CURRENT COMMENT

Ontario Hydro Information

It would appear that the electric "interests" are afraid that Premier Drury's new commission will not serve the purpose of blocking Hydro-Radial construction in Ontario. Accordingly, they have organized what is called an Ontario Hydro Information Association. It appears to be of the same character as the associations that have always been organized in Hamilton and some other places when there was a Hydro bylaw to be voted on. They always work tooth and nail against Sir Adam Beck and against Hydro expansion or development. Of course the present association declares it isn't against Hydro, but as all its members have been active in one way or another in opposing the Hydro principle, an analysis of the records of the leading members has been published. The president is also president of the Farmers' Sun, which Premier Drury has declared did not represent him, and which has never ceased active opposition to the Hydro Radials. The secretary-treasurer is the ex-mayor of St. Catharines, defeated there for his anti-Radial stand. These two leading officers represent the views of the Association in general. The reason for such active campaigning against Hydro Radials is not difficult to discover. The Hydro Electric Power Commission has made itself so popular with the people that any attempt to frustrate its work now would lead to a revolution. The object of the Hydro Radial plans is thoroughly to establish Hydro Electric power by distributing the cheap power to be generated by the Chippewa canal throughout the rural districts. This can only be done satisfactorily in conjunction with the Hydro Radial traffic and over the Hydro Radial right-of-way. Once this is done Hydro Electric power and traction will be so solidly established for the people at such cheap rates and on so reliable a basis that the private interests will no longer have any hope of attacking this public service. So the effort must be made now or never to overthrow the Hydro Electric projects. Exactly the same arguments are being used against the Hydro Radials as were used fifteen years ago against Hydro Electric distribution, and more recently against the elecrification of the London and Port Stanley Railway. Dr. Doolittle declares that the L. & P. S. road ruined a rival radial by its competition. It should be remembered that the rival road refused to be dealt with and prophesied ruin for the public ownership line. Sir Adam Beck estimated in 1912 that 450,000 passengers a year could be carried on the road with a proper service. In 1914, under private ownership, only 168,557 were carried and 63,000 less the following year. In the first year of public ownership 548,326 people were carried, exceeding Sir Adam's estimate by nearly 100,000. Every year the figures have gone up, 842,641, and 958,587 in the last two years, with over a million in sight this year. The Drury Commission and the Ontario Hydro Information Association are starting with the figures of years ago. The plans of the Ontario Hydro Radial Union are based on the very latest facts and experience. Fast electric transport will have the effect of building up all the smaller towns and villages around the big centres and will in this way create a tremendous new passenger traffic, as the congestion in the big cities has become intolerable. At the same time, the farmers will gain a new, cheap and rapid means of getting their produce to market, as well as a supply of light and power for their own use.

The Flaw in Labor Policy

Very contrary views are expressed by visitors to England of the state of affairs there. Some are inclined to regard the country as in a state perilously near to revolution. And they point to the labor troubles, the scant production and other signs in confirmation. Another set of visitors see nothing but prosperity, a more rapid recovery from the war than anywhere else, and more progressive development in spite of handicaps and drawbacks than in any other country. It is to be admitted that Labor is a problem. The principle of curbing production, which is so fatal to prosperity, has been widely adopted in Britain with more or less disastrous results. Instances are given, such as that of a bricklayer, who laid 120 bricks as a day's work, and who, when remonstrated with, simply asked for his ticket and quitted the job. Formerly a man would lay 1000 bricks in a forenoon as an ordinary piece of work. It is not to be wondered at that few are willing to undertake building enterprises under these conditions. The strike of the coal miners was declared by Robert Smillie to have as its object the nationalization of the coal mines. But the reduction of output is surely the last way in which to popularize a proposal to place the mines under the control—virtually—of those who enforce such a policy. A great deal more depends on this question of output than is usually considered. The great and fundamental principle of all genuine democracy is the demand in effort from each according to his ability and the corallary of this is for each according to his need. In the old competitive system the latter principle has been lost sight of, but we cannot establish a true democracy by abandoning the former principle. What is needed is the adjustment of society to give full play to both principles, so that everyone will contribute his full quota according to his ability to the common stock, and will receive adequate share, through whatever rearrangement of the present wage system that may be necessary for his requirements.

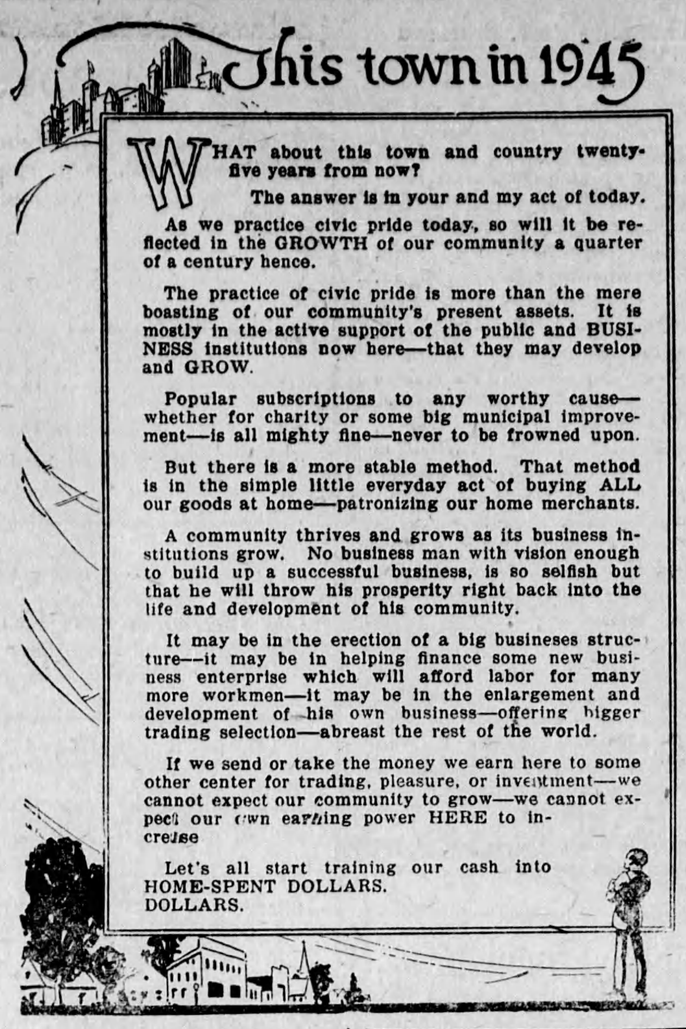
Wilson Scores a Point

President Wilson has done much to restore his prestige in Europe by his note to the Italian ambassador on the Russo-Polish crisis. Whether luck or foresight served him, the smashing defeat of the Bolshevik armies before Warsaw gave point to all he said, and as between the policies of Britain and France showed him as having a clearer vision and more correct understanding of the situation. He has refused to recognize the Lenin administration in any shape or form. The defeat of the Lenin armies before Warsaw have fully justified this attitude. At the same time he took "no exception to the effort apparently being made in some quarters to arrange an armistice between Poland and Russia", but he would not "participate in any plan for the expansion of the armistice negotiations into a general European conference", as this would probably involve recognition of the Bolshevik regime and the dismembering of Russia. His policy requires that "the territorial integrity and true boundaries of Russia shall be respected. These boundaries should properly include the whole of the former Russian empire, with the exception of Finland proper, ethnic Poland, and such territory as may by agreement form part of the Armenian state." This policy would deprive Lenin of his "false but effective appeal to Russian nationalism." The development of events undoubtedly has strengthened Mr. Wilson's position. Poland is not unduly elated over her victory and will probably be willing to listen to reasonable advice as to further fighting. The Bolshevik regime has also been shown in its true colors, and as utterly unreliable and false to its own professions. The terms proposed by Lenin to Poland when it looked as though Poland was down and out, were entirely different from those reported to the British government previously. Lloyd George speedily seized this fact as a basis for withdrawal from the negotiations going on with the trade commissioners, who were thereupon recalled from England. A Bolshevik officer, captured by the Poles, asserted that the Minsk Conference was only intended as a means of placating the Entente and British Labor, and that there was no intention to make peace until Warsaw was captured and Soviet rule set up in Poland. This coincides entirely with the German character and policy of the Lenin administration from the beginning. The tendency, perhaps pardonable, for Labor representatives in the west to believe anything said by an alleged Labor representative in the east in preference to any other authority, however respectable, may be connected by a little more experience of eastern mendacity in international politics. France has never been deceived by the Bolshevik pretensions, but her support of Wrangel is not so certainly well-judged.

Faults In Railway Policy

Doubts are already arising in the minds of those who have been regarded as authorities by the railway corporations, over the raising of passenger fares and rates in general. The New York Journal of Commerce cannot bring itself to see the elevation of rates as a boon to the nation. Edward Hungerford opposes public ownership, but wants private ownership operated on public ownership principles, which is like insisting that the moon should produce sunlight. Mr. Hungerford thinks the shipping car companies should share their profits with the railways. Under public ownership all such services should be rendered at cost, and would be by any management that understood the business. There is a social and national aspect to railway operation that has been practically lost sight of in the economic question. The United States and Canada have depended for their civic and commercial success on railway transportation. Canada still depends upon it to a greater extent even than the United States, but both countries have reached a stage where trunk line transportation must be fed and supported by subsidiary lines and increased traffic. It is not possible to increase traffic by raising rates, and how this obvious and elementary fact has come to be overlooked by the railway magnates has puzzled many observers. Subsidiary lines must be of a cheaper and more popular character than the trunk steam roads, and the problem has been solved by the New York Central and some other lines in electrical radials. This is clearly the remedy for Ontario, but the provincial government, which is inexperienced in railway matters, has confused the problems of public and private ownership, and of steam and electric traction, and at a critical moment in the history of the country has called a halt in the progress of a policy that more than anything else is calculated to build up the province. It cannot be too often stated that public ownership means service at cost, while private ownership means this with the addition of dividends, payments to subsidiary companies, the burdens of watered stock and other things that anyone who has knowledge of corporation affairs can describe. Instead of encouraging business, the proposal to raise the rates will only reduce the volume of business done. There is no more economy in this than in the Ontario policy of calling a halt in the construction of radial lines at a time when they are most needed.

This town in 1945



WHAT about this town and country twenty-five years from now?

The answer is in your and my act of today.

As we practice civic pride today, so will it be reflected in the GROWTH of our community a quarter of a century hence.

The practice of civic pride is more than the mere boasting of our community's present assets. It is mostly in the active support of the public and BUSINESS institutions now here—that they may develop and GROW.

Popular subscriptions to any worthy cause—whether for charity or some big municipal improvement—is all mighty fine—never to be frowned upon.

But there is a more stable method. That method is in the simple little everyday act of buying ALL our goods at home—patronizing our home merchants.

A community thrives and grows as its business institutions grow. No business man with vision enough to build up a successful business, is so selfish but that he will throw his prosperity right back into the life and development of his community.

It may be in the erection of a big busineses structure—it may be in helping finance some new business enterprise which will afford labor for many more workmen—it may be in the enlargement and development of his own business—offering bigger trading selection—abreast the rest of the world.

If we send or take the money we earn here to some other center for trading, pleasure, or investment—we cannot expect our community to grow—we cannot expect our own earning power HERE to increase

Let's all start training our cash into HOME-SPENT DOLLARS. DOLLARS.

THE BRAIN BOX

By E. Gunn-Ramsay

Thoughts and Your Job.

"Thoughts," says a small boy writing an essay, "are what comes out of your head to work with".

He has the idea of what they should be alright, even if crudely expressed.

"What comes out of your head to work with"—but how many people put thought, real punch-ful thought into their work?

"As a man thinketh so will he be" is an old saying that holds much truth. What you vision inwardly, to yourself, about your life plans about your work, that you may grow into and build up if only you will "dream true".

Your thoughts are your ideals, as you think, so your mind is being shaped.

Are you thinking **progress**, improvement, big things? or are you brooding over past defeats, losses, or things that have gone by?

Did you ever hear anyone say, "Oh, that chap is an idealist"? and think the expression implied that an idealist was no good in a business world?

Think again!

"My work is so monotonous", says Brown, "one gets into a groove doing the same thing day after day. I wish I had a job like Smith or Jones".

What is Brown putting into his work? Let us suppose that **you** are Brown. What sort of a job have you? You say, "Oh, not as good as Smith or Jones".

Never mind comparisons with others. It is **your job.**

For the time being let us look upon it that here is a job that only **you** can do. How are you doing it? What sort of a job have you? Is it just the same as that you took up two years ago, five years ago, or how long? Are yon making the job? or is the job making you?

One must be master, either you or the job.

Did you ever think of it? and having **thought**, did you put the idea back with a **punch** into your work?

There is the place in business for the idealist. Make an ideal for yourself. Begin right in the work you have close at hand, and work up, out, and through it to the place that is waiting for you.

Never mind about Smith or Jones. Just think plain **Brown** for the present. You are Brown and Brown alone must do it.

Do what?—Climb, achieve, grow, make his job bigger.

Nothing can keep a good man down. Your job will be as big as your thoughts for it.

Harness your thought to your job.

What have you given, what have you thought out and carried out in your work that has helped to make your job bigger, better?

What improvements have you thought out? Did you act upon them? If not, why?

Harness your thoughts to your job.

Never mind the other fellow and his job, never mind what he does or the size of his pay envelope.

Every man has his own troubles.

Put some of those thoughts into the job, lying close to your hand.

This is your job, what will you make of it? Don't be made by your job.

Be a creator and blaze your own trail.

Harness your thoughts to your job.

If a well could be dug 46 miles into the earth, the air at the bottom would, at the proportion maintained at the surface of the globe, have the density of quicksilver.

By a clause in a special treaty, concluded soon after the first Punjah war, the Maharajah of Kashmir has the right—which he exercises—of prohibiting the importation into his territories of pork pies.

ABOUT CANADA

Chief Trader John Tod, fur trader of the early British Columbia days, had a novel remedy for smallpox—one over which he and hundreds of others laughed heartily in later days. He was in charge of the post at Kamloops in 1846 when the warriors of the Shuswap tribe, coveting the hundreds of fine horses that were bred at the post, planned a raid on the animals. Tod, through a friendly chief, was informed of what was likely to happen, but only after the Indians had assembled for the theft. He started at once on horseback for their camp, into which he dashed on his fast horse, all foam covered, and throwing his pistols upon the ground so that the braves knew he was an unarmed man. Then in his most impressive manner he told the warriors that smallpox was near at hand and that he alone had the remedy for it. The Indians were terror-stricken at the news, for smallpox was one of the few things they were afraid of thoroughly.

The trick was successful. In a few minutes the three hundred men were his friends for "saving them" from the disease. Then he proceeded to vaccinate the entire party. He had 70 doctored when his vaccine gave out. The instrument he used on the great occasion was his tobacco knife. He admitted afterward that when it came to the turn of certain braves whom he knew were notorious rascals he cut deeper than usual on such occasions and that he felt little pity when he saw them wince under his rude surgery. He did it so well that not a brave had a good right arm with which to fight for several days—and by the time they were better they had abandoned the horse stealing plan. In fact they were certain but for the intervention of Trader Tod they would have been swept off by the plague of the smallpox. Ever afterwards they were his friends.

What a Newspaper Accomplishes

An appreciation of the newspaper and what its editor does for the community is well expressed in an article we have noticed in some of our exchanges credited to ex-Governor Francis once said the following of newspapers: "Each year the local newspeper gives from $500 to $1,000 in free lines to the community in which it is located. No other agency can or will do this. The editor in proportion to his means, does more for his town than any any other ten men and in all fairness he ought to be supported, not because you like him or admire his writings, but because the local paper is the best investment a comunity can make, It may not be brilliantly edited or crowded with thought, but financially it is more benefit to the community than the preacher or teacher. Understand me, I do not mean mentally, and yet on moral questions you will find most of the papers on the right side. To-day the editors of the local papers do the most for the least money of any people on earth."

Oil stains should be washed in cold water.

Cotton was grown and manufactured in Spain in the tenth century.

The tanning of ostrich skins is a growing industry in South Africa.

Willow furniture which no longer comes white with a salt water scrub may be stained a beautiful bronze color with bitumen.

Very clever imitations of pearls have been made by filling thin glass bulbs with a solution of fish scale nacre.

The present area of camphor afforestation on the island of Formosa is 10,650 acres, and some of the trees are from five hundred to a thousand years old.

ADVICE TO GIRLS

By Rosalind

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Dear Rosalind:—

I would like to tell you what I think of a letter in your column signed G. Strathmore.

I do wish you had answered his letter, so that I would know what you thought of it. However, I will tell you my opinion of it. In the first place I consider it horribly conceited of Mr. Strathmore, to think for one minute that he could tell a young lady who is quite unknown to him the art of becoming popular. I have heard two or three people asked the question, "How is it that you are so popular." And each one has given the same answer, "I really don't know."

I have one girl friend who is very popular, because she is considered very witty, another one because she can play the piano well.

But I really think the best way to become popular, is not to try, but just to be as nice and kind as posible to everyone, and above all else, to be natural.

I wonder why Mr. Strathmore did not say right out, how he thought 'Inquisitiveness" could be become popular, instead of asking her to write to him. I would certainly like to know, what he would tell her to do.

I can just about imagine what he would tell her, by his letter to you.

He certainly must consider himself a very lovable chap, to have had so many affairs with so many different girls. I really do not consider it any credit to him. And I'm more sorry than I can say for the girls.

I hope I may never meet this man of the hundred or more affairs. Or I might be added to the long list.

His letter was so much like a boy I met once, who was supposed to be a Titled Lord, that I thought it might be him. He used to talk about all the girls who were in love with him.

If there is any one thing I hate, it is a conceited man. And if our friend Mr. Strathmore is as conceited as his letter would lead me to think I sincerely hope I may never meet him,

However, he may have written, his letter merely as a joke. But at any rate he should be ashamed of such a letter.

I hope I have not taken up too much of your valuable time. And will you please tell me if you do not agree with me about Mr. Strathmore's letter?

I do hope he will see my letter and know what I think of him. And my friends think the same.

FRENCHY.

Dear Frenchy,

I'm not particularly keen about conceited people myself, and I agree with you, that the letter in question would lead one to think the writer belonged to that class, However, he stated his opinions and you have stated yours, which is what our column is for, so let's all be happy again. — Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind

I am a young lady in an office and would like your advice. Sometimes people, men especially, come into the office, and the next time I see them they recognise me. Now is ia proper for me to speak to them or not? Should I speak first?—Interested reader

It is always a ladies' privilege to speak first, and no man should speak until she does so. It rests with you alone whether you wish to recognise a business acquaintance or not, and it is not advisable to do so too freely. However, no one could take exception to a slight recognition when meeting one with whom you continually come in contact in the business world, though you are certainly not compelled to do so. Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind,

We are three girls of 16 years, and we want your advice. The other night we were invited to a party and they played a kising game. When it came our turn to kiss a certain boy we refused and they all got angry with us, so we left early. There were three boys who wouldn't play, so they took us home, and on the way they told us they appreciated our not playing such a game. Please advise us, if we should try to make friends with the girl who gave the party or let her go.—Little Fluffs.

Good for you, girls! You may be little fluffs, but you have good sense, anyway, and don't wory about becoming friendly again with a girl who has kissing games at her parties. Those vulgar games went out of style years ago, and you took quite the right stand. Of course the boys agreed with you—any fair-minded boy would.—Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind:—

I am a girl of 20, and was keeping company with a boy one year my senior. I received letters from him till last winter, when he ceased writing. I have never spoken to him since, nor has he spoken to me. I saw him only at church, as he lives out-of-town, but he always smiles when I meet him. I wrote the last letter to him, but he did not answer it.

Would you advise me to write a cheerful little note of inquiry?

I would thank you very much for your advice. SNOWFLAKE.

Snowflake: It might not be a bad idea to write just a brief note to say: "I wonder whether you ever received the letter I wrote you so long ago, and to which I received no reply." That would give him a chance to write, if he wishes, and if he does not reply you will have to forget him, that's all.

Asbestos is feathery as eider-down and can be spun or woven. An ounce has been spun into a string more than 100 yards long.

ENGLAND HAS HER HOUSING TROUBLES

Big Premiums as Well as High Rents Asked for Possession of Apartments

By E. Gunn Ramsay.

Canadians in large cities who are vexed with the problem of where to live may take comfort from the knowledge that the housing shortage in England is most acute. During the past few years exorbitant landlords and extortionate agents have gathered in much plunder from helpless victims, who have been obliged to pay whatever was demanded them for the privilege of a roof to cover them, or remain homeless.

The new Housing Act, however, which came into force on July 2nd, and which is retroactive in some clauses to March 25th, 1920, aims to put an end to the scandalous imposition of premium paying and "key money," which has been one of the worst features of the additional burdens laid on unfortunate citizens by the housing. This clause of the Act reads as follows:

"The taking of any final or premium or other consideration for the grant or renewal or continuance of a tenancy of any property to which the Act applies (other than a lease for 14 years or upwards) is prohibited and punishable by a fine not exceeding £100 and any payment so made after the 25th March, 1920, may be recovered by the tenant from the Landlord.

"In the case of an agreement made between March 25th, 1920, and 2nd July, 1920, in regard to a "1920 House," which provided for the payment of a premium in addition to the rent, it is open to either party to withdraw from the agreement which then becomes void.

"Further any tenant whose agreement has expired and who is staying on in a house under the protection of the Act, who tries to obtain "Key money" in consideration of his giving up the house, from any person but his Landlord, is liable on summary conviction to fine of £100."

"Vicinity of Baker St., Apartment containing 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms, kitchen, etc., lease about 3 years to run at £200 per annum, premium required 2,000 guineas including the furniture."

There are hundreds of instances where ex-service men and their families, rather than subscribe to such wholesale robbery upon the part of the landlord, are doubling up with friends in the smallest imaginable quarters. One man is the tenant of stables and garage belonging to a large estate where in former days he was a welcome visitor. Today he is only too glad to accept the shelter of an extra garage space by the side of the chauffeur and the stable hand. Another man has constructed a fairly habitable cottage out of discarded galvanized roofing that was blown on an aerodrome. Wooden huts are becoming a familiar sight through the countryside and probably the best way of looking at the appalling situation that has been created is from the view-point that it has driven a good number from compulsion rather than choice, back in the direction of the open air life and the land.

Good as some clauses however in the act appear to be to the transient visitor, it has evidently, in common with most of its kind, difficulties and problems embodied in its wording which may yet entrap the unwary or leave a loophole for the rogue, as witnessed by a case which came up at the West minster Police Court a few days after the passing o fthe Act.

A lady appeared to ask advice regarding possession of a house which should rent at £75 per year. She complained that the premium asked her was £1500 for a seven and a half years' lease.

You are entitled to a summons, the magistrate informed her, but, he added, this will not get you a house. Moreover, you should consider before bringing the case to court whether you wish to be be a public benefactress and spend the money.

The majority of people with whom one discusses the situation appear to view the Act much in the same ligha as the Westminster magistrate, but an explanatory memorandum of the Act has been promised by the Government, and this will doubtless selp the local situation.

Until the war with Japan in 1904 no newspaper in Russia had ever used a heading of more than a single line.

Unless you have a high fire screen arched over to meet the chimney, an asbestos rug to lay before the fire makes for a quiet mind.

Cabbage, cooked, is supposed to be more digestible when boiled without a cover. The element that makes it indigestible escapes in the steam.

Match scratches on painted woodwork may be removed by rubbing first with a slice of lemon, then with whiting, then with a soapy cloth.

The first bonnet worn in England was brought from Italy in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and its form was a compromise between the present round Italian peasant hat and the French hood. The materials employed in constructing these ornaments were crimson satin, elaborately embroidered, cloth of gold, and similar rich materials. The Leghorn hat, perpendicular crown, and a wide brim standing out far around the fact was the first legitimate bonnet worn, and this appeared long after Elizabeth's time. It was trimmed with artificial flowers and immense bows of ribbon. Our present neat and tasteful head covering is but a modification of this huge affair.