electric Power Union shows the most gratifying progress and the most satisfying conditions. The twelve pioneer municipalities were reported on some time ago and now 31 others which have been seven years on the Hydro switches show their combined assets as $1,880,552.50, with a net debt of $697,578.55. This means a dollar of assets for every 37 cents liability, and only one-third of the life time of the debentures has elapsed. In addition, the cost of domestic electric service has been lowered by 37 p.c. and of commercial service by 41 per cent. The average lighting rate today is 4.5 cents, as against an average in these 31 municipalities of 8.98 before Hydro was established. These calculations have been verified by commissions and experts already, but it might be well for the satisfaction of the corporations to have them investigated again. The municipalities are satisfied. The people are more than satisfied, but, according to some critics, where everything is so satisfactory there is likely to be something wrong. It does not seem in the nature of things political that Hydro power should be such a tremendous and profitable success, and show a credit balance of $512,742.36 among 31 municipalities without someone getting pickings out of it. This is the sentiment behind the desire for investigation and it does more credit to our legal than to our benevolent instincts.

Occupation or Civil War

Ireland and Irish affairs appear to be moving on to a definite catastrophe of one kind or another. Everybody recognizes an impossible situation. Yet one side is too dastardly and the other too proud to make any overtures. The unfortunate people whose only desire is to live at peace can find no comfort in either side. The British Labor men who voted to require the government to withdraw the soldiers from Ireland were declared by Sir Hamar Greenwood not to understand the situation. They were there not to fight, not to terrify nor to impose martial law, but simply to re-enforce the police in protecting peaceable citizens. Perhaps the Labor men desire to see the ground left clear for Irishmen of opposite convictions to fight it out, like the Kilkenny cats. It is either civil war or British occupation. There may be doubt in some minds as to the result if the Irish people were left entirely to themselves, but there is no doubt in Ireland. It would be a fight to the finish. American sympathizers imagine their side would win. But which side? There are as many American sympathizers for the north as for the south, and as much help would go to one as to the other. Nor is it to be supposed that British sympathizers would stand aloof. There is not the slightest doubt if the British troops were withdrawn the result would be a civil war which would make a Mexican revolution look like a Boy Scout parade. The Sinn Feiners are doing what Germany and some other people have done—presumed on British clemency, good sportsmanship and sense of decency. It is obvious that De Valera and his Sinn Fein following possess none of these qualities.

Whiskey in Irish Crime

It should not be forgotten that the outbreak in the city of Derry in which 8 lives were lost originated, to quote a local Irish paper, in a drunken squabble between Unionists and Nationalists at the junction of Long Tower street and Upper Fountain street, these two street ends being only separated by the thoroughfare of Bishop street close to Bishop's Gate, and the scene of bloodshed for many years during the periods of rioting. Men armed with revolvers and rifles afterwards came into conflict, and before the military could intervene several lives were lost.'' Very little stress is laid at any time, and usually no mention is made of the part that liquor plays in Irish rioting. The Sinn Feiners themselves understand this and some effort has been made to curb the traffic. But the liquor interests are very deeply seated in Ireland and have a much larger influence in Irish politics than is generally understood. It would be practically impossible to generate the heat and inflame the passions to the depths of brutality which Irishmen have displayed during recent occurrences without the stimulus of whiskey. This is very well known to the revolutionary agencies who take advantage of this weakness to precipitate disturbance and create conditions they deem favorable to their aims.

Old Remedies for New Maladies

It is not long since Emma Goldman and Mrs. Philip Snowden recorded their abhorrance of Bolshevistic methods, and to these are now added Tom Shaw, Labor M. P. for Preston. He has ''no use'' for Lenin, but much sympathy for the ''160,000,000 of decent, self-respecting people that Russia contains.'' His accounts of the food he had seen the Russian workers eating, and the state of affairs generally, conveyed his own impression that those people were slowly starving and suffering all the time. He is convinced that all the military leaders are of a kind, Denikin as bad as Lenin and Kolchak as bad as Denikin. The militarist craze is not dead in Europe yet and Tom Shaw found it at its worst in Poland, he asserts. There the swashbuckler is as rampant and as arrogant as ever in Germany or Austria. Lloyd George's proposal of an armistice to Soviet Russia for the benefit of Poland was given scant consideration, but if Russia determines to press the Poles beyond their own frontiers the armistice proposal contained a warning that the Allies would assist Poland in defending their territory, and this will have to be made good or the League of Nations discredited. Behind all the fighting and intrigue there is the fear, quite openly warranted by German declarations, that a Russo-German alliance may be effected which will once more partition Poland and dominate both Europe and Asia. Perhaps this fear tends to promote the fulfilment of the desire for commercial relations between Great Britain and Russia. It may seem pitiful that the world's reliance on peace is through the resumption of commercial relations, but Europe is in such a demoralized state and revolution is so much the order of the day that any straw is snatched at that offers hope of stabilizing a world influx. Commerce may be the straw, or it may be something else, but statesmen in view of a continent distraught are willing to resort to any old remedy that is suggested. The trouble is, according to some, that they will not listen to the prescription of any new ones.

DO YOU 'MEMBER?

Just about this time o' the year and the bunch would call for you and you'd beg off weedin' the onions and promise ma that you'd do them in the morning and finally she'd say, "Well, all right, young man, you can go this time, but if dad wants to know where you were this afternoon, and why the garden wasn't weeded, you can do the explaining."

Oh boy! then down the road and through the pasture (and you'd rip your shirt crawlin' under the fence) and then the bunch would stop and pull off some of Ad Mercer's corn-silk and you'd all light up one o' the home-made cigs and Skinny Stearns or Fat Temple would get a little dizzy and make all sorts of excuses about why they weren't feelin' good. Eh! 'member?

Then pretty soon the grand old creek would loom up in sight like an oasis in a desert, and you'd all start peelin' off on the way down till there wasn't an awful lot left on, and then mebbe Bob Reed or Doc Janes would start out like a greyhound with a bundle o' clothes under his wing, and talk about your cross-country races—none of them had anything on that one, eh! And Fat would usually trip on something or run a thistle in his toe. But he'd always come up smiling. And then SPLASH! SPLASH! like so many frogs you'd all tumble in and come up spittin' water all over like young whales. And Fat would always hold his nose and jump in 'cause he couldn't dive; 'member? Eh?

JANE NOVAK PLAYING IN GOLDWYN PICTURES

She Plays Opposite Tom Moore in ''The Great Accident.''

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By ELINOR MURRAY

Registered According to Copyright Act.

Elinor Murray is anxious to help every mother solve her problems in connection with the care and feeding of children. Thousands of mothers all over Canada have benefitted by her advice and encouragement. Anyone who is desirous of receiving information on this subject should write to Elinor Murray, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto, and the questions will be answered in these columns. Those desiring a personal reply must enclose a stamped envelope.

OUT OF DATE.

I haven't much use for the trainer who declares a dozen times a day: ''I'll tell your father!''

This is the point where many mothers fail. They should be absolutely supreme in the molding and training of the growing boys and girls, and yet they weakly give the children the impression that at times they are not capable of filling their position, and must appeal to the great unknown quantity—father.

It is usual for father to leave home early in the morning and return about six at night. This, and some extra hours on Saturday and Sunday are the only times he sees his family. How can he be expected to know his children well enough to have anything to do with their disciplining? Father's part consists in encouraging and advising mother, never in interfering.

When a woman is trying to train two or three children—yes, even one is enough to keep her pretty busy—she has not much time left on her hands to think about some ''rights'' that she is told she has not. She thinks that the privilege of motherhood, and all that goes with it, is a pretty big one. Of course, some women don't, and they have a right to that opinion. But most women who are normal women and have red blood in their veins do think so. They feel that motherhood is a pretty good job, and a good one.

Because a woman does not want to vote, or does not belong to a dozen clubs, or does not play bridge and because she thinks her greatest work can be done in the home instead of out of it, because she cannot find time for anything other than her home duties ask of her, such a woman is not necessarily ''old-fashioned'' or ''behind the times.'' It may be that she is more wisely abreast of the best things of the day, and a vital part of them, than the woman who thinks of her as ''out of date.''

OLD JAPAN DISAPPEARING.

Japan is so fast adapting and adopting not only western customs and manners, but western architecture, as well, that the traveler who wishes to see anything Japanese must get out of the cities and off the beaten track. Standing on the Ginza, Tokio's main thoroughfare, the stranger will be amazed at the variety of fashions that will pass along before him. A gentleman in evening dress is followed by another who wears a frock coat and a bowler hat, and by still another robed in native haori and hakama, canopied by a top hat, and sporting an expensive cane or umbrella. Behind these strolls a man in overalls, followed by one in a yet more mongrel costume—a suit of white cotton underwear, over which is a cotton kimono and no shirt. All this is immensely comical, but the Japanese take it as a matter of course. The Japanese women, however, are free from these Eurasian indiscretions in dress and habit, preserving as yet their graceful native costumes.

NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND.

That character and ability, like murder, will out in spite of handicaps, has been proved over and over again by history. For instance: Gladstone gave no evidence of unusual ability as a boy. Napoleon stood forty-second in his class at the military academy, but who ever heard of the other forty-one? Darwin, the scientist, could never master any language; his father accused him of being interested only in dogs, shooting and rat-catching, and said he would be a disgrace to the family. Henry Ward Beecher, as a boy, was a ''poor writer, a miserable speller, with a thick utterance and a bashful reticence which people took for stolid stupidity. Grant had a dismal time as a tanner and a farmer, and found himself in distinguished military service.

Area of British Empire.

The total area of the British Empire is three times larger than the United States. The British Empire and its territories have an area of 11,373,793 square miles, while the United States and its territories have 3,743,318 square miles.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

Lesson V. August 1.
DAVID BRINGS THE ARK TO JERUSALEM.
Lesson—2 Sam. 6: 1-19; Ps. 24: 7-10.
Printed Text—2 Sam. 6: 11-19; Ps. 24: 7-10.

Golden Text:—
''Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise.''
—Ps. 100: 4.

Historical Setting.

Time.—1042 B.C. Places.—Jerusalem and Kirjath-jearim.

Daily Readings.

Monday, July 26.—Reverence for Holy Things (Num. 4: 4-15). Tuesday, July 27.—The King's Mistake (2 Sam. 6: 1-10). Wednesday, July 28.—David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6: 11-17). Thursday, July 29.—The Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25: 10-22). Friday, July 30.—Sacrifice and Song (1. Chron. 16: 1-11). Saturday, July 31.—Ministering Before the Ark (1 Chron. 16: 37-43). Sunday, August 1.—Ascending the Hill of the Lord (Ps. 24).

Comments.

Verse 11. According to Beecher, this event happened in the twenty-second year of David's reign. The ark was a chest made of acacia, overlaid with gold inside and out. It contained the commandment tables of stone, a quantity of manna and Aaron's rod. For nearly four centuries it was at Shiloh, north of Jerusalem. At the time of the judges, Eli's corrupt sons carried it into battle with the Philistines, who captured it and kept it seven months. It brought calamity until returned.

Verse 12 The ark symbolized divine presence. Obed-edom was a Levite.

Verse 13. This time the requirements of the law were fulfilled. The ark was in charge of Levites (vs. 1-11). They remembered Uzzah and were careful.

Verse 14. Women were the usual dancers in the Orient. David's joy and enthusiasm expressed itself in this way.

Verse 15. The future looked bright, hope ran high, and a kingly king was leading them forward.

Verse 16. Michal, David's wife, had been separated from David by Saul, and had married another man. After Saul's death David compelled her return. Here they seem permanently estranged. See also verses 20-23.

Verse 17. The old tabernacle remained at Gibeon (1 Chron. 16: 39; 21: 29; 2 Chron. 1: 3). The ark had been shifted from place to place, but here David pitches a tent for it in Jerusalem to await the building of the temple.

Verses 18, 19. David dwelt among his people and blessed them in the double character of prophet and king. (1 Kings 8: 55, 56.)

Ps. 24: 7-310. The music of ancient Israel reached its highest development under David. He was a musician. This Psalm is arranged as a chant in response.

Illustrated Truth.

The presence of the house of God in a community ought to mean blessing to the place (v. 11).

Illustration.—Aside from being a direct blessing, there are incidental blessings which a house dedicated to the worship of God brings to a community. A man who had been disposed to rail at churches came back to his home town after an absence of several years, and let it be known that he had become a Christian. He had been engaged in laying off and building up towns in the Southwest. ''The thing that changed my attitude toward the church,'' he explained, ''was the difference that even the poorest sort of church building made in the atmosphere of the town. That was an argument I couldn't get away from.''

Topics for Research and Discussion.

I. The Ark with Obed-edom (vs. 11-14). 1. Describe the ark of the covenant. 2. Give a resume of the history of the ark? 3. What did the ark symbolize?

II. The Ark Brought to Zion (vs. 15-9). 4. What was the spirit of the people of Israel at this time? 5. What was the marital experience of Michal, David's wife? 6. What arrangement did David make for the ark in Jerusalem?

III. A Song of Praise (Ps. 24: 7-10). 7. What were the origin, place and purpose of the Psalms of Israel?

Kipling's Travels

Rudyard Kipling makes geography a sport as he makes history a romance, and his ''Letters of Travel,'' recently issued by the Macmillans of Canada, carry one on three great personally conducted tours, three swinging journeys, one from Japan through the United States, taken leisurely in spots; one through Canada twelve years ago; and one five years later through Egypt. The revival of these articles should do something to strengthen Kipling's fame as a prophet as well as an entrancing journalist. For these pages have many prophecies and they have come and are coming true. It is worth going through the book to pick out these forecasts. The Canadian section will of course interest all of us most. Kipling appreciates the limitations of the immigrant. ''But two years in Canada and one run home will make him free of the Brotherhood as it does anywhere else.'' There is a shrewd note from a superwoman's criticism of female teachers. ''A man's instinct is to teach a boy to think for himself. If a woman can't make a boy think as she thinks, she sits down and cries. A man hasn't any standards. He makes 'em. A woman's the most standardized being in the world. She has to be. Now d'you see?''

HE WAS RIGHT

''Can any boy tell me the three foods required to keep the body in health?'' There was a silence in the class till one youth put up his hand and replied: ''Your breakfast, your dinner and your supper.''

FEW MOTORISTS GET MAXIMUM TIRE MILEAGE

Nearly 40 per cent. of the tires manufactured are junked before they deliver the maximum mileage built into them.

Poorly aligned wheels, caused by side pressure against curbs, cause tread wear after from 100 to 200 miles of running. One of the commonest abuses is under-inflation, which causes fabric breaks. Every motorist should provide himself with an air gauge to test the pressure frequently.

Tread cuts are experienced by every motorist. It is impossible to avoid sharp stones or rutty roads, which pierce the tread and sometimes the fabric. For small cuts the best treatment is tire putty, while for the larger vulcanization should be done.

When an under-inflated tire strikes a sharp stone the rubber gives, but the fabric does not. Perhaps several or all of the plies are punctured. The tire may not blow out at the time, but may later. To avoid along-the-road troubles and delay outside protection and rim-cut patches should be part of every car's equipment.

As important as the casing, the tube should be given attention. When a new tube is placed in position enough talc should be used so that it will not chafe and stick to the casing when heat is generated. Too much talc will harm the tube.

Chains that are adjusted too tight will tear the casing; they should be loose enough to creep. Storing a car where the tires will come into contact with oil should be avoided, for it has a deteriorating effect on rubber. Driving on car tracks is bad, as the burden of weight on a small portion of the tire will pull the tread loose.

Nickel in Canada

Canada Has Almost a Monopoly in One of the Most Useful Minerals in the World.

The bright and neat glitter of utensils in hardware and electrical windows is to the pedestrian a continual reminder of one branch of the thousand uses of that indispensable anti-corrosive metal called nickel. Perhaps it may not be generally known that Canada is today the foremost world producer of a mineral now in universal demand.

It is 66 years since the famous sea race between a French and a British ''wind-jammer'' in southern seas for the possession of the Island of New Caledonia—a race which was won by the Frenchman, who forthwith planted the flag of the Third Empire on the then dominant source of the world's supply of nickel. Although it was only two years after that episode that nickel was found in quantities in Ontario by a surveyor named Murray, nothing was done to develop the industry until the building of the C. P. R. in 1883. During the opening up of a cut west of Sudbury in that year, a deposit of nickel was exposed, which led to the development of the famous Murray mine. Although this mine has been worked steadily since 1889, it is estimated to contain at this day some 9,000,000 more tons of ore.

This discovery on the C. P. R. right-of-way led to a rush of prospecting, and was rapidly followed by development of other mines. Today the companies owning or operating mines in the Sudbury district set the proven contents of their field of work at 70,000,000 tons, with probable and possible reserves of another 80,000,000 tons. No such vast deposits are known in any other country in the world. New Caledonia can only claim for her deposits a content of 600,000 tons.

After long effort by the Dominion government to compel the refining of nickel in Canada, instead of sending it out of the country to be refined, there have now been established two thoroughly up-to-date plants, one at Port Colborne, Ont., and one at Deschenes

The utilities of nickel are enormous. One has only to reflect upon the numerous manufactured products into whose composition nickel enters, to realize the commercial value of this product in which Canada has almost a monopoly.

Third Party Nowhere

Hope of forming a third party of any formidable kind in the United States disappeared when Senator La Follette announced his inability to accept the platform adopted by the Committee of Forty-eight. La Follette was willing to accept the platform of the minority report, but the delegates were not. The Single Taxers withdrew, the World War Veterans proved dissentient, the Labor group carried its point, and the leaders of the Forty-eight decided on a separate organization. It is one of the weaknesses of American democracy that it has not learned co-operation. There is individualism plus. What is needed is the steady coalescing spirit of the British democracy which agrees to carry one point at a time. The American democracy is childish, every little party refusing to play at all if it can't have its game chosen first. At any rate there will be nothing to divert attention from the main contest between the two Ohio candidates. This will apparently develop into a competition of how most creditably to get into the League of Nations.

Suffrage Paper Resumes.

La Suffragiste, organ of the suffrage movement in France, has resumed publication after five years' suspension due to the war.

Dialect in Bahamas.

In the Bahama Islands, which were settled more than 200 years ago by Londoners, the cockney dialect is said to be as strong as it is in Cheapside.