# The Quiet Observer

## Canada an Empire Centre

Another prominent authority has gone on record as recognizing the probability that Canada will be the future headquarters of the British Empire. An Australian delegate to the Imperial Press Conference declared "The future capital of the British Empire will be in Canada. Within half a century you may be directing affairs of the Empire from these shores." This means, however a growth of public opinion and a development of individual qualities among Canadians that are not at present definitely kept in view. When a Canadian a grows a little beyond the average size at present he goes to England, and most of the other Canadians are glad to see him get out. There is little real patriotism in either attitude. We must cultivate bigger men, and we must make it possible as well as attractive for them to stay at home. We must not resent the presence of English men who would come here and settle and enter upon the direction of affairs any more than we resent the presence of settlers from the United States. We must in fact become less insular, and our politics must be less exclusive and narrow. Another important consideration is that we must be less anxious to hand over our resources to American capitalists and exploiters when we could under governmental authority and control develop these resources for the benefiit of our nation and the welfare of our citizens. The more vitally the national spirit is appreciated the stronger the will our influence become outside our own boundaries and the more carefully shall we husband our resources for our citizens.

## Gossip of the Farm

Harvesting has now reached a point where the success of the season's operations as a whole is indubitable. There have been some disappointments especially in the early hay crop, but this was amply compensated for by later yields. Some of the late oats suffered, and in some districts August rains have injured grain in the fields. This perhaps was due to the scarcity of labor as much as anything, the annual rush to the Western harvest having robbed Ontario of every spare hand. Many farmers, according to the Provincial bulletin, could not have got through with their harvesting but for the help of their wives and daughters. Army worm ravages are reported from Lambton. A six acre field in the Township of Dawn lost half its crop from this cause. Examination of the worms showed that practically every specimen looked at carried from one to five eggs of the parasite known as the Tachina fly, so that the pest bears its own remedy. Fall wheat is reported to be threshing out well. Bruce has some making 65 lbs to the bushel. Potatoes are a heavy yield and are unusually clean and wholesome looking. Early apples have been plentiful. Plums and peaches are a fair crop. Ontario County shipped a car load of horses recently ranging from $160 to $225 each. Prescott and Russell reports that farmers and villagers are buying peat fuel at $4 a ton f.o.b., and that it has given satisfaction. The plant at Alfred is turning out about 100 tons of local peat a day.

## For Example

An excellent example of the dangers and difficulties of our present economic methods was given in the acute development of the sugar situation. A mere statement of the facts ought to be sufficient to show that something is wrong. It is not necessary to apportion the blame. No one is really to blame more than another. The system is responsible and the system is generally accepted. Remedies are not generally acceptable, and until there is a universal desire for a remedy little will be done to bring about a better condtion of affairs. There is a dispute of course among the authorities, as to whom is to be attributed the eventual congestion. There is and must be some one eventually found to possess the article in the game of "hunt the slipper," but all who engage in the game have had it one time or another, and it is usually the least slippy who is caught. The excuses in the sugar situation developed when Detroit started selling sugar at 17 cents while 26 cents was being charged in Canada. The Board of Commerce got busy and started the toboggan slide at a Board of Conference at which the leading sugar refiners were represented, when the price of sugar was reduced to 22 cents. As long as the competition system obtains, and while it is profitable to some to conceal the true state of the markets, or the governments of the world refrain from giving full publicity to all the facts, the people must be prepared to pay what is demanded of them.

## Taking Labor Into Partnership

Another move has been made in what may be described as the democratization of big business. Standard Oil took the first step, and the arrangement by which employees of that corporation are enabled to become part owners, while a particularly benificent of plans for sick benefits, pensions, superannuation, and other devices for placing employes on somewhat of the advantageous basis of part owners has been extended to the Imperial Oil Company of Canada. The International Harvester Company has taken up the idea and has set aside sixty milions of stock to be divided among employees under an extra compensation and stock-ownership methods which will affect the entire 40,000 employees of the Company in the United States and Canada.. An amount equal to 60 per cent. of the Company's net profiits in excess of seven per cent. of the corporation's invested capital is thus to be divided. Those holding executive positions will receive one third of the extra compensation fund, partly in cash and partly in common stock; other workers will receive two-thirds of the extra compensation fund, partly in cash, partly in preferred stock which pays seven per cent. This really amounts to cutting a melon for the employees, while the steel corporation sells its stock to its employees. Socialitsts object to the plan as calculated to strengthen the capitalist interest, but the principle of profit-sharing with employees in this way is generally approved.

## Independence For Egypt

British recognition of the principles of democracy is fully exemplified in the concession to Egypt of a measure of independent self-government. Where reasonable and civilized people are to be dealt with no difficulty is met in extending such measures. Where hostile and unassimilable elements exist in any population, self-government cannot be granted without injury. The The United States takes this position with respect to the Philippine Islands. Egypt has been a troublesome problem on account of differences of religion, race, language and national aspirations among the people. No one denies the benefits of British administration in Egypt. But the people who formerly plundered the fellaheens are not at all satisfied to have their misdoings curtailed. The Turkish influence does not make for peace, and the Arabs who are to be found on all its borders are in some respects as unreasonable and irreconcilable as the Irish. Yet Britain has had her greatest successes during the great war in her diplomatic dealings with the Arab peoples. Much of the difficulty everywhere in the East is a religious one, and primitive races are never so touchy as our religious questions. Mohammedanism is one of the most liberal religions, and the first official act of Mohammed was to grant a franchise to the Christians under him. Claims of exclusive authority and privilege in religion have created most of the problems of government in the East. Equality of treatment is all that is required.

## War or Murder

Ireland continues to be the centre of irreconcilability in the English-speaking world. There has been no precedent among the English-speaking races for the attitude of the extremists who have been masquerading as Sinn Feiners. In the United States, whether in the Revolutionary war or in the Civil War, nothing can be found to justify the Irish campaign. This is denied to be a campaign of murder and assassination by Sinn Fein leaders. They regard all these acts as the operations of war. But when any of them are arrested or preventive measures are used, they have asserted their civil rights as bing violated, and accused the British Government of murder and assassination. Logic and reason cannot be expected to prevail under such conditions. Otherwise the whole question could have been settled long ago. Everything has been offered Ireland that any reasonable people could want, except the right to set up a hostile government on Britain's front door step. All authorities are agreed that this would be the first step to the breaking of the British Empire. The Irish extremists make no bones about this, but frankly declare this to be their aim. The nearest analogy to Ireland and Britain is the case of Cuba and the United States government would not for a moment permit Cuba to carry out plans such as the Irish extremists frankly declare to be the means they have in view to wreck the British commonwealth. The German, Russian and other influences behind the Sinn Fein party sufficiently substantiate this view.

## Is It Always Suicide

If a man takes his own life is it suicide irrespective of the method he adopts? When Emily Wilding Davison threw herself on the Derby race-horse and was killed, no one questioned that it was suicide. Socrates has been denounced as a suicide because he voluntarily drank poison provided him by the state for the execution to which he was condemned. This seems quite unjust. When a man has no opton but to die, has death cannot be regarded as suicide. Emily Davison took a chance, not necessarily wishing to die, but determined to risk it for the sake of the end to be gained. In the case of Lord Mayor MacSweney the conditions are different. He was not taking a chance in resolving to starve to death. He was not sentenced to death, but only to imprisonment. By insisting on dying by starvation he took a course which made death certain. Was he then morally culpable for violating the 'canon 'gainst self-slaughter?" The church evidently absolved him of any evil intent, and thus discriminated between the act and the intention. It may be contended from this that the church approved the intention. Self-slaughter is contrary to the law, and a man may be punished for attempting it. The adoption of one means rather than another takes nothing from the guilt. The simplest way to commit suicide is to stop breathing, but very few people have the will to do this, and those having the will generally know better. There is undoubtedly great difference of opinion about the whole matter.

## Gorki's Veiw on Russia

Maxim Gorki has protested in a letter to H. G. Wells against the idea that Russia has lapsed into barbarism merely because a certain barbarous class for the moment has obtained a dominant influence in the country. It would be as unjust to condemn the whole Irish people on account of the crimes of an underground junta. Gorki thinks that Europe, as represented by France and Britain, is trying to strangle Russia. "We Russians should have been left either to our own wishes or our own folly. In either case we should have provided the rest of Europe with an instructive spectacle." Europe would only have been too glad to do so had Soviet Russia been satisfied to confine her activities to Russian soil. The advance on Persia and other Eastern territory, the recent threat against India, the propaganda carried on in Western countries, the assistance given to stimulate and support the outrages in Ireland, and the frank avowal of Lenine that the Soviet aim was to avert all bourgeoise governments, including those of Britain and the United States, have placed Russia in a position that none can deplore more than the Western nations which have thus been placed in an involuntary antagonism with her. The West will willingly join with Gorki when occasion warrants in "seeing in the Russian nation the birth of a creative will power, which, step by step, transforms our people into an actual civilizing power."

## A Man's Novel For Women

It is worth while reading through Sir Harry Johnston's book to come on the tribute to the English put in the mouth of the ex-Kaiser, purporting, as it does, to be an accurate transcript of the Hohenzollern views. He was annoyed over Van Bissing's "cruel precipitancy." "Englishmen," he muttered to his entourage, "don't" assassinate. The Irish do. But how I'm going to make peace with England, I don't know." The book is a fascinating picture of contemporary England during the last twenty years, and reveals so much of the inner side of unwritten history that no one who desires to understand the movements of social, political, and national evolution in that time can afford to ignore it. The history of the suffrage and suffragette movement from the inside, militarsm and all, is the great episode of the story, but it involves so much more, and touches so many of the leading statesmen and politicians that a truer sense of the importance of the women's revolt will be gained than s usually held. It is said that women readers dislike the book, an account of its plain spoken character. There is nothing offensive about it, unless the facts of life and habit and conduct of men and women in pre-war Britain are offensive. There is no attempt to conceal anything, and a realization of things as they were will undoubtedly assist in an understanding of the war. It is true that some people will be shocked to learn that society is not conducted on Sunday School lines, but unless this is known no change is likely to be made. A policy of concealment is not likely to remedy anything. The book is a woman's book, a justification of emancipation of woman, and a record of the successful struggle for the vote. Sir Harry records a tribute to the developing womanhood of Germany. "The war came just too soon. Had Heaven struck down that epilept Emperor and a few of his ministers, had time been given for the New German Woman to assert herself in politics, there would have been no invasion of Belgium, no maltreatment of Servia. Germany would have ranged herself with the Western powers and Western culture." Apart from history and sociology the book is a most readable romance. Vivien is an original and powerful heroine. Characters like Sir Michael Rossiter, Bertie Adams Proed, A.R.A., and Mrs. Warren will not readily be forgotten. There is great tenderness and pathos in Sir Harry's treatment of Linda, one of the frequent misfit wives of the age.

An opened bottle of olives will not gather a film of mild if a layer of olive oil is floated on the brine.

# POEMS

### MY BOAT IS ON THE SHORE.

My boat is on the shore,
And my bark is on the sea;
But before I go, Tom Moore,
Here's a double health to thee!

Here's a sigh to those who love me,
And a smile to those who hate;
And whatever sky's above me,
Here's a heart for every fate!

Though the ocean roar around me,
Yet it still shall bear me on;
Though a desert should surround me,
It hath springs that may be won.

Were't the last drop in the well,
As I gasp'd upon the brink,
Ere my fainting spirit fell,
'Tis to thee that I would drink.

With that water, as this wine,
The libation I would pour
Should be—Peace with thine and mine,
And a health to thee, Tom Moore!

—Lord Byron.

## The History of Your Name

### BERRY.

**VARIATIONS —Burke, Burk, Burroughs, Burrows, Atterbury, Berks.**
**RACIAL ORIGIN—Anglo-Saxon.**
**SOURCE—Descriptive of lacality.**

The Anglo-Saxons of ancient England had a word "boorgan," meaning "to hide," from which have come not only a number of our very common modern words, but also, through various steps of development, the foregoing apparently dissimilar family names.

From it we have the word "burrow," meaning "to dig," also the word "bury" and "burial," but not the word "berry" the (the fruit), which comes from another source. But the word "burrough" (a political division of land) and the endings "burg," "burgh" and "bury," as in Pittsburgh, or Harrisburg, and Waterbury, do come from it.

In Anglo-Saxon times the word "burg," "burgh" or "burk" came to mean a defensive inclosure, a dwelling place, a town or city. It is noteworthy that the German ending, "burg," denotes a castle, the ancient German tongue being first cousin to the Anglo-Saxon.

All the foregoing forms of the family name were used first, with one or another prefix, to denote that the person or family referred to lived in, at or near the city. It was not necessary to designate which city, for the lives and communications of most persons in those days were confined to such limited areas that all would know whot town or city wes meant.

The variation Attenbury still retains one of the prefixes. The name simply is a contraction of "at the burgh." The change of the "gh" into a "y" is thoroughly regular as a development from the old Saxon tongue, and there are parallels to be found in hundreds of our modern words.

### FINLAY.

**Variations—Findlay, Findley.**
**Racial Origin—Scottish (Celtic).**
**Source—A given name.**

Scottish family names, taken as a class, do not parallel those of Ireland in one respect. They are not overwhelming Celtic, either in language or in the method of formation. And there are reasons for this.

In the first place, the blood of Scotland is far from being overwhelmingly Celtic. At the time of the Roman domination of Britain, the country north of the great wall which marked the northern limits of the Empire's Government was inhabited by the Picts, a race more similar to the Cymric branch of the Celtic race, like the Welsh, the Cornishmen and the Bretons. About the third and fourth centuries of the Christian era the Gaelic Celts of Ireland came over from Ulster and settled themselves in the Highlands. Then, when the Anglo-Saxons invaded England they cut well north into the lowlands. Norman and then English conquest and occupation followed on a large scale before surnames became true family names. Hence there were influences of many races at work.

The name of Finlay, however, is truly Celtic. Originally its form as a given name was Fionnlaoch, a compound of "fionn," meaning "white," and "laoch," meaning "fighter," or "soldier." When it first became a family or clan name, of course, it was preceded by "Mac," meaning "descendant of," but in the course of time has been dropped, and the name has developed variously into the modern forms to be found in this country to-day.

## Tales of the Sea

An effort is being made in the United States to develop what one writer has styled "ship-mindedness." It has been suggested that boys be encouraged to read sea stories, and four books of the kind have been mentioned. Is it necessary to do anything of this sort in Canada? The sea literature of Britain and the United States is the richest of any country and there is no richer department in the English tongue. "Robinson Crusoe" is primarily a great sea story, and since then many classics have been written. Capt. Marazate's novels appeal to some, and Fenemore Cooper's sea tales which some regard as better than his Red Indian ones, appeal to others. Dumas' "Two Years Before a Mast" is an excellent corrective. Foster's "Cruise of the Midge" and "Tom Cringle's Log" are great books. The last generation of boys had a splendid lot of sea stories by W. H. G. Kingston and other writers. Is Lieutenant Maitland's series of "Tom Rodman" books still available? Joseph Conrad is regarded as a modern princ eof ocean yarners, and there are Clark Russell, and the author of "The Cruise of the Cachalot," a great sea tale, and a host of others. The navy should never want sailors if our sea tales are all that is needed to attract boys to sea.

### HOW I INCREASE MY EGG YIELD

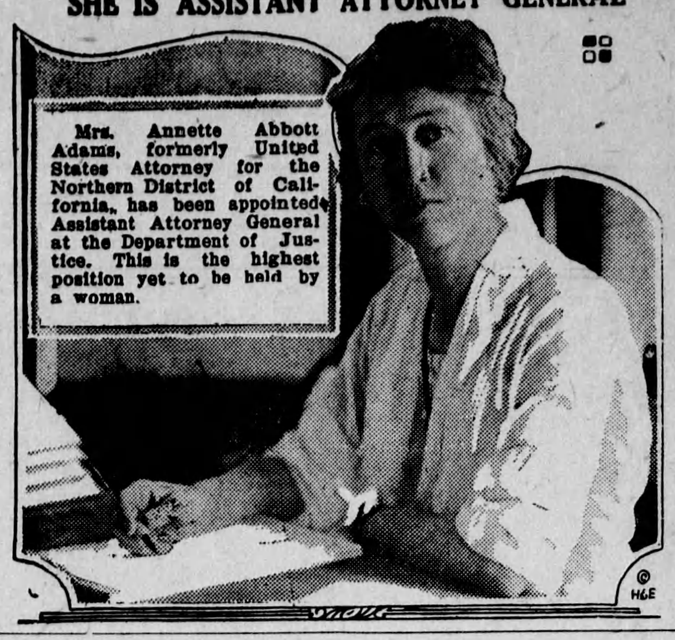
If I know the hens that are not laying I can get rid of them, and so get a larger average of eggs per hen for my flock. I use a plan that is easy to carry out and is sure to mark every hen that gets into the nest to lay an egg. It finds the non-producers very quickly.

I hang from the top of each nest a piece of rag soaked with a cloth dye and glycerin. This rag is of just the right length so that it will rub against the hen's back when she crawls into the nest, and yet will not interfere with her getting in. I raise white chickens, and so I use a dark color of dye for this purpose. If you raise a dark-colored chicken, you can use white or other light color dyes. You see, of course, that when the hen passes under the rag, the dye is rubbed off onto the hen's back. Those hens that do not have any of the dye on their backs are sold for meat.

DALE R. VAN HORN.

The first paper mill in America was erected near Philadelphia in 1690.

## SHE IS ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL



Mrs. Annette Abbott Adams, formerly United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, has been appointed Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice. This is the highest position yet to be held by a woman.

## Facts About Canada

According to the census of 1911—the latest complete census in Canada—the inhabitants of British origin numbered 3,896,985, being 54 per cent. of the total population.

The Census Branch of the Federal Department of Trade and Commerce, has estimated the population of Canada to be 8,835,102. This estimate shows an increase of 1,628,459 during the past nine years. A complete census will be taken next year.

According to the census of 1911 the rural population numbered 3,935,679, and the urban population 3,280,964, but the urban population was increasing more rapidly than the rural.

In 1917 the value of the creamery butter produced in Canada was $29,336,882, the Province of Quebec leading with a production having a value of $11,404,337.

The Indians living under treaties with the Government of Canada hold 2,231,971 acres of land, cleared but not under cultivation, and 178,020 acres under cultivation. The value of this land is estimated to have a value of $48,057,758.

The average annual income of these Indians is about $7,200,000, of which the sum of $2,350,000 is derived from farm products including hay. Their wages earned amount to $1,750,000.

During the year 1918 the fire insurance companies doing business in Canada received in premiums the sum of $517,240.495. The losses paid amounted to $307,980,299, being almost 60 per cent. of the premiums received.

During the past fifty years the fire insurance companies doing business in Canada have received in premiums $517,940,495, and paid in losses $307,980,299, being 59.4 per cent. of the amount of the premiums received.

The gross amount of fire risks taken during 1918 was $4,606,035,056. The premiums charged thereon amounted to $48,770,111, being 1.06 per cent. of the risks taken.

The exports of butter had a value of $6,140,864, and the exports of cheese $35,223,983. Great Britain bought of our butter to the value of $4,530,177, and of our cheese to the value of $27,525,634.

The export of apples in a natural state had a value of $2,041,076. The quantity sent to Great Britain was 345,567 barrels, having a value of $1,806,561. The other principal buyers were Newfoundland, New Zealand, Bermuda and the United States.

The milk and cream exported last year had a value of $7,882,799. Great Britain buying to the value of $4,530,933. Condensed cream and milk to the value of $800 were sent to the Straits Settlements and to Iceland to the value of $304.

## Jellicoe on Discipline

Admiral Jellicoe's report of the Naval Mission to Canada has been reprinted and freely distributed by the Navy League of Canada, 103 Bay St., Toronto, and is well worth reading. Even the most stationary landsman will find interest and benefit from the fourth chapter on discipline among the notes on which are some of the most excellent and practical ideas to be found anywhere, not merely for naval life, but for the maintenance of good relations among all classes of people everywhere. Misconception of the meaning of discipline leads some to denounce it, and to proclaim in opposition that all men are equal and that it is contrary to the dignity of a man to belong to a disciplined force. Admiral Jellicoe thinks this view does a lot of harm in ordinary times and "during the present period of very natural reaction since the signing of the armistice is very materially preventing the peoples of the world from recovering a position of mental and moral stability. The great fact which they lose sight of is that in a well-disciplined force the officers as well as the men are disciplined—that is to say, each officer and each man has conquered himself, and is therefore in a fit condition to subordinate his own wishes and desires in carrying out the orders given to him, which, as he knows, are meant to forward the cause for which they stand. The brutal and unchristian methods of the Prussians, which they were pleased to describe under the heading of discipline, are known in England under the names of bullying, unkindness, brutality." The essential principles of discipline which are given are those which might be adopted in every sphere. The whole trouble with society in all its ranges is that its members are not under discipline in the sense that each must have conquered himself. Admiral Jellicoe has some fine thoughts on work. "All work is sacred; in all true work, were it but true hand-labor, there is something of divineness. Some of the commonest faults of thought and work are those which come from thinking too poorly of our own lives, and of that which must rightly be demanded of us. A high standard of accuracy, a chivalrous loyalty to exact truth, generosity to fellow-workers, indifference to results, distrust of all that is showy, self-discipline and undiscouraged patience through all difficulties—these are among the first and greatest conditions of good work; and they ought never to seem too hard for us if we remember what we owe to the best work of bygone days."

The Sultan of Turkey seldom sleeps two consecutive nights in the same room, so great is his fear of assassination.


# Straight to the Point

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