The Quiet Observer

Torrens Title for Ontario

Another big reform is in sight if the recommendation of the Commission on the Administration of Justice be adopted to instal the Torrens system of land titles in the province of Ontario. Lawyers have opposed reforms of this nature, but a reforming government in which the legal profession is at a minimum will probably yield to the popular desire and introduce the measure which is already to some extent in force. To furnish a clear title to every landowner at present would, it is said, average $100 for each parcel of land, but it is proposed to avoid the immediate expense by legislating for the adoption of the Torrens system at the end of ten years, during which time all parties claiming interest in any properties must proceed to establish their rights. With the Torrens system established, the transfer of property with a clear title will be as simple as the purchase of a marriage license. At present a lawyer has to search the title for every purchase, even though it had been searched the day before in the case of a quick turnover and the expense is a heavy obstacle in small real estate transactions.

A Farmers' Year

Almost the coolest July on record has had a varying effect upon the crops, but on the whole the result has been satisfactory. The cool weather and moisture made for abundant forage and the excellent pasture was reported in a recent government crop report to be keeping both beef and dairy cattle in fine condition with a generous milk supply for the season. A heavy rainstorm in some quarters flattened out standing crops and much damage was done to fruit by storms also, but the Niagara grape crop was reported as exceptionally fine. The prospects of good prices, in spite of some lapses in the market is inducing much preparation for fall wheat sowing. Wheat even at $2 must look good to men who sold it at 60 cents not such an eternity ago. Potatoes are a big crop and prices are not dropping much. In Lennox and Addington the story is told of a farmer who sold off one acre 280 bushels of Early Wisemans at $3.50 a bushel. To take $980 off one acre is not bad business for a farmer even when he pays for the seed and labor. Heavy horses are wanted in Scotland and buyers have sent a car-load from Grey County. Good animals will always be in demand and will pay breeders.

Bacon Quality and Price

It is a question whether the discrimination in Great Britain in the case of bacon prices is an advantage to Canada or not. The preference is for Canadian bacon as a better quality than the United States product and a higher price is allowed by the rating authorities for the Canadian than for the inferior American. If the whole of the Canadian offering can be sold this is well, but if the difference of price increases the demand for American to the neglect of Canadian bacon there is little advantage to the Canadian exporter. In Ireland cheap American bacon is eaten by the small farmer, who sells his own superior pig for consumption in England. It is not the quality but the price that counts with such customers. The high cost of living and the scarcity of money may have a similar effect in England.

Fuel and Coal Rates

New processes of utilizing low grade bituminous and lignite coal for fuel purposes promise to make available for consumption from Montreal to the Pacific ocean the deposits of Alberta. This is an Alberta view and there are similar deposits in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and undoubtedly in Northern Ontario or, shall we say, in New Northern Ontario. The process is one of treating the low grade coal for its by-products, condensing the carbon which thus becomes of smaller bulk and cheaper to ship, and of high fuel value. There is nothing else in Canada quite so important to the Lady of the Snows as a solution of the fuel problem. With that solved, we could feel independent of the rest of creation. Whether this would be good for us remains to be seen, but undoubtedly it is something to be desired. Even as it is, we could get much fuel from the west in Ontario but for the theory prevailing in the operation of railways that is not adopted in any other business—the theory of charging as much as the traffic will stand, that is to say putting on the highest possible rate that will allow any traffic to pass. In general business the theory is to make prices attractive and so encourage business, trusting to the increased turnover for the larger profits. It works out in the post office, in street cars, in the Hydro-Electric power distribution, in the departmental stores, but the railway theorists will have none of it. They believe in choking off traffic by imposing rates which are only paid under the pressure of necessity.

Hamilton Coming On

Hamilton has had a new highway entrance proposed to the city by the provincial government, the cost of which is set at $365,000. Among many attractions possessed by the Ambitious City a good highway entrance is not one of them. The proposed improvement will add greatly to the motor traffic of the city, and with the completion of the radial railway plans, the efforts of the Farmers' Sun and the interests behind it to block, which are not likely to be effective, the growth of Hamilton is quite likely to rival, if not surpass, Toronto. There was a time when St. Louis surpassed Chicago as Toronto now does Hamilton. It should never be forgotten that the potentialities of a city like Hamilton are almost unlimited. The residential possibilities of the "Mountain," the Dundas valley lying behind, the fertility and natural resources of the country around Hamilton, its proximity to Niagara as a source of power and its own cheap power at De Cew, with the solid wealth and existing prosperity of the city make Hamilton a place to be considered in the future of Ontario. Toronto has a long start and its harbor and other advantages will take some beating, but Hmilton could rival them all, and Toronto is handicapped by municipal representatives and municipal methods which constantly retard her growth.

Ireland and Anarchy

It is reported, it is hoped, it is suspected, it is believed, as it is variously stated, that negotiations have been going on between the British Government and some Sinn Feiners looking towards a settlement of the wretched conditions in Ireland. The Sinn Feiners of 1906 would have settled the business very readily on such terms as the British government have lately proposed. Even before the war the terms current for the last year would probably have been acepted. Since the conclusion of the war and the spread of anarchy, the I. W. W., Bolshevism, and other American, Russian and German anti-social agencies, Ireland has become a desperate centre of unscrupulous international warfare. Those who are masquerading behind the Sinn Fein organization do not want peace. They have been able to involve several influential agencies in Ireland in their conspiracy, but they aim at the downfall of the British Empire and the creation of an independent Irish republic as a stepping-stone for hostile and disintegrative Russian, German and American agencies would be the beginning of the end of British solidarity. Those who live in dread of another war, much as they detest it, and those who are working might and main to bring on another world-wrecking struggle are probably the only people who see clearly what lies ahead. A great part of the world has plunged itself into forgetfulness of the five years following 1914, forgetfulness of the revolutions in Russia and Germany, forgetfulness of all that has followed, in efforts to revive the industry, the amusement, the dead and buried life that lies behind the great war. But in forgetting the past they have forgotten the future also. There never was such a spectacle of self-absorption as the United States of 1920, priming Ireland for the anarchistic explosion that is to set the world in flames again.

A Nova Scotia Example

Nova Scotia has been used as one of the examples of the unfair conditions resulting from our present systems of elections on other occasions than in the recent provincial election. In the Federal elections of 1904 the Liberals polled 56,526 votes and obtained 18 seats. The Conservatives polled 46,131 votes and elected no members at all. This is taxation without representation in a very real sense, and is one of the practical evils of modern politics, which it is proposed to remedy by proportional representation. Either party may suffer in this way. In British Columbia, for instance, in 1911 the Conservatives polling 25,622 votes elected seven members, and the Liberals 16,350 votes, none for the Federal House. It may seem to be a splendid thing for the winning party to wipe out the opposition entirely, but is it the best thing for the country? Some superficial observers fear that P. R. would lead to a group section of government in our parliaments. Just at present, when there has been great stagnation in legislation and many new reforms are advocated, it might have this effect, but when the chief of these demands have been settled the views of the people would divide pretty definitely pro and con on some main issue and the party lines would once again become fairly defined. There is much more opportunity for group system representation to develop under the present minority methods of election when three and four cornered contests result in the return of candidates who do not always represent either the average opinions nor the finest types of citizenship in the community. Proportional representation ensures fair representation of the party strength whatever it be, and it compels the selection of the best and strongest men as candidates.

Lincoln in London

One of the big artistic disputes of recent years was settled when Hon. Elihu Root, on behalf of the United States, presented a replica of the St. Gauden's statue of Abraham Lincoln to the British people. The statue is the magnificent one so well known as one of the ornaments of Chicago, in every way superior to the uncouth and ungainly model which it had at first been intended for the gift. It may be true that Lincoln had an ungainly figure, but he had a godlike soul, and it is not the service of art to emphasize the ungainliness and to ignore the godhood. St. Gauden does not eliminate the ungainliness, but he enables the spectator to feel as all who met him felt in the presence of the great President that the Soul was more than the body. The statue stands in Canning Square, a splendid token of the identity of consciousness on the highest levels and the unity of ideals of the two great English-speaking nations.

The Next Great Race

Now that the yacht races are over the next great betting event is the race for the White House at Washington. The racers bear about as much relation to statesmanship, one might conceive, as the Resolute and the Shamrock bore to naval construction. The Shamrock has crossed the ocean and Mr. Cox has been a successful governor of Ohio. In these respects they possess an advantage over their rivals, or perhaps it is better to say they possess merits over their rivals, for merit is not always an advantage. But it is difficult to conceive, estimable citizens and able editors as both of them are, that either Mr. Harding or Governor Cox is the fittest man in the United States to be president of the great republic. Mr. Cox appears to have the advantage in picturesque incident. His visit at dawn to his almost nonagenarian patron, when that worthy appeared in night-gown and slippers and ejaculated "Jimmy!" ought to be good for hundreds of thousands of votes. Mr. Cox wore a rose which his aged patron's daughter gave him as a talisman, and he announced his intention of placing it between the leaves of his Bible. That should bring him hundreds of thousands more. Then he went and prayed by his mother's grave for half-an-hour. That should get him a million or two. Mr. Cox's vice, Mr. Roosevelt, appears to possess more virtue than Mr. Harding's vice, Mr. Coolidge. Mr. Coolidge's strength seems to lie in the fact that he chooses his wife's dresses. Without seeing Mrs. Coolidge on parade, one could not venture an opinion whether it was a strength or a weakness, but on general principles it must be put down as a political weakness. No man who has ever attempted to choose a dress for his wife would support a candidate who habitually ran such risks, and no woman could tolerate for a moment a man who so interfered with such an important prerogative. There may be a few inexperienced men who might imagine that a man who chose his wife's dresses might be regarded as an economist, but what could such know about alterations? On the whole and not forgetting the handicaps for sail area, we will lay our odds on Mr. Cox.

Chicago versus New York

H. L. Mencken has been saying in a pronounced way what judicious critics have observed for a generation past, that Chicago as a literary and artistic centre is far ahead of New York. Of course this is not a New Yorker's opinion and New York is full of people with opinions who are anxious to discover their commercial value and realize on it. "The New York spirit," says Mr. Mencken, "for all the gaudy pretentiousness of the town, is a spirit of timidity, of regularity, of safe mediocrity." The fear of injuring its commercial values destroys all the originality of the New York Arts and Letters. The New York publisher constantly regrets that brilliant manuscript is unassailable. The original genius fares better in Chicago. In New York says Mr. Mencken, "are the great rewards, but here also are the inviolable taboos." The new poetry movement is from Chicago, where "Poetry," the organ of the movement is published. The Little Theatre was firmly established in Chicago before New York heard of it. Chicago criticism is more honest, more fearless, better informed, and Chicago's newspapers more reliable than those of New York. It is of importance to Canada to appreciate these distinctions. Ontario is more or less under the influence of New York. The Canadian west is more or less under the same inspiration as Chicago. The less we have in Ontario of the New York provincialism the better will it be for us.

A Voice Inflater

It may be possible to create many great orators in future who at present are altogether mute inglorious Miltons or village Hampden's dumb as Balaam's ass on normal occasions. Science can work all kinds of miracles and the creation of the voice of the orator is one of the latest achievement. It was demonstrated at the big convention in San Francisco when every person in the vast assembly was enabled to hear as clearly as those who sat beside the speaker. The principle is that of the microphone. The electric currents are stepped and and reenforced so that the vibrations of the speaker's voice may be re-enforced to any degree required. As electric currents are practically instantaneous the reproduced and strengthened voices are all in synchronic vibration with the original. If a man has a voice at all he may be made, however feeble his tones, to speak with thunder utterance. There are many examples of public speakers with the best kind of material, but no vocal organs for its dissemination, who would benefit tremendously by the new invention. Even the best of speakers are not always able to fill the great auditoriums so frequent now, while in open air speaking even the finest orators cannot reach the limits of every crowd. Examples like that of the late Rev. Dr. Swing of Chicago, will occur to almost anyone, whose opening sentences always were inaudible and often which of what followed. It is unfortunately the fact that usually the possessor of the loudest voice or the most brazen throat has nothing in his head and an empty mind, while the well-equipped man may have a squeaky accent or an impossible delivery. With the new invention such men will be able to give an audience the benefit of their brains.

QUARTER OF A MILLION FOR A HORSE.

Prince Palatine, a famous English thoroughbred horse, has been bought for shipment to the United States, for $250,000, which is said to be the highest price ever paid for a horse. Six other horses have brought over $100,000 each during recent years. It is interesting to note that in the older days Robert Bonner paid $33,000 for Dexter, the famous trotter, in 1867, while twenty years later he paid $44,000 for Maud S. Another well-known trotter in her day, Flora Temple, was sold in 1849 for $13, and nine years later, when she had become famous, for $8,000.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By ELINOR MURRAY

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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.

The Perfect Baby.

Two important points of baby management during its first weeks of life are warmth and quiet. Immediately after birth baby is tucked away in a warmed blanket. The child has been accustomed to a high temperature and should the baby become chilled it miht mean a dangerous loss of vitality. This will affect the general nutrition, and the baby does not thrive as he should. Keep him from changes of temperature in different parts of the house for a week or two until he becomes gradually accustomed to them.

Quietness is of great importance and should be maintained for some time. A baby's brain needs to be kept from all unnecessary impressions and sudden noises. He should therefore not be talked to, exhibited or played with. This is a very necessary warning to young mothers. An excited babyhood leads to nervous diseases in childhood.

Every mother thinks her baby perfect, and it may surprise her to hear that the perfect baby is rare, the almost perfect baby unusual and the imperfect common. A perfect baby is correctly proportioned as to weight, height, circumference of head, chest and abdomen and length of arm and leg. It has good muscular development and circulation, breathes right and digests its food properly. It has firm, smooth flesh, possesses the use of all its senses and has a mental development in keeping with its age and physical development.

To make your baby perfect is easily within your reach. Diligent, systematic care every day is the secret. A baby's health cannot be rebuilt in a day, a week or even in months; but constant regular treatment is sure to show results.

The six important things to consider are: The food he eats, the air he breathes, the exercise he gets, the sleep he takes, the clothing he wears and the intelligence and common sense of his parents. We hope to help you along all these lines—although the last one depends a good deal upon you.

THE PERFUME INDUSTRY.

Persia saw the earliest development of the perfume industry. The priests in Egypt, who were the sole depositories of science, knew the secret of aromatic substances and prepared them. Egyptian perfumes acquired great celebrity, especially those made in Alexandria. Reserved originally for religious rites, perfumes subsequently became of current use among the wealthy classes. During banquets they were diffused through the halls and were burned in profusion. The Israelites during their sojourn in Egypt adopted the use of aromatic substances primarily for religious purposes and afterwards for personal usage. The Jews were fond of cosmetics, and even used them to paint the face. All these perfumes were extracted from essences of trees and various plants.

Last year the field crops of Canada had a value of $1,452,437,000; other farm produce had a value of $523,404,000, making a total agricultural production worth $1,975,841,000, or a little more than half the value of the manufactured goods.

ADVICE TO GIRLS

By Rosalind

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Dear Girls:—

This is just a little personal note to all my readers—to tell you that I am glad you like the column and to assure you that I am enjoying it very much myself. I have heard people sneer at columns such as ours, but that was because those people never realized that there are thousands of people who have no one to whom they may turn for advice; and because these scoffers did not know that even if one has plenty of advisers there are some things it is heaps easier to tell to a stranger. I know that three-quarters of my letters come just because I do not know the people who write or the circumstances which have caused them to seek advice.

But whatever your reason for writing, I am glad to do what I can, and I shall advise you to the best of my ability on whatever subject you choose to talk about. Your letters have to be forwarded to me and I find that quite a number have gone astray. Please write again, and mark your envelope very plainly, "To Rosalind, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto."

—ROSALIND.

Dear Girls:—

The girls who read this column are constantly writing of the things they dearly desire and long for. Some of them want friendship; some want love; some want fame. And they tell me all these things and ask my advice as to how to go about attaining them.

I wish it could be taught all young people as they start in life to say to themselves, "I am going into a world where countless beautiful things of life may be had, let me be honest each day of my life. Let me neither desire nor try to take what I desire, without paying the price."

When I find you girls or I find myself longing for things that we are unwilling to pay for, there comes to mind that wonderful old New Testament story of a certain rich young man who came desiring what was to him the most desirable of all, things, and he asked the Master how he could obtain it—and was told.

He could have it if he would lay down in payment all the riches he possessed. But this he would not do, you remember, and he went away unsatisfied.

It is just as sorrowful in our case, for we are rich, too; we all of us possess the required riches; they lie hidden in us like treasure; they are—patience, courage, honor, love, unselfishness and determined, unwearied endeavor. It is with such coin that we may purchase all that is desirable in life.

Only spend freely such riches as these and the most beautiful things in the world are yours. And all this little talk comes from reading this letter:

"Have you ever longed and longed for things as I have for friends? I suppose you have, else we would not all be writing to you for sympathy and understanding. But I've longed and longed and nothing comes of it. It has always been one of my dreams to have friends, but it is a dream that has never been fulfilled."

You see, of all the beautiful things to be had in the world she most desires friendship. Well, surely it is to be had. It is there—friendship of all kinds and degrees; from the shoddy, cheap kind that lasts only a little, little while and can be had for a few pennies of flattery or insincerity, on up to those priceless friendships which shall outlast your own life. The ones that come to you depend on how much of the gold of serviceableness and self-forgetfulness you are willing to pay.

Think about it for a week and see if I am right. Look around you and see if you can find the unloved people, those who are selfishly lonely, fretful, insincere, unwelcome, unforgiving, sharp-tongued, unsympathetic, coarse, weak, envious, foolishly sentimental. These are those who refuse to pay for friendship with the good gold of patience, courage, honor, resolution, love, unselfishness and repeated unflagging effort.

—ROSALIND.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

Lesson VII. August 15

SINS AND SORROWS OF DAVID.

Printed Text—2 Sam. 12; 9, 10; 18: 1-15.

Golden Text—"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall be also reap." (Gal. 6: 7.)

Historical Setting.

Time.—1043 and 1023 B. C.. Place—Jerusalem and vicinity.

Daily Readings.

Monday, August 9.—David and Uriah (2 Sam. 11: 6-17). Tuesday, August 10.—Joab's Message (2 Sam. 11: 18-27). Wednesday, August 11.—Nathan's Parable (2 Sam. 12: 1-14). Thursday, August 12.—David's Sorrow for Sin (2 Sam. 12: 15-23). Friday, August 13.—Absalom and Ammon (2 Sam. 13:23-36). Saturday, August 14.—Absalom's Rebellion (2 Sam. 15: 1-12). Sunday, August 15.—Absalom's Death (2 Sam. 18: 24-33).

Comments.

12: 9, 10. The first part of this lesson has to do with one of David's sins. A distinguishing feature of the Bible is that it records both the sins and the righteous acts of Biblical characters. The incident here referred to is described in chapter 11. The purpose of introducing it is in verse 10 and concerns the punishment to be visited upon David and his house.

18: 1, 2. Read the preceding chapters, after the events recorded in the preceding chapters, it became necessary for David to defend himself against his own treacherous son.

Verses 3, 4. The mountaineers quickly responded to the call of their king. David was soon heading a considerable army. The soldiers did not allow him to take the field in person.

Verse 5. These were trusted generals under David, but Absalom must have had a much larger army. David in his heart could not quite turn against his own boy.

Verses 6-8. This was Israel against Israel, regulars against irregulars, loyal against disloyal. Ephraim was west of the Jordan. Both armies were east of the Jordan. But Ephraim's woods continued across the river, and it must have been here that the battle was fought.

Verse 9. Josephus is responsible for the tradition that Absalom was hung by his hair. According to the Bible account, his head must have become wedged in the forks of a limb.

Verses 10, 11. This Joab, David's general, seems to have been so capable that David could not get along without him, but so treacherous that he should have been dismissed.

Verses 12, 13. Absalom was entangled in the tree, yet evidently not dead. Joab felt that he should be dispatched, but was unwilling to assume the responsibility. The soldier whom Joab addressed refused to kill Absalom.

Verse 14. Just why Joab was so anxious for Absalom's death is a matter of conjecture. But to make sure of it, he did the deed himself.

Topics for Research and Discussion.

I. David Rebuked (12: 9, 10. 1. Give the time of the two sections of this lesson. 2. With what does the first part of the lesson deal? 3. What is one of the peculiarities of the Bible in describing men?

II. Israel Defeated (18: 1-14). 4. What occurred before this part of the lesson? 5. Why did Absalom turn against his father? 6. Describe the conflict into which David was drawn against his feelings. 7. Describe Joab and tell who he was. 8. What was the fate of Absalom?

THE SUREST ROAD TO SATISFACTION

is to know what you want when you go to buy. No matter whether it's a house, a tube of toothpaste—a washing machine or a pedigreed pup—you save worry, time and money when you know what you want.

How shall you know?

By reading the advertisements in your favorite newspapers. They put you in touch with opportunities and advantages that otherwise you might miss.

The advertising columns are just as important as the news. Reading advertisements helps you lessen waste and increase efficiency.

It may be the means of adding to your comforts and saving you many a dollar.