The Quiet Observer

Rain Favors Crops

Rain in the West has decidedly improved the crop prospects there and the harvest is now expected to be excellent. There has been almost a superfluity of rain in many parts of Ontario and flax was thought to have been imperilled. Wheat is looking very well in York and Scarboro. Hessian fly is seriously injuring the crop in Elgin and Norfolk. Hay has been delayed by the rain and has overlapped the wheat harvest. Tobacco has been a marvellous crop in Norfolk, leaves measuring 24 inches long and 18 inches across with 18 inches stalk having been found. Potatoes are described in the government bulletin as a generous yield. Peaches and plums will be a good crop in spite of heavy dropping. It is noted that milk has in some cases failed to show a proper percentage of butter fat, with the result of shipments being

Our Growing Population

In 1820 the United States had the same population approximately as Canada has today. The United States figures at that time were 9,538,453. In 1830 this had grown to 12,866,020. It may reasonably be expected that Canada will do as well or better. In 1810 the United States had 7,239,881, and in 1911 Canada had 7,204,772. At these stages the growth is at about the same rate. The advantage is now with Canada as compared with the United States of a century ago. We have the only good vacant land left on the continent. We have a big nation beside us whose people are overflowing into new settlements continually. We have richer resources than the United States was known to have in 1820. We have a far greater system of railroads than the United States had a generation later. We have electric power, which was then an unknown quantity. Shall we have 12,000,000 in 1930. Most undoubtedly, and Toronto will be a city of a million people. Several Ontario cities will be expanding towards the half-million.

Toronto Hydro Success

For the ninth time the Toronto Hydro Commissioners have issued a report of their operations in the city, and the fact that the city is a predominant partner of all the other municipalities linked up in the Hydro union make it of immediate interest to the greater part of the province. As usual, the report shows a surplus after all interest, depreciation, exchange, sinking funds, and debenture payments had been provided for. This surplus of net income for the year was $4,151.32, and it is to be remembered that thos is the result of giving the people the power at as near absolute cost as possible. The total reserves amount to $300,062,-865.60. The net reserve is this amount less $62,999.28. The report treats very fully the details of operation, power cost, operating expenses, which are 28.1 of the gross income. The cost of power had been increased by the Commission to the city from $14.50 to $16.70. Besides this and beyond which is required of private management the accounting of the Commission includes not only a sinking fund to retire the debentures but a depreciation fund to keep the plant in perfect repair. At the end of the life of the debentures, therefore, the plant will be wholly paid for out of current revenue; it will also be in perfect condition, so maintained out of current revenue, and a corresponding reduction in rates will then be possible. It is stated that the installation of a steam plant is under consideration, owing to the shortage of power, which the government is doing nothing to remedy by its new policy of investigation. A tribute is paid to the general manager, Mr. H. A. Couzens, who is being mentioned for the joint managership of the street railway when it is taken over, along with the other Hydro utilities. Mr. Couzens has been offered the management of the entire underground railway system of the City of London and is now in England on a vacation, the first in several years.

Good Road Pikers

The Michigan pikers who toured through Ontario were a fine and representative body of men, and their interest in good roads bespoke for them a hearty welcome. Like the companions of Joshua and Caleb of old, they came to spy out the weakness of the land in the matter of roads. We were at least able to satisfy them of our good intentions, but they went through several bridges and culverts with the heavy motor trucks on which they carried their field kitchens and other impedimenta in a northern district. The Hamilton highway of concrete is supposed to be one of the finest things in Ontario in the shape of a road, but it is too narrow for the traffic on it and in places it is not even widened with ordinary macadam, so that a slip from it means at these points a drop into the ditch. In the gravel and macadam roads of the province as well as in the contrete the prime error in their management is lack of repairs. Old Country roads are kept in their perfect condition by a system of unceasing repair. No sooner does a soft spot or a depression develop than it is patched up with new material and the holes never get a chance to wear into ruts or become puddles for the water to lie in, and soaking into the foundations becomes the means with the deeper frosts of tearing the road to pieces when all this might be avoided by early repairs.

Sugar Ascending

Sugar has gone up from five cents a pound to 26¼ cents a pound. What used to cost a dollar now costs five dollars and a quarter. The commerce board authorized the elevation of the price. The only way for the public to deal with the matter is to boycott the sugar basin. There are many tea-drinkers in the sexagenarian class who acquired the habit of omitting the sugar when sugar went to 25 cents a pound during the civil war. There is wonderful efficacy in doing without and the increase in the price of sugar by five hundred per cent. is not due to any law of supply and demand. Sugar is typical of a large number of other commodities, and there is no economic cure of the situation so long as sellers are in a position to exploit the wish of purchasers to possess and pay for their desire. The consumption of sugar in candy and other forms of confections is an astonishing feature of Canadian life. We cannot eat our cake and have it.

Joining Lakes and Ocean

At the Detroit conference on the deep waterways projects in connection with the St. Lawrence river developments it transpired that the United States lake ports were quite as anxious to have the plans proceeded with as any of our Ontario ports have been. The prospect of ocean steamers of thirty feet draft coming up into the great lakes has been put down by many as a wild dream of fanatics. It is the dreamers that keep the world moving, and it is even understood in some quarters (not political ones) that a clear and definite and reasonable dream is merely the forecast of a business reality. Linking up the Great Lakes with the Atlantic means for the States and Provinces around the Great Lakes the opening up of opportunities akin to those which are possessed by the nations that inhabit the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. To compare a body of water of close to a million square miles with the 71,290 square miles of the total area of the Great Lakes may seem absurd, but the effect of the possession of ocean transport can scarcely be over-valued and may very easily be underestimated. The co-operation of the United States brings the scheme appreciably nearer adoption and completion.

Farmers Want Radials

Sir Adam Beck continues to furnish the information to the people which the government appears to think can only be obtained through a new commission. Comparisons between radial railways operated in the United States, where power is rated at an average of $100 with operation in Ontario, where power averages $20, is clearly unfair. When the capitalization and dividends of the United States lines are compared with the absence of these handicaps in the proposed radical lines in Ontario the comparison is seen to be still less reasonable. Mr. Gaby, the engineer of the Hydro Commission, has also been pointing out that the bogey of motor competition with radical roads need not be thought of for a moment, as every motor transport company in the States had gone bankrupt. It is impossible, it is found, to operate a profitable service with motor cars on account of the high cost of mileage. This removes another bogey from the list of those hostile to radial railways. It has been declared that with good roads motor traffic would monopolize all the business. Farmers everywhere have shown their preference for the trolley car by giving it their express traffic, milk, dairy products, garden truck, fruit, etc. Just why the Farmer Government should delay this advantage to both farmer and citizen requires some explaining, not to mention the distribution of cheap power which accompanies the radial lines.

The Winnipeg Decision

In the decision of the Law Lords of the Privy Council not to interfere in the appeal case of the Winnipeg labor men against their conviction on criminal charges there may be grounds for anticipating a wider application of the principle laid down by Lord Dunedin. "A matter of this kind is infinitely better determined by the people on the spot than ever we can be able to do." Again and again in recent years have causes been determined in direct opposition to all the courts of Ontario, and if "the people on the spot" are not in a better position to know what Ontario litigants and Ontario lawyers understand or mean in plainly written agreements there is surely less basis for trusting them in the interpretation of conflicting verbal testimony and of unuttered and unrecorded motives and opinions. It was obviously the right and proper thing to do to leave the trial of the Winnipeg prisoners to the Manitoba authorities. It is equally logical to expect that the determination of Ontario legal documents, contracts and acts of parliament should be left to Ontario courts.

Russia Still Bolshevistic

Lenin, Trotsky and Tchitcherin ran true to form in their reception of the overtures from Britain for an armistice with Poland. The situation is one which it is easy to obscure or misinterpret. Poland has unquestionably been to blame in insisting on fighting when all Europe wanted peace, and Poland's action only served too well as an excuse for further Bolshevik encroachment. Lenin refuses an armistice to Poland through Britain but says he is willing to treat with Poland direct. The refusal of the Russian soviet to treat with Poland has precipitated the state of open war between the Allies and the Bolsheviks that has been threatened for some time past. Allied missions in Poland have carried assurances of military assistance to Poland in the event of the Bolshevik army persisting in the invasion of distinctively Polish territory. Premier Lloyd George moreover declared that all trade negotiations would be off with Russia if the conflict with Poland were not suspended. It may be that the exhibition of a firm hand by the Allies in the Polish situation may serve to compose both the Russian and German complications, just as the firm stand taken with Turkey has led to the signing of the treaty of peace by the Sultan. But the ground swell of the late war, it must not be forgotten, still agitates the whole of Europe, and many shrewd observers do not look for an established and accepted peace for twenty years to come. The League of Nations is finding itself gradually and is certainly gaining respect.

Is Radium Talismanic

New York State has bought 38.57 grains of radium, the largest amount said to have been purchased yet by anybody. The cost of this precious treasure has not been revealed but radium has been priced at millions per ounce. There cannot be many pounds of radium in the globe to judge by its scarcity and the difficulty of isolating it at present. It is used in the cure of various diseases, being applied to the affected part, or rather the affected part is subjected to the influence of the radium. The metal is always sending out a bombardment of infinitesimal particles which have been found to have a more or less curative effect. If science was not aware of the character of radium its use would be exactly the same as of those of old who wore talismans of one kind or another for the purpose of averting disease, healing sickness, restoring wounded or infected tissue. Many precious stones were worn for this purpose, and it is not clear that further scientific investigation may not establish for diamonds, pearls, opals, emeralds, rubies and so forth similar characteristics or at least powers akin to those that are now attributed to radium. It is unquestionable that the wearing of jewellery was originally founded on this belief in the efficacy of amulets.

TO GET RID OF MITES.

Clean out the house and thoroughly sweep, not forgetting the windows, walls and ceiling. When this is all swept out clean, use a garden hose or a stiff brush and hot water. See that everything in the cracks and crevices is washed out. After this is done allow the house to dry for a while, and if everything then appears to be clean, use a good disinfectant, and be sure that the solution is forced by the spray or brush right into the cracks and crevices.

If the mites are bad, use boiling hot water followed by coal oil and a liquid lice killer or lice paint. Be sure that this goes into the cracks and crevices, and when you have gone over your house thoroughly according to the above treatment, in all probability the mites will be exterminated, but it is advisable in the course of three or four days again to inspect for the mites, and perhaps to repeat the dose once more.

Mrs. Housewife, B.W.

B. W. is a degree that should be given to every housewife. It stands for "Business Women." And a successful housekeeper these days is a business women ace high.

Budget systems, account books and close figuring all help her to keep expenses down; but first of all she is a wise, shrewd buyer.

She keeps in touch with the lowest prices, best qualities, and newest commodities by reading diligently the advertising columns of her daily newspaper.

Every one can profit by reading newspaper advertisements. Advertised products are dependable products. Learn about the new things, the good things that stores are offering and manufacturers are putting out. Read advertisements and you will save money.

MARIE DUNN IN GOLDWYN PICTURES

Playing opposite Jack Pickford in "A Double Dyed-Deceiver."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

Lesson VI. August 8.

THE KINGLY KINDNESS OF DAVID

Printed Text—2 Sam. 8: 15; 9: 1-13.

Golden Text.—"David executed justice and righteousness unto all his people." (2 Sam. 8: 15).

Historical Setting.

Time.—1042 B. C. (?). Place.—Jerusalem.

Daily Readings.

Monday, August 2.—The Kingly Kindness of David (2 Sam. 9: 1-13). Tuesday, August 3.—David's Prayer (Ps. 26: 1-12). Wednesday, August 4.—"Ye did it unto me." (Matt. 25: 34-40). Thursday, August 5.—David's Kingly Desire. (2 Sam. 7: 1-11). Friday, August 6.—Blessings for Obedience. (Deut. 28: 1-14). Saturday, August 7.—A Heart of Kindness. (Col. 3: 12-23). Sunday, August 8.—Royal Precepts (1 Thess. 5: 14-24).

Comments.

8: 15. David's career on the whole was interesting, spectacular and intensely human. The most opposite estimates have been formed of his career, depending upon the point of view. He was courageous. At times he was exceedingly cruel, yet he ruled with gentleness as well as by force. From our standpoint he had both moral courage and moral cowardice. He was a faithful friend and a dangerous enemy. He was an unqualified success in enlarging and strengthening the kingdom.

9: 1. The people did not feel kindly enough toward Saul to enable David to do this in the early part of his reign. But David never forgot Jonathan his friend.

Verse 2. Ziba was a well-trusted servant of Saul, and acquainted with Soul's family.

Verse 3. David had probably never heard of this son of Jonathan. When the news of the death of Janathan and Saul come to the servants, a nurse fled with Jonathan's little boy,, let him fall and crippled him for life. This was Mephibosheth.

Verse 4. Machir, a rich man (2 Sam. 17: 27), took the lame lad to his home The boy was dependent upon friends.

Verse 5. This action was wholly due to David's memory of the warm friendship between Jonathan and himself. For his friend's sake he was showing every kindness to his friend's son.

Verse 7. David promised three things to Jonathan't son: his own personal regard, the restoration of a rightful inheritance from Saul, and a place in David's own household.

Verse 8. Crippled and dependent, the iron of misery had entered Mephibosheth's soul, and he spoke in terms of the utmost self abasement.

Verses 9-11. Ziba and his large family were placed in charge of Mephibosheth's estate.

Verses 12, 13. Throug this boy, Mica, the name and memory of his noble grandfather Jonathan were preserved (1 Chron. 8: 34, 35).

Illustrated Truth.

Though we can not pay another off for kindness done, we may put our appreciation into deeds (v. 1).

Illustration.—It is safe to say that the name of Lafayette has been spoken and written oftener in the United States during the past four years than it had been written and spoken in all of the years that preceded them. While America has never ceased to pay tribute to the generous and noble Frenchman, it took the need of the French republic to bring our appreciation to actual expression. When France was in dire straits the question arose naturally: "What can we do to show kindness to the country of the man who was our friend?" The answer was not slow in coming.

Topics for Research and Discussion.

I. David's Memory of Jonathan (8: 15-9: 4). 1. Why is the career of David interesting? 2. Why was a man of David's type commended by Jehovah? 3. What about the loyalty of David to the memory of his friend Jonathan?

II. Kindness to Jonathan's Son (vs. 5-9). 4. Give a brief sketch of the life and personality of Jonathan's son. 5. How did David favor the son of his friend?

III. Results of the Kindness (vs. 10-13). 6. What was the effect of David's kindness to Mephibosheth?

Wild Pigeons Big Eaters.

Wild pigeons are believed to be the most voracious eaters of the animal kingdom in proportion to their size. One consumed 1,000 grains of wheat in a day.

The first children's court in Spain was opened recently at Bilbao.

Foolish Francesca

By Olive Wadsley

(Continued from last week.)

She passed down the huge, staring golden hall to the revolving door with its liveried sentinels. One giant graciously swung a panel round, she slipped in and found herself gently pushed out onto the wide, glittering steps.

Heaven opened again before her; up the steps Kit Wynton came.

Frankie saw only his laughing face. She did not notice the slender, beautiful woman to whom he was talking. She saw only him, as one sees a god upon earth surrounded by mortals, who do not count.

She flew down the steps and caught his arm.

"Oh, Kit!" she half sobbed.

The slender woman turned and, flushing deeply, went delicately on up the wide steps.

Wynton stared at Frankie.

"What on earth—" he began, and then he saw Lady Fane's vanishing form.

"Good Lord!" he burst out, "surely you have enough sense to know that you are doing an impossible thing, placing me in a deuced unpleasant situation—you—"

Frankie loosed his arm. She was colorless, but she smiled. Anguish was gripping her, but she played the game.

"Pray do not let me detain you," she said with a little shaking laugh, a pitiful attempt at dignity.

Before he could speak again she had leaped the last two steps and hailed a taxi.

Her pale little face showed for an instant, then she was whirled away.

CHAPTER VI.

London at Last!

Frankie found Mr. Salter waiting for her on Charing Cross platform when she arrived the next afternoon.

She had driven straight back to the little hotel, and had lain, wide-eyed and sleepless, until it was time for her to catch the early boat-train from the Gare du Nord. A fine drizzle was falling at Boulogne; she saw her first glimpse of England through a thin mist of gray rain.

That unutterable sense of complete, incomparable misery which only very young, highly strung natures can ever feel possessed her.

India, Phrynette, all that part of her life seemed never to have been; she could not believe now, as she stood, drenched and forlorn, watching the gray, sullen waves, that she had ever felt gay and careless and happy.

No tears came into her eyes—she had cried all the night before, and since then she had done with tears. She welcomed Mr. Salter apathetically.

He was feeling impressed with his own sacrificial goodness in having given up his afternoon nap to come to meet her, and he could not refrain from mentioning the fact.

"I seem to have been one long trial to you ever since you said you would chaperon me back from India, don't I?" she said wearily.

This was so true, in Mr. Salter's opinion, that he hazarded no reply.

A porter fetched out the two boxes from the piles placed on the wooden "customs" benches and placed the wicker-basket assortment on the top.

"You'd better get a taxi to take you to Shepherd's Bush," Mr. Salter said. "It'll be dear, I dare say; but it's quick. We sent Mrs. Baggs a wire, telling her you'd missed the train and would arrive this afternoon; so she'll be expecting you.

"Most remarkable thing how you managed to do it, Francesco; so absurd of you to leave the train at all when you knew it was just starting. I suppose you passed a pleasant night?"

Frankie stared at him and then began to laugh.

"Pleasant?" she echoed. "Oh, yes, it was very entertaining, I assure you and, as I know Mrs. Salter will be glad to hear, the entertainment was of an instructive nature."

"I don't really know what you mean, Francesca," Mr. Salter said testily. "I'm afraid you don't realize at all the debt of gratitude you owe to Mrs. Salter.

"We—er—that is to say, she, my wife, has been most anxious about you, though she owned herself that you were more than capable of taking care of yourself. Still, a little gratitude, I think, we had a right to expect."

He stood, looking injured, while Francesca arranged her curious luggage in the cab.

She looked up at him. He was, after all, the one person whom she knew in London. The roar and crash of the station sounded around her. At the end of the little open passage she could see one vast, struggling stream of vehicles and people.

A sudden lump came in her throat; she got out her hand and took Mr. Salter's.

"I do thank you for coming this afternoon," she said with a smile that was nearly a grimace by reason of its forcedness. "I do, indeed. Good-by, Mr. Salter."

He lifted his hat and gave the cabman the address. Francesca looked back despairingly. He was turning away; he had not stopped to see the cab out of the station yard!

She was quite alone then in a new world, the world which, safe in the shabby compound in Chiltahan, had seemed so golden, so full of eager chance, so ready to receive her.

She gripped her hands tightly together and stared resolutely at the slouched, baggy head of the taxi-driver.

"I won't! I won't!" she whispered between her little clenched teeth, the words so vehement that they hissed. She did not; the tears were forced back.

"Grit's a thing I've alawys admired in books," she told herself—"always; and I'll try and have it now."

The cab was held up at Hyde Park corner; close beside it a luxurious limousine waited.

Francesca could see inside it. She noted the fawn corduroy upholstering, the silver vases filled with pink roses, the big fawn suede pockets with letters crammed into them, and, most of all, she noted the woman in the car.

She was pale, and her eyes were dark. She was not specially good-looking, and yet her face expressed a great deal—power, luxury, temperament. She was studying the score of "Parsifal," a part of which riveted Francesca's eyes.

Was she a singer?

The car window was down, so Francesca leaned across hers and said in a rather husky voice: "Are you a great singer?"

The dark-eyed woman started violently; the score fluttered to the floor of the car.

"Quick, quick!" Francesca implored. "That big thing in front of you is just going on. Are you?"

"Of all the egg-straordinary ques—"

(To be continued.)

HUGH THOMPSON IN GOLDWYN PICTURES

Leading Man for Mabel Normand in "The Slim Princess."

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By ELINOR MURRAY

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GOOD IDEAS.

For the Baby's Carriage—Take one yard and a half of double-width fine white net and bind the edges with blue or pink satin ribbon. Cover four small flat lead shots with ribbon, and fasten to each one rosettes to match the border. Attach these to the corners of the veil. When thrown over the carriage the veil will keep flies and other insects from the baby, will protect the baby's eyes from dust, and, owing to the weights attached, the wind cannot blow it off.

An easy way to amuse a child when the mother is doing housework, alone, is to let him cut out pictures from papers, dip them in clear water and apply them to the painted wall of the kitchen. This will afford a child infinite satisfaction and keep him employed while his mother is busy. No harm will be done the wall, for by the time he is tired of his play the pictures will have begun to curl up and drop off.

To induce children to "pick up" a disordered room try making a game out of it. Write on slips of paper the words "floor," "chairs," "table," and on forth, to indicate how the work is to be allotted, an dlet the children draw these from a hat. Each child attempts to be first to make his portion tidy, and with much racing and rivalry the room grows neat as if by magic.

A table on which to dress little children will be found a great convenience and will save many a backache for the mother. Get a strong kitchen table costing about a dollar and a quarter, and either stain or paint it, so that it will look neat. A shelf may be added underneath, where toilet necessities may be kept; a curtain hung from the top will cover it. Little children may be bathed and dressed on this table, and the work will thus be made easier for the mother.

GROW THE SMALL FRUITS AT HOME

In the process of getting the most out of the backyard garden, many amateur gardeners have overlooked the cultivation of small fruits. Fresh fruit on the table has almost become a luxury. The high prices which these fruits are commanding, and their growing scarcity on the market, are largely due to lack of help and the enhanced cost of picking and transportation.

The growing of raspberries, currants and gooseberries is very simple, and their value both for use as fresh fruit and for baking and preserving purposes, should make their cultivation much more extensive. There are no fruits that respond more quickly to good treatment, but they will also stand a considerable amount of neglect. Large fruit and productive bushes, however, can only be expected when they are given proper attention.