The Quiet Observer

"Waking the Empire

General Smuts is said to have declared that the British Empire is dead. Empires like other entities have their term, and there appears to be a cycle of activity for great nations and little ones, as well as for trees and other plants, elephants and other animals. The Roman empire, the Grecian, the Babylonian, the Spanish, the Persian and others had their due life. They flourished, reached a point of maximum strength and then waned. Sometimes they disappeared with startling suddenness, but more frequently they gradually faded out, occasionally absorbed into later empires, often lingering for generations. As long as anything has life it continues to grow. When the growth stops the life impulse is failing and the end may come at any moment. In the case of the British Empire the vitality of the imperial race is notable and its health and growth unmistakeable. If General Smuts were right we might begin to look for the residuary legatee, if we could not discover the heir. In anything of this kind Canada will have a great deal to say, and is not likely to let the heirlooms leave the family. British traditions are well established here, and the British stock will more and more turn to our great Dominion as their ultimate home.

Wheat, Hogs, Cheese and Bees

An early August summary by the provincial department of agriculture indicates fall plowing as above the average, with a diversity of opinion about sowing wheat, the depredations of the Hessian fly having modified some expectations. Essex shipped ten cars of wheat at $2.50 early in the month and $2.35 was quoted for new wheat later. With wheat at $2 or over most farmers are willing to risk the pests. Cheese has been varying from 23 to 26 cents, the bulk around 25 cents. Co-operative trading has been a factor in this and other lines including live stock. Hogs are becoming attractive to the farmers once more, and taking the province over with prices at from $19 to $21 a cwt., there are few more profitable ways of turning farm produce into money. Honey continues scarce and foul brood is widely complained of. Alpaugh's method has been found a complete success by all the apiarists who adopt it. At the end of the season, he takes away all the comb, empties the bees into a new hive with foundation, and feeds them. The wax from the comb more than pays for the foundation and feeding, and foul brood gets no hold.

To Popularize an Election

Premier Meighen's speech at Stirling dealt so clearly with obvious issues that hostile critics emphasized his sins of omission rather than of commission. He said nothing of a general election. Apart altogether from political or party policies the average man is not interested in a general election. In fact he is rather sick of elections and does not understand the enthusiasm of the average politician for the polling booth, the shrine of the nation's liberties. He knows that all he can do is to vote, as in the United States, for Cox or Harding, neither of whom has a mind of his own, but only party loyalty, or else for a scape-goat like Debs, with unpredictable results. Everybody knows that the next general election in Canada, unless something phenomenal happen in the meantime, will alter the whole political situation. Those who have nothing to lose are naturally most eager for the fray, but no one is willing to admit that he has nothing to lose. It is still an unsettled question in many minds whether the party system, as of course the party managers believe, is a necessity. We have been so long trained to believe that an orthodox opposition was indispensable to a proper government that it is not surprising if the politicians are unable to think in terms of another mode. It is like asking the ordinary business man to substitute a metric system for his established weights and measures, or the mathematician to abandon his decimal system for the old duodecimal one. One can count or measure by any standard, and do so accurately, although some modes are easier than others. So it is with the party system. There is no need to fear the result, whatever it may be and whenever a reduction in the cost of living would popularize it.

Capital Can Strike

Labor has made a specialty of strikes, and it has apparently become such a formidable weapon that labor has felt that it was irresistible when applied where it was felt to be necessary. There has been, however, in the opinion of capital, a decided tendency to overdo the promotion or emphasis of the Labor interest to the detriment of the no less essential interest, and it is not surprising that when Labor has made such potent use of the strike that capital has discovered the use of the strike also. In a moderate stezd business in one of the smaller Canadian cities the staff approached the proprietor recently, and announced that they wanted more wages. They had had four or five increases since the war began, and he told them that the limit had been reached. The foreman wanted more than the proprietor was getting out of the business himself, and the money simply wasn't in the turnover. He told the deputation that he had two alternatives for them if they were unwilling to continue on their present basis. He first offered to hand them the keys and let them run the business themselves, soviet fashion, he being willing to hand it over to them. They would not agree to this at all. Then, he said, my other alternative is that you get to blazes out of this. His raw material cost him four times what it had and another rise was in sight. He concluded that with more wages to pay business could not be done. So the plant is locked up, and sits idle. Capital is on strike. The men are looking for work elsewhere.

Serious Plague Danger

A very serious problem is disturbing the minds of medical men and sanitation authorities in general. It is the spread of the bubonic plague. It is a far more malignant malady than smallpox or many other things of which much fuss is made. We do not happen to have had any outbreak of it in Canada, but if we do the appalling terror of it will make us wish we had taken earlier steps for its prevention. The infection is conveyed by rats and other rodents. The ground squirrels of California are infected and have been for years. Should the disease ever acquire headway, the grippe and influenza epidemics will seem slight in comparison, and we shall have to go back to the Black Death of 1666 for a parallel. The only means of prevention is the utter extermination of all the rats and squirrels wherever infection is detected. It is chiefly in seaports that the danger exists at first, but in a land of internal navigation like Canada or the United States such an epidemic might spread with great rapidity. In Manchuria in 1910 and 1911 50,000 people died of it in three months. Death is usually very rapid in those attacked. There are two varieties of symptoms. In India the cases usually assume the bubonic form. In Manchurio it took a pneumonic form. It is this latter type that is to be feared in the climate of Canada should it ever gain headway.

An Unweldable Third Party

Victor Berger, the Socialist leader, candidly admits the failure of the Third Party Convention in Chicago, and gives several reasons. He considers all the thoughtful Labor men to be Socialists and therefore opposed to Samuel Gompers. And he regards the great mistake of the convention to have been in failing to endorse Eugene V. Debs. "The dissatisfaction of the nation with present conditions, coupled with the enthusiasm of the producing classes, might have elected Debs. To say the least, the present constellation would have given him a vote which would forever have made plutocratic tyranny and Wilsonian autocracy impossible in the future." Thus spoke Mr. Berger, and the significant part of his remarks is the indication that Debs is going to receive a heavy vote in any case. There is not much to interest Canadians yet in the presidential campaign, although the popular impression is that the Republican managers have the election in cold storage already. Ex-President Taft is predicting that when Harding is elected the League of Nations with necessary reservations will be accomplished. Mr. Cox does not differ greatly with Mr. Harding on the League of Nations policy, but if affairs continue in Europe as they are doing there may be no nations by next March to form a league to please either Mr. Cox or Mr. Harding, and the Republican managers will be chiefly to thank for that result. The United States in November may exhibit as unusual a political phenomenon as Ontario did last October, but at any rate we shall know all about it in a little over two months.

Bolshevist Education

One of Russia's greatest calamities, if not the greatest, is the destruction of her educational system. It does not take long for a nation to relapse into barbarism, and the suspension of the schools or what virtually amounts to that, will soon have its effect. All the university students have been drafted into the Red armies. The soldiers are taught by means of specially prepared literature, but this is far from a university or even a high school standard. The aim, it is stated, is "to utilize the period of the soldiers' service in the interest of his spiritual development and to make of him a worthy citizen of the Socialist state." But the itinerant militarism of the Red army is no condition for the foundation of real learning and wisdom, though individuals may here and there gain much by their experience. What may be expected of the mess is indicated in Trotsky's speech to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet, where he dilated on the new aims made clear by the great war. German Imperialism, he declared, had only been destroyed to give place to a new imperialism. This is represented by the British fleet, which Trotsky appears to judge by his experiences at Halifax, where but for the United States government, he would have been turned back from Europe. The Baltic Sea, he asserted was but an English gulf. This corresponds with the colossal ignorance of England attributed to Lenin by those who have met him. And the object of the Bolshevists is to subvert all other authority to their rule.

MADE $8,500,000 IN EIGHT MONTHS

Agreeing to pay 50 per cent on all money loaned to him for 90 days, Charles Ponzi, former Boston restaurant dishwasher, is credited with having made eight and one-half million dollars in eight months. Now Uncle Sam is investigating—but can find only that Ponzi manipulated foreign exchange coupons. Meanwhile Ponzi smiles and enjoys his wealth.

The Empress Eugenie

Could there be a more pathetic figure than that of the Empress Eugenie, who died recently at the age of ninety-four, who not long before, in the gardens of the Tuilleries, when she picked flowers there, it was the clemency of the gendarmes that permitted this breach of the regulations in the precincts where she had once reigned as empress. The reputed daughter of the Countess de Montigo, it is stated that she and her sister were really daughters of old Queen Cristina, consort of King Ferdinand, the issue of a morganatic marriage with an English artist named Ward. This is not improbable and gains strength from the friendship shown Eugenie on all occasions and till the end of her life by Queen Victoria, who was a tremendous stickler for court propriety and court convention. It is not conceivable that Queen Victoria would have made an intimate friend of Eugenie had her birth not been above suspicion. One is reminded of the old story of the Queen going over a list of presentations to be made, with the Lord Chamberlain. "Who is this?" she asked, pointing to the name of a Mrs. Cheese. "Your Majesty may be sure that she is the very creme de la creme," was the convincing reply. The gaiety went out of Eugenie's life with the decision of the Franco-Prussian war, for which many people hold her responsible. The fact is that Bismarck would have made a war had she been as unwilling as prudence and common sense could have made her. She had a magnificent and historically an unusual revenge. That she should survive to see the tables turned so completely can scarcely have been imagined by anyone in 1871. She had to live nearly fifty years to see it, and she prayed hard for it all the time. In 1879 when her son, the Prince Imperial, was killed in the African war, it made the "revonche" seem less possible than ever. Eugenie was boycotted by all the other royalties, and no one pretends that Napoleon was a faithful husband. And now, after all the fitful fever of her life, all that there is to remember is

"The glory of a perfect brow,
The shadow of a crown."

How Were the Pyramids Built

A new theory of the construction of the pyramids has been advanced by a Calcutta engineer. None of the old theories have been generally accepted, the usual one being that great ramps were built up, while the blocks were hauled and put in place. The new theorist points out that the pyramids were originally coated over with a smooth casing, a highly polished substance, very thick and very hard, like Portland cement. It was stripped off the Great Pyramid in 1357 and used to construct a mosque, where it is still to be seen. The new theory is that this coating was laid on as the courses were built, and that over this smooth surface the subsequent blocks were hauled on rollers with ropes. These ropes or fibrous cables, about three-quarters of a mile long, would have required much less work to make, the ramps of older theories. At the same time it must not be forgotten that "among the many thousands of specimens of sculpture work on stone, depicting every possible aspect of early Egyptian life and many historical events, which have been excavated, not one has come to light depicting any phase in the construction of the pyramids — one of the most colossal works ever undertaken by mankind in that or any subsequent age." It is well known that the Egyptians arrived in Egypt from elsewhere and at once established a civilization which they must have transplanted from elsewhere just as the first American colonists did from Europe. Some say they came from ancient Atlantis, now being investigated by the Smithsonian Institute. They say nothing of the construction of the Great Pyramid, which they imitated on a smaller scale, because, it is suggested, it was there before they came. It may be some time yet before the mystery is solved of the monument mentioned in Isaiah xix: 19, to which a date of 78,000 years ago has been assigned by oriental authorities.

War Pictures on View

Mr. Paul Konody, the London art critic who was given charge of the war memorial collection of pictures, is in Toronto in connection with the exhibition of war pictures at the great exhibition. The north and northwest wings of the Fine Arts Building and also the temporary gallery erected last year will be occupied with Canadian war pictures. In the eastern wing of the gallery will be found a collection of Canadian pictures. All the war pictures are exhibited for the first time in Canada and constitute the final instalment of the Canadian Government's graphic pictorial record of the war. The usual photographic exhibition in the Graphic Arts Building will be as beautiful and attractive as ever, and the new director, F. S. Haines, has secured a fine collection of etchings and designs from Great Britain and the United States, which will prove a feature.

The fisheries of the three Prairie Provinces produce annually fish to the value of two million dollars. Whitefish occupies first place. It abounds in nearly all the northern and western lakes.

The longer you cook a dried fruit the sweeter it will be.

MARY had a pretty bird
That had become so tame
He'd perch himself upon her hand,
And seemed to know his name.

Find three other bird lovers. Right side down, in grass; upper side down, along basket; upper right corner down, along hair.

ADJUST THE BRAKE TO INSURE SAFETY

Proper Braking Devices Are Essential at All Times

Brakes are the only safety device on the motor car and when it is considered that faulty or improperly adjusted brakes can be quickly corrected and made to function properly, it is ofttimes criminal negligence to allow them to go unattended to.

In case brakes are not working properly, it is very likely that they have become coated with oil or grease, which acts as a lubricant. This condition is dangerous, for it may cause the brakes to slip when applied. At the earliest opportunity the lining and brake drum should be wiped clean with kerosene.

The brake lining may have become worn so that insufficient pressure is brought to bear against the revolving metal drum and the car cannot be stopped quickly. A few adjustments which any mechanic can make while you wait, will often compensate for the reduced thickness of the worn lining.

If the lining has become worn beyond the margin of safety, it is best to take no chances, but to have the brakes relined. In the selection of new brake lining the motorist should be guided by the experience of the leading automotive engineers, who have made numerous analyses and tests of various kinds of brake lining materials. The wise motorist is satisfied not alone in being able to drive a car, but thankful that he can stop it. He values a smooth, short stop no less than he appreciates a quick, easy getaway. Watch your brakes—enjoy great comfort and safety.

And while brakes are vital in the safe operation of a car, they should not be used any more than necessary. The best way to avoid brake troubles is to use the motor as much as possible as a brake on the hills. If you are going down a steep hill put the car in second and let the motor hold it back. If the hill is very steep, get into low and slide down. If you have never tried this you do not realize what power there is in the motor to hold the car back. It is safer and greatly prolongs the life of your brakes.

ENGLISH PORK PIES.

Cut into small pieces lean fresh pork, with a little fat, and season highly with salt and pepper, and two ounces and a half of salt. In all of the original English recipes available, sage is prescribed as seasoning but thyme or marjoram may be substituted. Six fresh sage leaves, or level tablespoonful of the dried and powdered, is right for three pounds of pork.

The mixture is put into pastry shells, covered with an upper crust of paste, and the pies are baked by long, slow, cooking in a not over-hot oven. They may need two hours, or until, when the point of a skewer is thurst into them through the crust, the meat is found to be quite soft. Meantime bones and trimmings of pork are stewed down in a very little water until the liquid jells when cold, and a little of this is poured into the crust.

STEWED KIDNEY.

One good sized beef kidney, warm water, 2 thin slices onion; pepper and salt to taste, ½ teaspoon mustard, 1 tablespoon flour. Wash the kidney and cut into small cubes, being careful to remove all the fat. Parboil for 15 minutes, remove from the water and dry. Grease a frying pan with a bit of the fat, enter the kidney and allow it to brown. Then cover it with warm water, add the onion and let cook in a double boiler for four hours. Then add the pepper, salt and mustard and thicken the gravy with the flour. Serve hot with tippets of toast in ramekin dishes or scalloped shell.

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.

TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

The very small baby needs special attention when taking a railway journey. He can make his mother's life a burden for the hours or days he is on the train. When the journey is a matter of days preparations should be started long beforehand, so that the mother will not be too tired before she starts on the trip. A tired mother usually means a fretful baby.

I remember seeing baskets made after the style of the old telescope valise—the half of such a basket seems to be a splendid arrangement for baby's bed. Rest assured if he has to depend on his mother's arms for a resting place he is going to be a cross baby.

Put the clean clothes for baby in the bottom of whatever kind of bed you manufacture, and a pad over them to make a mattress. A small pillow to put under his head, a light cover to throw over him when sleeping, a piece of veiling to keep cinders away, and a bottle of cooled boiled water, very eightly corked, should all have a place in the basket.

When he gets restless give him a drink of water and lay him down in his bed. He will go to sleep; and, if he is still sleeping at a time when you must change cars or leave the train, it is as easy to carry him in the basket as any way.

If not too warm, put a thin bonnet on baby when he sleeps; and place tiny will make the surroundings more quiet pads over the ears if you think it and like his accustomed sleeping place. If the baby is old enough and cunning enough to attract the attention of fellow passengers, you may have trouble. Some people think they are giving the mother a rest when they take her baby for a while, but as a general rule they talk to him, and jump him up and down or give him tastes and sips of fruit or candy, until the child is quite upset. It may take courage on your part to refuse these friendly advances, but it will be easier on you in the end, and it can give no offense whatever to intelligent people.

HINTS FOR DECORATORS

Each piece of furniture should be selected, first, to meet a definite need; second, to harmonize with its surroundings.

The costliest furnishings lost much of their beauty when viewed against walls and floors of the wrong tones and colors.

An effect of spaciousness can be produced in a small house by the use of similar wall treatments in adjoining rooms.

If the house is to be made a home, its furnishings must reflect the personal tastes and activities of its occupants.

The greater part of the fire insurance in Canada is held by British companies. The net amount at risk is $4,904,396,000, of which $2,559,022,000 are covered by British policies.

139 ASK TO "SHOOT" NIAGARA IN A BOAT

Many Answer Movie Company Advertisement

Think of going over Niagara Falls in a houseboat!

Death came to Charles George Stevens when he tried to ride the 158-foot cataract in a barrel.

Yet 139 husky young men have gone on record as being ready to try the stunt in a houseboat.

An advertisement appeared recently in one of the New York daily newspapers calling for a man to go over Niagara Falls in a houseboat for a motion picture film. The reward offered was $1,000. The producer expected that possibly five men might apply.

Imagine his astonishment when 139 applicants put in an appearance. Among them was Allan Law, brother of Ruth and Rodman Law.

Majority ex-Army Men.

The majority of those who applied were ex-service men who were overseas. Having faced German bullets in France, they said they were more than willing to attempt Niagara Falls for a thousand dollars. Another interesting fact was that the average age of the applicants was 23 years. Only a few were over 25. The oldest applicant was 48 years of age.

Practically every nationality was represented, and among them were two men who did not know what Niagara Falls is. Upon being informed and being shown pictures of the falls, one of them backed out. Of all who applied, this man and one other were the only ones who resigned.

Another interesting applicant was Frank Dupree, newspaper correspondent, who made the first long distance aeroplane flight in 1913 from Dover England, to Cologne, Germany.

Most of 'Em After Money.

When asked the reasons for seeking so hazardous a job, the majority said "money." Others were lured by the chance for adventure. Practically all were fatalists, who did not for a moment consider the risk. Another interesting feature was the fact that among them were four bank clerks, three security salesmen and one life insurance salesman.

A specially constructed houseboat was made to be used. It includes the compartment and bulkhead construction principle used in lifeboats and the hulls of ocean liners. Tests of the craft show that its scientific construction has reduced to a minimum the risk incurred by the daredevil who rides over the falls.

Stevens, who lost his life in a barrel-try at the stunt, was a barber in England, where his wife and eleven children live. He has made parachute drops, high dives and similar feats man ytimes. He used to put his head in a lion's mouth in a circus.

But the question now is—will the motion picture stunt be called off

News of the Movies

By William Willing.

After long resisting the temptations held out by the motion picture, George Arliss, one of the most distinguished actors of the stage, has succumbed. He will be presented by Andrew J. Callaghan Productions in an elaborate film version of "The Devil." In this stage play Arliss scored his first great success.

Miss Ann and Master Michael Cudahy, children of the noted Cudahy family of packers, have done so well in Monroe Salisbury's new play that they may be exploited as stars under his guidance.

In the production of the two-reel pictures starring Tom Santschi, some observers see support for the prediction of one of the screen's most noted directors, that the day is passing when five reels will be arbitrarily regarded as the necessary length of a feature film.

Lew Cody's third special production for Robertson-Cole has been titled "Occasionally Yours."

In the cast of "Twin Beds," the Carter de Haven comedy production which Lloyd Ingraham has directed, William Desmond, the well-known star, maintains his reputation as a light comedy actor to high advantage.

For the first time since she became a star, Mabel Normand is playing a dual role in her new Goldwyn picture, "What Happened to Rosa."

Fatty Arbuckle having finished "The Traveling Salesman," will next be the pivot of a film version of "Brewster's Millions," with Betty Ross Clark as leading woman.

At the conclusion of his current contract with Vitagraph, Larry Semon will probably form his own producing organization and release his pictures through First National or United Artists (the Big Four).

HOW TO WASH WINDOWS RAPIDLY

A professional house cleaner once told me how to wash my windows easily and rapidly. Use a piece of chamois skin about 15 to 18 inches square. Use warm water, wring out the chamois lightly, and wash over the window. Then wring the chamois out of water until as dry as possible, and rub over the window. This will take off all moisture and there will be no lint left. The windows will shine, and once tried, you will never wash your windows by the old way.

A substitute for imported edible gelatine is being made from a seaweed in the Philippines.