CURRENT COMMENT

Suicide and Self Determination.

If nothing else has come of Lord Mayor McSwiney's hunger strike, it has served to demonstrate the difference of opinion that develops over any new and unusual action. The illogicality which has been charged against the English by Irishmen has been very reasonably charged back on Irishmen by the English in this instance. McSwiney and the Irish contend and assert that a state of war exists between Ireland and England, and that under this state of war it is legitimate to kill and slay policemen, officers, officials of the crown and private citizens. When the government arrests the promoters of these evil deeds and they determine on suicide by starvation, these illogical Irish claim civil rights and accuse the British Government of murder. Mr. Lindsay Crawford, for example, as "provisional president of the National Executive," notified the Secretary of State at Ottawa that the "Irish throughout the Dominion" organized as a "Self-deermination League of Canada," will hold the British Cabinet guilty of murder if McSwiney should die in prison. It is sufficient to state the case to exhibit the folly of Crawford and his self-determinists. The Marquis of Aberdeen, former Governor-General of Canada and Viceroy of Ireland, knows the potential folly of Irishmen like Crawford, and allowed for this in advising the British Government to release McSwiney, who would undoubtedly be regarded by millions of persons like Crawford as a hero and a martyr. To release the prisoner without demonstrating to these millions their folly is to strengthen them in their folly. Father Bernard Vaughan differs from some other members of his church as regards a hunger-striker who dies from his act as a suicide, and declared he would not feel entitled to administer the rites of the church to one so deliberately dying. Lord Beaverbrook went to the heart of the matter in pointing out the unreasonableness of dilating on the grief of McSwiney's relatives, while not a word of sympathy is uttered for the desolate widows and helpless orphans of the peoeple in Ireland who have been shot down in cold blood by the Sinn Feiners. The underlying hate and selfishness of the Sinn Finn movement in its latest developments has entirely robbed it of the sympathy it undoubtedly attracted at its inauguration in 1906. Otherwise we might ask if England has any right to interfere with McSwiney's self-determination.

Victory Loan Bonds.

Those who bought Victory Loan bonds are in some cases vexed about the reduction of the official transfer price. There is no occasion for complaint. Every bond bought is in each case good for its face value, as stated. It is only in the case of those who wish to sell their bonds before they mature that a discount has to be met. The best of property, real estate or any other security. is subject to fluctuation under forced sale. As for those who do not want to sell their bonds, they may even be pleased at the reduction and the opportunity it affords of buying more. Government bonds offering 6 to 6¼ per cent. are a valuable investment, and if there is any better security known to financiers they are not telling about it. In a few years these bonds will appreciate in value, and the high rate of interest they offer to present investors must tempt everyone with a bank account. Since the close of the last loan, it is stated, $135,000,000 worth of bonds have changed hands. If some people found it necessary to sell, there were as many anxious to buy. There will be a lot of loose money in Canada after this year's harvest. He will be a wise man who takes no chances with speculative stocks, but quietly invests in as many Victory bonds as his surplus will permit. They will never worry him.

Ignorance and Deceit and Taxes.

A remarkable outcome of the revolutionary movements in Europe is to be observed in the revolt of the German workmen against the payment of income tax. Germany now has a republican form of government, and the taxes are levied by the people themselves. So ignorant are the German workmen of the principles of government, or so strongly have they imbibed the prejudice which sets all labor men on the European continent against all governments, that they have refused to obey their own popular edicts in this important and primary matter of taxation. Whether it be admitted or not, as so many hold, that direct taxation is the fairest form of taxation, it must be allowed that it is the form in which the taxpayer is most directly conscious of the demands made upon him. The German laborer would pay dollars through tariff taxation where he is paying cents through income levies, and would never dream of objecting, but to pay directly to the government out of his own wages for the intangible blessings of police, law courts, a prime minister and such luxuries, does not touch his patriotism at all. It is this lack of intelligence on the part of the masses of a nation that makes democratic government difficult. If everyone worked and contributed proportionately from his income it is conceivable that a perfectly just tax system could be levied on that basis. But when the wealthy and powerful withhold the facts of their abundance and set the example of false returns, and when the man with a large family has to pay as much as the man with a small family or none, dissatisfaction may be guaranteed. The efforts made in all civilized countries like Canada to adjust such inequalities have been partially successful, but ignorance and deceit are two stubborn obstacles to a just system of taxation.

Provincial P. R.

A meeting of the special committee appointed by the provincial government to consider the adoption of proportional representation was held at the parliament buildings and those present were addressed by Mr. Ronald Hooper, the secretary of the P. R. Society of Canada. Mr. A. S. Winchester, who had been sent to Winnipeg to study the operation of the P. R. system at the Manitoba election, also spoke and reported that there were fewer spoiled ballots by the new method than by the old, the proportion being 2.5 for the old and only 1.72 for the new. Mr. T. Marshal, Liberal member for Lincoln, thought there was no demand for it outside the cities. It is considered by some that while the U. F. O. platform endorses P. R., now that the Farmers are in power they will not pass a P. R. measure. Such an opinion could only be held by those who do not understand the principle on which P. R. based. An unusual conjunction of circumstances combined in the election a year ago to permit a minority party to obtain control of the situation. Such a combination need never be expected again. The regular old line parties are gathering their forces and the farmers ar likely, under the old election methods, which are not designed to favor minorities, to be considerably reduced in relative importance in the Legislature. The anti-Hydro policy, as it appears to the country, which has been adopted in the appointment of a hostile commission, has considerably abated the enthusiasm of early supporters of Hon. Mr. Drury's administration. Mr. Drury is not likely to repeat the mistake of the Hearst government, which, by refusing to adopt P. R., prepared the way for its own extinction. A further meeting will be held on October 20.

Need For Architecture.

An important principle was enunciation at the convention of the Ontario Associations of Architects recently held in London. Architects do not, as a rule, become prominent citizens, and while Sir Christopher Wren and Inigo Jones are known to all, so is Mr. Pecksniff, and probably more intimately than the other two. Yet architecture is one of the greatest of the arts and the work of the architect outlasts all other human efforts not excepting the engineer's. Among the wonders of the world the work of architects holds a leading place. It is obvious then that the genius of the architecture must have a wide influence on human affairs and on the human mind. A modern tendency has been to mix architecture and engineering, and there is a place where the two professions may very well co-operate as in the construction of the splendid new bridge at Peterboro. Col. McGriffin expressed the other view when he said, "If you fellows want to be industrial engineers, all right; go ahead and be industrial engineers. But this country is growing, and the taste of the people is being changed. They want something beautiful, and somebody that can give it to them, and the fellow who works his heart out figuring out the strength of a column for factories is not going to be able to do that work." The Association had to prepare the way for better things, he thought. Architecture has suffered much at the hands of the speculative builder. When a man has a house built for himself he would find it worth his while, and a real assistance to the development of domestic architecture in Canada, if he would enlist the services of a competent architect to help him embody his ideas of a home in a permanent form of beauty. The selling value of a beautiful and well designed house, which must of course be a roomy and convenient one, is very much higher than that of an ugly and ill-designed one costing the same. But the influence on the neighborhood and on the people who see a beautiful house is equally important, and its influence is as permanent and attractive as the influence of the ugly house is enduring and repellant.

— DOWN WITH A CRASH

THE BRAIN BOX

CONDUCTED BY E. GUNN RAMSAY.

Registered According to the Copyright Act,

Mr. Workman, O all ye workers with the hands, ye brain toilers—are you free?

Mr. Employer, you who supervise and direct others to carry out the work of your factories and shops—are you free? If you are free, what is freedom?

Freedom, my friend, is too often in these days, a much abused word.

Men have died for the sake of freedom.

We need to-day more men who will live for it. Men who will live according to the light of true freedom, the very essence of which consists in the recognition of the rights of others.

Does your idea of freedom, your freedom of which you so proudly boast, measure up to this?—"recognition" of the rights of others?

There are a good many side shows seeking to attract men and women in the arena of this old world day by day. As we walk along the highway of life, there is so much that is arresting and spectacular to challenge our attention. Every one hangs out the sign, **"This way. Follow the crowd"** and he that is simple, and he that is slow of thought, and he that is ensnared with a mistaken notion of "freedom" turns aside—and—follows.

"I am free," he says, "I will do as I choose!" Yet—he **follows** the crowd like a sheep to the slaughter and knows not that the chains are about him.

The crowd of popular opinion upon this or that subject, the sway of the big men who organize the lockouts and disorganize society, all get their following of foolish ones.

If it were the "following" of a united effort to work upon some "constructive" reform, if it were the following by reason of desire to "co-operate" for unity and good fellowship, the spirit of freedom would be evident.

You may go on strike, refuse to work, or temporarily stop in your trades for the sake of helping a weaker brother and be a man of freedom in spirit and in truth—**but if you strike only at the bidding of another, while your own inner consciousness does not urge you to such a course,—your boasted freedom is a delusion and deceit. You have simply made a change from one form of slavery to another.**

Are you really free?

We become slaves to ideas, to habits.

The man who is most truly free cannot be bought by a job, by flattery, or by a pay envelope.

Employers become enslaved by old ideas and traditions, reforms which might revolutionize their industry, or purchase greater comfort for their workers, are set aside from a mistaken sense of the importance of old routine. They are not free to act, entramelled with the chains of past customs and ideas; they still loudly assert their "freedom" to act as they please. Though deep down in their hearts the best side of them calls for and sees the need of some reform, other considerations hold them fast.

True freedom must not be confounded with license nor obedience to sane laws mistaken for slavery.

Much of the boasted freedom of today is merely license, reason gone astray.

Are you really free?

As you go back to your desk, to your workshop, to your office, face up the question. By the memory of all who have died, by the penalties of past mistakes, made in the name of "freedom", do not sell yourself anew. These times call for men of firm mettle, **but they must be free from selfish aims.**

Are you free?

EARLY JOURNALISTS.

James Gordon Bennett First Printed News of Day.

The modern newspaper, as we know it, may be fairly said to have been the invention of James Gordon Bennett, the elder. Before him there were journals, not newspapers. . . he had developed the news scheme in kind, though not in the degree that we see so elaborate and resplendent in New York and other of the leading centres of population. Mr. Bennett had led a vagrant and varied life when he started the Herald. He had been many things by turns, including a writer of verses and stories, but nothing very successful nor very long. At length he struck a central idea—a really great, original idea—the idea of printing the news of the day, comprising the History of Yesterday, fully and fairly, without fear or favor. He was followed by Greeley and Raymond—making a curious and very dissimilar triumvirate—and, at longer range, by Prentice and Forney, by Bowles and Dana, Storey, Medill and Halstead. All were marked men; Greeley, a writer and propagandist; Raymond, a writer, declaimer and politician; Prentice, a wit and partisan; Dana, a scholar and an organizer; Bowles, a man of both letters and affair. The others were men of all work, writing and fighting their way to the front, but possessing the "nose for news," using the Bennett formula and rescript as the basis of their serious efforts, and never losing sight of it. Forney had been a printer; Medill and Storey were caught young by the lure of printer's ink. Bowles was born and reared in the office of the Springfield Republican, founded by his father, and Halstead, a cross betwixt a pack horse and a race horse, was broken to harness before he was out of his teens.—Henry Watterson in "'Marse Henry,' an Autobiography."

Toronto, the New Jerusalem

With all the talk of Zionism and the return of the Jews to Palestine, it must not be forgotten that Toronto is the New Jerusalem for so many of the Chosen People that they require a dozen synagogues in which to worship. Whether the twelve synagogues have any relation to the twelve tribes has not transpired, but as far as can be learned there are more Jews in Toronto than there are in Jerusalem. A generation ago two synagogues were sufficient for the needs of the Hebrew citizens, but today they number so many that they have overrun the whole central district known as "The Ward," crossed University avenue, one side of which is theirs, spread westwards to Spadina and permeated this district and as far as Bathurst. In the eastern direction there has been much progress made also in Judaizing the streets, and Rosedale, one of the fashionable suburbs, has become the residence of many of the wealthier members of the race. The Jews make admirable citizens, the only objection made to them being that they are clannish. This, however, has practically been forced upon them. They are a highly benevolent and charitable people, are most law-abiding and industrious, and they look after their less successful brethren so well that no appeal to outer charity ever comes from this quarter. The Jews are successful in every line of life, but recently they have been specializing in dramatic and moving picture art, in the latter with distinguished results, as the Allen houses testify.

In Mexico and Siam judge, jury and lawyers all smoke in court, if they wish it, while a case is being heard. Even the prisoner is not deprived of his cigarette or cigar.

WHY THE POCKET KNIFE COSTS MORE MONEY.

A good pocket knife, says the American Cutlery Bureau of Information, costs possibly twice as much today as before the war, but the advance in price is not representative of the actual increase in the cost of producing a first-class pocket knife. Crucible steel used for the blade is costing today 125 per cent. more than before the war, while spring steel, used for the spring action, has increased 100 per cent. German silver and brass are offered at varying rates, with increases from 100 per cent. in the case of German silver and 150 per cent. for brass against pre-war rates.

So-called patent stag, used for the making of handles, is costing 150 per cent. more, while genuine stag has increased 100 per cent. Ebony costs today four times its pre-war price and similar price increases have been witnessed in the case of other woods used for knife handles. Advances in the case of perlmut are 100 per cent., buffalo horn 200 per cent., and celluloid is quoted at approximately three times its previous cost.

But the most important increases have taken place in the cost of labor, because labor enters into cutlery production at a much higher rate than in the case of other industries. It is a peculiar fact in this respect that semi-skilled and unskilled labor has been mostly benefitted by the wage increases, with the result that between 125 to 200 per cent. has been added to the wages of these groups of helpers, while the highly-skilled operations are paid at fully double the pre-war rates.

For the Motorist

BENT RIMS CAUSE TIRES TO BLOW OUT FREQUENTLY

Bent rims are a direct cause of rim cuts, of tires blowing from the rim, and of the breaking of the wire cables at the base of the tire. Often times motorists cannot understand why tires should "blow" when they are driving along slowly. The facts of the case are that the overstrained carcass has reached the limit of its endurance from previous abuse and has given away.

Many motorists, were they to examine the wheels on their cars, would be surprised to notice that their rims are bent along the edges. These bent rim flanges are ordinarily little thought of, yet they cause a goodly percentage of tire trouble.

When the wheel hits a frog or a switch of a street car track or a hole in the road, there is a tendency to flatten the rim, especially if the tire is underinflated. The rim's support, however, is essential to the life of the tire. If it is bent so that it does not fit the tire and allows the side walls to bulge, the motorist may know that trouble is to be expected unless he takes immediate precautions.

By truing up their rims, motorists, according to rim experts, may prevent much tire trouble. And half the pleasure of motoring is freedom from tire trouble. A good rule to follow is to have both tires and rims inspected fortnightly. When the rim trouble is found, it may usually be corrected by careful tapping with a ball hammer.

To guard against such a condition, keep out of car tracks and holes where the depression allows the weight of the car to rest on the rims. It is also advisable to avoid quick, slanting jolts of the wheels against curbs. Especially is it important to carefully cross intersections of car tracks.

WHEN BRAKES ARE DANGEROUS.

In descending long, steep hills, if the brakes are applied so that the wheels cannot turn, the car is apt to skid in a most precarious manner. Under such conditions tire chains with cross chains on every link and a transmission brake form the best method of descent.

TIRE CODE

Keep the tires properly inflated.

Be sure to repair little cut threads regularly.

Prevent blowouts by avoiding severe jolts.

Have mud boils cleaned out and repaired at once.

Be careful in placing tubes.

Avoid sudden starts, quick stops and skidding.

Use talc in casings, but not too much.

Keep out of ruts and car tracks.

Apply chains properly and take them off as soon as the need for them is gone.

Remove grease, oil and acids from your tires at once by using cloth moistened with gasoline.

Examine clincher rims occasionally for irregularities and rust.

Carry spare tubes in a bag.

Keep spare tires covered.

HAVE YOU A LITTLE ROPE IN YOUR CAR ?

A dark and stormy night. Near midnight and raining. A short circuit and no lights, no horn and a dead motor. A mile away from home and no relief in sight. Friend Wife worried and also Friend Husband. Suddenly a familiar car appears and stops, and ain't it a grand and glorious feeling? There's no chance to go home under your own power, but perhaps you can get a tow. But Friend Friend hasn't any tow rope; neither have you, and again gloom.

Suddenly you remember your tire chains and the towing problem is solved. You get home safely, but you immediately register a vow never to go out again, even in the city, unless you have some sort of a tow rope tucked away under the back seat.

MATHEMATICAL PRODIGY.

Jerry Kuntz, aged eight, who resides at Philadelphia, displays a passion and phenomenal ability for everything numerical and mathematical. The boy's parents learned of his remarkable talent for figures before he was three years old, and as he grew older his mathematical ability developed with such astounding rapidity that they, fearing that the rest of his general intelligence might suffer, had him placed in a "special" school where mathematics are prohibited as far as Jerry is concerned.

ABOUT CANADA

Few women have left Canada such a record for heroism as Laura Secord, the brave lady who saved the British in 1813 when a large American force were at the point of making a dangerous onslaught. She was a woman of thirty-eight years and the mother of five children. Yet she made a walk of twenty-nine miles all one day and part of the night, wandering in the bush lest she fall into the hands of the United States invaders. Her husband was sick when she learned the plans of the enemy. At once she saw there was no way to get any warning to the British unless she took it herself, so she started on her patriotic mission. At night she wandered into touch with a band of loyal Indians to whom she managed to make known the situation. They took her at once to the British officer in command of the troops near at hand. She warned him of the impending attack and he in turn at once took precautions to meet it. When the Americans advanced they were met by a furious fire from British and Indian troops hidden among the trees and a number of American soldiers were killed. They were unable to find the enemy in the woods and so their force was thrown into great confusion. At this point the British sent out a white flag offering to accept the surrender of the invading party. The British officer had only seventy-five men in addition to his Indians and he received the surrender of 25 officers and over 520 men of the rank and file with two cannons and two loads of stores for the guns. The incident was a very bitter one for the Americans, but it acted as a terrific incentive to the British for future warfare.

It is a fact well authenticated that corsets were originally adopted, not for comfort or health, but to conceal physical defects.

In one of the big hotels in New York 12 men are employed eight hours a day cleaning the 12,000 pieces of table silver.

Arabic coins have a sentence from the Koran, and generally the Caliph's name, but never an image.

The History of Your Name

CAMPBELL.

Variations — Beauchamp, Beecham.
Racial Origin—Norman French.
Source.—A locality.

Campbell is one of those names which we are accustomed to think of as essentially Scottish; and so it is if we restrict our consideration of it to the history of that particular spelling.

It is not a native Scottish name, however, notwithstanding the fact that it is approximately 800 or 900 years since it was transplanted here, and that it is clearly traceable through the prominent part played by the clan in the history of that land so far back as the thirteenth century.

But in another form it was a family name even before that time. It was the descriptive name borne by one of lieutenants of William the Conqueror, when he invaded England from Normandy, and simply was the name of that warrior's estate in Northern France, "Campo Bello," or "beautiful field." Being the name of a nobleman, it rapidly became crystallized into a family name De Campobello. When the Norman invasion reached up into Scotland, a member of this family received large grants of land. This was in the thirteenth century, since which time the family and the following it acquired has from the very start become as Scottish as any of the clans which trace back to pre-historic days.

In the development of the French language since the time of William the Conqueror, "campo" has become "champs" and "bello" has become champ which was brought over to England later and which also developed with the progress in the French language from the original name of De Campobello in England. But the English pronunciation has corrupted it from Beauchamp into "Beecham," which is the reason that it is sometimes found in that spelling.

Mildew on leather comes off if it is rubbed with vaseline on a flannel cloth.