The Quiet Observer

Luxury Tax Makes Good

July returns show that the new Luxury tax was proving effective in doing what was expected of it, the production of revenue, and an increase in the Dominion receipts of $70,000,000 a year is new estimated from this source, and this confirms the expectations of the Minister of Finance in proposing the levy. A good deal depends of course on the general cause of trade and the maintenance of prosperous conditions for the success of a luxury tax. When hard times come luxuries are naturally the first expense to be abolished. Even with properity a fall of prices is to be expected and such a drop would take many articles out of the luxury class, and consequently reduce the revenue, and indeed this was hoped for and anticipated by the Minister of Finance in explaining his budget.

Harvest in Fine Shape

Oats are reported as having more than double the acreage in Ontario of all the other cereals and the Provincial Bulletin speaks of the promise of a generous yield of both grain and straw. The long wet spell ended in time not to do serious damage to grain or fodder and benefitted the root and fruit crops most desirably. Ravages of the Hessian fly in the southwest part of the province in the fall wheat countries lead to the opinion that this will tend to limit the area of winter wheat planted this fall Napanee reports great yields of green peas, the canning factory there turning out 30,000 cans a day. New hay is selling at from $20.00 to $26.00 a ton. Second growth clover has been most satisfactory. Alfalfa, both first and second growths, has been an excellent crop. Sugar beets and turnips are reported as having benefited most from the rain. Raspberries have been a good crop, and the apple yield is beginning to give satisfaction. Peaches are on the market and are yielding well.

For a Common Consciousness

A great deal has been made of the visit of the emminent British journalists who attended the conference at Ottawa, and who visited other cities and places in this country and very properly so. They represent the brains and intelligence to which a great part of Great Britain responds. The deliberations of the Press Convention have weight with statesmen and politicians, and no doubt the proposals they make will bear fruit as many have already done in the past. Two suggestions made are of interest to everyone in the Empire. One is the adoption of a uniform rate of postage throughout the Empire such as now prevails in the various territories of the United States wherever situated. Great Britain has a four cent domestic rate of postage at present and the rate of postage at present and the same for imperial communication, but it is a short-sighted levy and loses in the long run more than it gains. It is the little things, after all, that bind the Empire's several parts together, and in some cases the only tangible link that exists is the post office. It ought to be as cheap as it can be. The other proposal was for a universal imperial cable rate of two cents a word. What this would mean for business, for the transmission of news and therefore for the better understanding by each other of the various British peoples is almost incalculable. But it means at the very least the development of a common consciousness at the consideration of all imperial problems and the value of this cannot be over-estimated.

A Shining Mark

Sir Adam Beck is now being attacked by labor in the shape of the Industrial Banner, by capital in the shape of the Financial Post, by agriculture in the shape of the Farmer's Sun, and by the politicians in the shape of the new Commission on Hydro Radials. His only hope is in the people and the municipalities who know him, who do business with him and who trust him. One might suppose that a man who sacrifices his ease and comfort, his family life, his business, his social and political opportunities for the public welfare would receive nothing but the gratitude and the assistance of the whole community. He who imagines this does not know the world. Little but suspicion, calumny, obstruction, and misrepresentation are met by the man who tries to benefit his fellows. In Sir Adam Beck's case labor accuses him of being the agent of capital and denounces the Hydro Electric System as nothing but a capitalistic scheme for getting cheap power. Capital denounces him as a socialist and Bolshevist who robs capital of its privileges and confiscates its rights. It is difficult to know why the Farmer's Sun abuses Sir Adam. Some say on personal grounds; others, political others because the Sun is influenced by capital; others, because the Sun does not know any better. Premier Drury says The Sun does not represent him. The politicians dislike Sir Adam because he has refused to play any political game for any party, but has been fair to all. Each wishes the power he is supposed to wield but is unwilling to adopt Sir Adam's method of serving and trusting the people. Sir Adam acquiesces in everything the politicians propose, and all the political petards have only hoisted those who trained them. The more Sir Adam and his plans are investigated the sounder and the more universally beneficial they are found to be. If all who are trying to hinder would turn to and help to promote the Hydro proposals Ontario would lead the world as she very nearly does in electrical development.

The Weak Spot

Mr. W. F. Buder, M.I.C.E., has been pointing out the impossibility of prices coming down as long as wages remain up, unless the wage earner will consent to increase his productiveness. Wages are always the principal factor in the production cost of almost everything used or consumed. This is obvious in the case of such articles or commodities as are furnished free by nature. Where there is difficulty in procuring natural products as in the case of coal it is wages that constitute the greatest part of the cost. Sir Robert Horne in a return to the British House of Commons drew attention to this, and Mr. Buder shows how the cost of coal put on rail at the collieries is 77.49 of the total. There is, however, no doubt that transportation charges are a next principle factor in the final cost to consumer and these again are governed by wages. It remains for the profiteer and the stock-waterer to add the last crushing burden to the load. After our present economic condition has been entirely revised and perhaps revolutionized as practically all authorities, conservative or radical, agree that it will or must be, it will be found that the chief defect of our present system lay in giving a corporation privileges that would not be permitted to an individual. Wherever and whenever this is done the result is the same and illegitimate profits have been exacted. So many have derived advantage that the defect has not been remedied, but in the end such a system is bound to fall to pieces from its own weight. The tyranny of capital is just as great as the tyranny of absolute monarchy, and the tyranny of labor threatens to rival it. None of the remedies so far proposed in the economic field are likely to be successful as long as it is legally possible for a corporation to do what would be illegitimate on the part of an individual.

A Nettlesome Question

It has been a great disappointment to the friends of the provincial government among the ranks of the prohibitionists that all the resources of the administration were not employed from the first against the illicit sale of liquor at Windsor and in the vicinity. Those who rejoiced to have the government "getting in wrong" have been pleased to see the same mistakes being made that had brought blame to previous administrations, and the same fear exhibited that deterred them from following out the desires indicated by the various votes and plebiscites of the last twenty years. There is an old school rhyme about the nettle which tells how that plant, if handled gently will sting you for your pains, "grasp it like cad of mettle and it soft as silk remains." This would be good advice for politicians in handling many vexatious questions, and it is particularly true of the Windsor situation. Whatever is done in some matters there will be dissatisfaction but a straightforward, determined, and consistent policy always commands respect. There can be no doubt of the mind of the great majority of the people all over the continent on the subject of prohibition. It is not a local question but an international one. The feeling concerning it is at first as bitter as on the slavery question, but once it is adopted and enforced as in the case of slavery the lapse of time will make it part of the national life.

Coal, Heat and Electricity

Coal was selling in Toronto on August 1 at $15.50. An increase in freight rates was expected to be at the rate of from $1.00 to $1.50 a ton. If former experience is to be regarded this means at least $2.00 extra in the price, and it is not an alarmist statement to say that $20.00 coal is in sight. And there won't be much even at that rate. It will be small consolation to those who may be compelled to shiver in the cold of the approaching winter to know that Prof. Dorsey has discovered a method by which electric energy mey be made available for heating houses. He has been investigating and experimenting for some time past on the great problem that has occupied electricians for many years. He declared it was an accurate statement to say that by his method there was enough power in the Red River to heat Winnipeg for 24 hours a day all the year round with the temperature at 40 below zero. Prof. Dorsey has also invented a method for the transmission of electricity under waters which will revolutionize the problem, both as to cost and simplicity. Half the distance from Toronto and other points east would be eliminated in the transmission from Niagara, and this would enable the voltage to be reduced from 110,000 to 60,000 while 500,000 horse power could be carried on one cable, thus doing away with the expensive overhead apparatus, so liable to injury by tempests and lightning. The heating of houses at a cheap rate by electricity will be the next biggest revolution in urban life, and this elimination of coal would add tremendously to the health of the people though it would probably increase the severity of the climate.

Ponzi's Quick Richness

Ponzi is a man who found a way to utilize the methods arranged by bankers and other financial operators for their own advantage, to still greater advantage. Financial flesh and blood could not stand that and all the agencies of the law were invoked to trip him up in some technical violation of their vast code by which the artificial world of commerce and finance is governed. The rules of the financial game as well known, and the skillful player is at liberty to win all he can. But when an unknown upstart makes a new game and starts making millions a week in some way that the other financial sharps blush to think they had not discovered first, he must be suppressed. Ponzi's aims were fairly public spirited. He intended to make planty for his slients as well as for himself. He needed their help to secure sufficient capital, and for this he promised big returns. He paid all claims upon him when impugned and should bank balances of millions to meet all liabilities. It is very difficult for a legitimate banker to know what to do in a case of this kind, execept to discover the secret and follow in the same path. It is probable that Mr. Ponzi deals in premium bonds which are a perfectly sound, sceure and staple investment, although depreciated by British and American financiers. The argument used against them is that the prospect of the possession of sudden wealth is too demoralizing to be promoted. It would be unreasonable to apply this contention to the operations of the stock exchange although some straight-laced people are found who do so.

POTASH FROM VANCOUVER.

There is a reputed discovery of potash on Vancouver Island. Previous to the war Germany produced 7,800,000 tons of potassium salts, which occur in that country in a form so easily mined that other countries, whose deposits were contained in rock foundations, were unable to compete with German trade. Germany, therefore, held the world monopoly, deriving an annual income of six millions sterling from the product. The quantity taken by Canada in 1913 was 5,200 tons. It is known that there are vast deposits containing as much as 16 per cent. of potassium occurring in Eastern Canada and the Rocky Mountains.

The first Italian opera performed in England was produced June 5th, 1674, under the special patronage of Catherine of Braganza.

The Comforts of the American Home

It is a well-known fact that, home for home, the American household has more comforts and conveniences than that of any other nation.

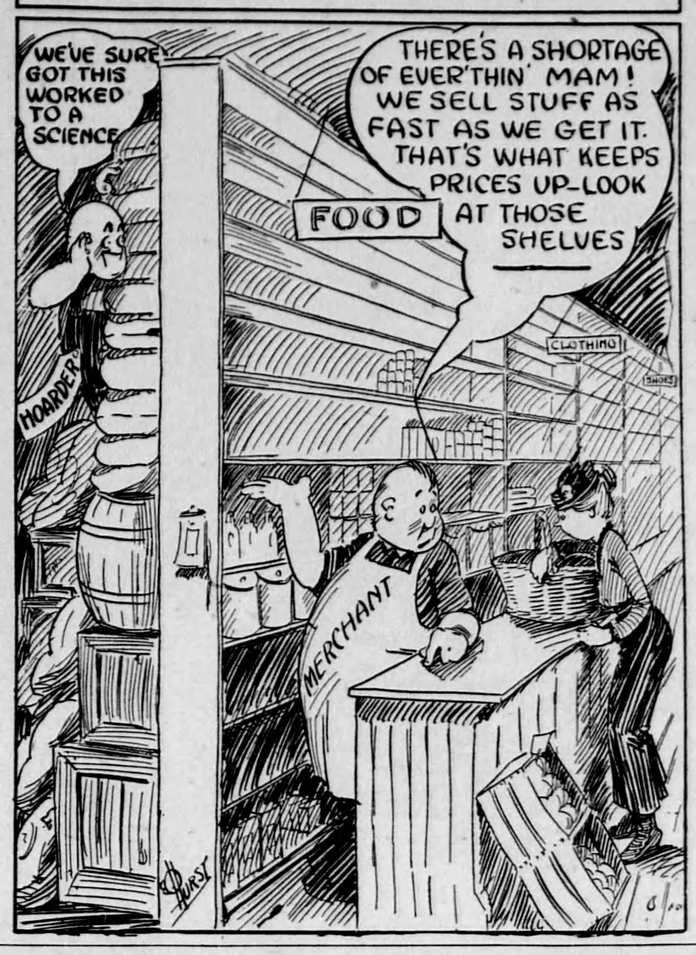
In foreign lands the modernized dwelling is found only in the better sections of the larger cities. Everywhere in America you find the piano, the vacuum cleaner, washing machines, up-to-date heating systems, telephones and numberless electrical appliances.

There is a well-kept look about residence, store or out-buildings, with an atmosphere of prosperity and content. Did you ever stop to realize why this is so; how this condition was brought about? It is largely due to advertising.

Stop and think how many of the foods you eat, the things you wear and other articles entering into your everyday life, you first heard of through advertisements. You will then realize what a part they do play, or should play, in your daily life.

Read the advertisements regularly and thoroughly, if you are not already doing so. They mean more to you than you can tell.

BEHIND THE WALL



POEMS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

[Emma Willard, the American educator and author, was one of a family of seventeen children. She was born at Berlin, Conn., in 1787. She taught in the village school, and later became principal of a girls' college at Westfield, Conn. After her marriage in 1814 to Dr. John Willard, she opened a boarding school at Middlebury, Conn., which was later removed to Troy, N.Y., and became the Troy Female Academy. After her retirement from the school in 1858 Mrs. Willard spent the remainder of her life in revising text books and writing a volume of poems. She died in 1876.]

"ROCKED IN THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP."

Rocked in the cradle of the deep,
I lay me down in peace to sleep;
Secure I rest upon the wave,
For Thou, O Lord, hast power to save.

I know Thou wilt not slight my call,
For Thou dost mark the sparrow's fall;
And calm and peaceful is my sleep,
Rocked in the cradle of the deep.

And such the trust that still were mine,
Though stormy winds swept o'er the brine,
Or though the tempest's fiery breath
Roused me from sleep to wreck and death.

In ocean's caves, still safe with Thee,
The germ of immortality;
And calm and peaceful is my sleep,
Rocked in the cradle of the deep.

CLEANERS BREAK FAMOUS WINDOW

Highly Prized "Signature Window" inMarlborough House Destroyed

Gloom hangs over Marlborough House, the residence of Queen Alexandra, for the famous "Signature Window" of the queen mother, regarded as a precious possession, has been broken by window cleaners. The window overlooks St. James Park from a room formerly King Edward's study, and bore the signature of over 50 royal personages, guests at the palace, who had inscribed their names with a diamond.

Autographs of the ex-kaiser, the late czar of Russia, the late Empress Eugenie, king of Norway and Sweden are inscribed. On one occasion King Edward, showing the window to the late J. Pierpont Morgan, the American millionaire, offered $25,000 to take it to New York, but the offer was refused.

ABOUT CANADA

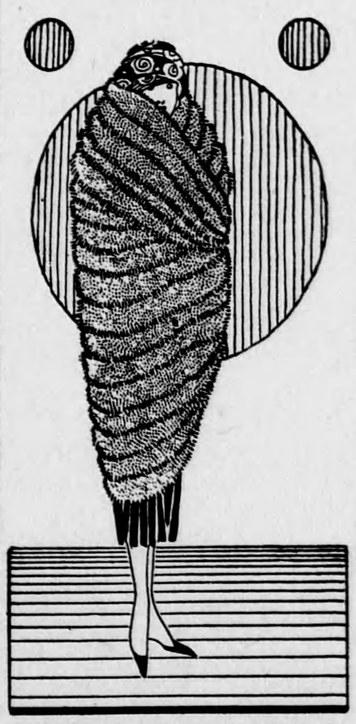
On July 8, 1758, Montcalm, the French commander in America, won a brilliant victory over his English enemies at Ticonderoga. The French commander was in Ticonderoga, at the extreme end of Lake Champlain, with 3,000 men, when he heard that the English under Abercrombie, were to attack him with 15,000 troops. Experienced officer that he was he felt that it was essential to retreat, and to do so at once. So he abandoned the fort and concealed his men half a mile away along a slight ridge. Upon the crest of the height he built a rude barricade of tree trunks piled up eight or nine feet. Then he cleared the space in front of his lines for 500 yards so that his troops could see to shoot at the English.

The English attacked, and aimost the first man to fall was the darling of that force, Lord Howe. The effect was for the time a complete demoralization of the attacking force. The result was a postponement of the general attack until the next day, giving Montcalm more time to complete his rude fortifications. The next day Abercrombie ordered the advance again. The attack began about one o'clock in the afternoon. The French, outnumbered five to one, were hidden behind the logs and brush; the English were in the open and afforded splendid targets for the infantry riflemen. They could not see what or where to shoot.

Six times that hot July day the English advanced on the concealed Frenchmen, and six times they were hurled back in bloody defeat. It was one of the most horrible scenes in all the early fighting between the two nations in America, but at 7.30 at night the English were compelled to give up the battle and leave Montcalm a victor. The French had won with a cost 377 men, while on the ground lay or were missing from the English ranks at the next roll call 1,944 offfcers and men. Montcalm with a little army had inflicted a great defeat on the English. He was simply wild with joy at his victory.

In the thirteenth century wages were fifty cents per week; yet wheat at the same time averaged 70 cents per bushel, or eight days' labor a bushel. Now it is worth $1.46 per bushel, or 2½ days' labor.

OUR BUTTERFLIES TO BE CATERPILLARS



Fashions will cause milady to reverse nature this winter, judging from advanced showings of furs. For it will mean the reversal of our summer butterfly into a "caterpillar." Honest, now, isn't that just what she looks like in this new big cape of skunk. It is the most popular model yet shown for 1920-21.

SUNLIGHT KILLS DISEASE GERMS

Most Important Essential to Health

The fact has recently come to be recognized that light is the most important essential to health. The more light the better.

Practically all people who live in cities are more or less anemic. The condition shows in the pallor of their skin, and it shows an insufficient number of red corpusoles in their blood. Incidentally their vital organs do not function as vigorously as they ought.

The trouble is lack of light. City folks spend most of their time in semi-darkness. They inhabit artificial caves of baked mud and stone, and cover their bodies with light-proof clothing.

Their health suffers, and when summer comes they are eager to get away to the mountains or the seashore to recuperate. Rest, change of scene and plenty of fresh air are all helps in this direction, but what does them most good is unlimited light.

The seashore is especially beneficial, because there is more light there than anywhere else.

People at the seashore find that bathing does them good, but the benefit they derive from it is mainly attributable to exposure to unlimited light. Before and after the dip in the surf they lie about on the sand, perhaps for hours, literally taking in health at every pore. Their clothing is reduced to a minimum, which helps.

People at the seashore are out in the sunshine all day long. They go about in bath chairs. Invalids even avail themselves of the "sun pavilions" which the big hotels provide. Light, light, oceans of light for everybody.

THE HUE OF HEALTH.

Young women nowadays consider it desirable to acquire a coat of tan, which is esteemed "becoming." Why? Because it is the hue of health, obtained by exposure to sunlight, and it is the fashion in this generation for women to be healthy.

Even freckles are not now held in disesteem as formerly. The more of GAL. SIX—WILK—Everyday..... them a girl has the better her health is likely to be, for it is sunshine that makes them.

You yourself have noticed how much much cheerful and vigorous you feel on a bright, sunshiny day than on a cloudy and gloomy day. You have more "pep." It is the influence or light.

Take, on the other hand, the case of a prisioner shut up in a cell. He becomes depressed in mind, and soon loses his physical vigor. His skin blanches; the term "prison pallor" is descriptively familiar. Want of fresh air and exercise is to some extent the cause, but what he suffered from chiefly is lack of light.

Did you ever see a potato plant growing in a dark cellar? It is not green, but white, with a long stem and almost no foliage. This means absence of chlorophyll, the substance that gives to plants their green color, and which enables them to utilize the energy of light.

The red corpuscles of your blood perform for you an analogous function. In the absence of an adequate light supply they will become fewer. You are suffering from anaemia. The doctor gives you a tonic that contains iron; but what you need is more light.

Slum dwellers, who live in narrow and crowded streets, are pale and undersized. Improper nutrition has a good deal to do with it, but that is only one cause. All efforts to improve the condition of the poor in cities by giving them fresh air and cleaner quarters are in the direction of giving them more light. Any physician will tell yuo that excercise in the open air is vastly more beneficial than any obtainable in a gymnasium. The chief reason why is that when you are playing tennis or golf or riding a horse or a bicycle, or amusing yourself otherwise out of doors, you are getting the benefit of unlimited light.

MORAL—DON'T BORROW.

A man who was too stingy to subscribe for his home paper sent his little boy to borrow a copy taken by a neighbor. In haste the boy ran over a $4 stand of bees and in ten minutes looked like a warty summer squash. His father ran to his assistance, and failing to notice the barbed wire fence, ran into that, cutting a hole in his anatomy and ruining a $5 pair of trousers. The old cow took advantage of the gap in the fence and got into the corn field and killed herself eating green corn. Hearing a racket, the wife ran out, upset a four-gallon churn of cream into a basket of little chickens, and drowned the entire bunch. In her haste she dropped a $35 set of false teeth. The baby crawled through the milk into the parlor ruining a brand new $25 carpet. During the excitement the oldest daughter ran away with the hired man, the dog broke up 11 sitting hens, and the calves got out and hewed the tails of four fine shirts on the clothes line.

WORLD'S LARGEST BIBLE.

Though the Bible Society has a remarkable collection of Bibles in its library, the largest and most wonderful Bible in the world is on parchment in the Royal Library at Stockholm. The covers are made of solid planks, four inches thick, and the pages each measure a yard in length. It is estimated that a hundred asses' skins must have been used to furnish the 309 parchment leaves of this colossal book.

There are 256 railway stations within a six mile radius of St. Paul's Cathedral, while within a twenty-mile radius there are nearly 400.

Gas lights were first used as street lamps in London in 1807.