The Quiet Observer

Orchard Difficulties.

Fruit has been the urgent issue in the country since the grain crops were handled. That there is something wrong with our economic system is evident when in a year of such abundance in the orchards as rarely accurs fruit is going to waste for want of pickers and apples in the city are worth five to ten cents apiece. The fruit growers do not get the high prices. Around Paris, for example, Northern Spies, sprayed fruit, only bring offers of from $1.50 to $2 a barrel. Some better description of cooperation to get the fruit to the consumer ought to be possible than the present one that leaves half the crop in the orchards and neither pays the grower adequately nor charges the consumer reasonably. Prince Edward reports sales at $2 a barrel on the trees. A special lot, chiefly Spies, went for $3, picked. Tomatoes are plentiful and in some places have glutted the market. The garden plots in the city have contributed to this. A better distribution of the crop with early and late varieties would add to the value of the tomato crop. There is much complaint about the cost of picking fruit. Wages at $3 a day and board, instead of $2 a day and board, as last year, make a big difference to the grower. Young men are unwilling to work for 60 cents an hour, even when they have no money in their pockets. It ought to be possible to organize the harvesting of peaches and apples on a more satisfactory basis.

More Likely To Be Lowered.

Among other attempts made by corporation antagonists of public ownership to discredit the Hydro-Radial system has been the circulation of rumors that the rates on the Windsor street cars were about to be raised. No doubt it is hoped that such stories will have some effect in influencing the new Hydro-Radial Commission appointed by the Government to investigate the Municipal Hydro-Radial Union. The result will not be affected by such tactics, and if the new commission governs itself by the evidence it will certainly endorse the results already attained. One opponent quotes Sir Adam Beck as having on one occasion declared himself against the unnecessary parallelling of lines already built, apparently thinking that Sir Adam is inconsistent in projecting the Toronto and Eastern, the Toronto and Suburban, and the Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara lines. There is no greater opponent of unnecessary duplication of service in Canada than Sir Adam Beck and the idea that he is going to violate the principle he was the first to lay down implies a total ignorance of his aims and methods. The Windsor and Amherstburg lines are a case in point. Before the rates were adopted and the operation inaugurated under the Hydro management the most careful estimates were made so that no changes would be necessary. Such estimates are always made with ample margins. The Windsor lines are doing more than was expected of them, and taking care of all expenses, anticipated and unanticipated. If any change be made it will be to lower rates. It will be the same on any radial lines that Sir Adam undertakes to build for public service.

Geddes and Beaverbrook.

Sir Auckland Geddes's addresses in Toronto at the Canadian Club and at the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition were to the point, but necessarily restricted in their range by the diplomatic reticence incumbent upon an ambassador. At the Canadian Club he emphasized the extreme condition in which Europe is suffering, and the impossibility of restoration for the European nations without assistance from the American continents, not merely Canada and the United States, but the whole hemisphere. It was not charity that was wanted but hard work, production of food and of the materials destroyed during the war that must be replaced. They would in this way contribute to nothing less than the restabilization of civilization itself. It was obvious from Sir Auckland's words that he had caught a glimpse of the solidarity of humanity through the war-clouds if not of the "parliament of man, the federation of the world." Lord Beaverbrook a few days later emphasized the importance of the opportunity her bountiful harvest offered to Canada to help, but he pointed out that all over the world it had been "as though God had sent rain to a thirsty land." Germany, Russia, India, as well as America, all had tremendous crops, and it might be a problem to find buyers for the Canadian crop. The difference in exchange is also going to make a tremendous difference. Why should not some of our financial geniuses suggest that we accept the British pound sterling at par and get the trade that otherwise we shall lose? The trade will be worth more to us than the proceeds of the sharp practice of taking advantage of British need—a need resulting from the assistance she lent to the weaker nations of Europe.

Belfast Riots.

Belfast riots have been celebrated for their ferocity and mortality for about two generations. The present outbreaks have probably not been more fatal than several previous ones. About 25 years ago the local forces had a battle royal in the "brick yards" of the Falls district, and according to report, the fatalities were many times greater than those reported. Both sides conceal their losses, and stories of bodies being conveyed away in bread carts and other unexpected vehicles are common. As a rule, it is the women who "egg on" the combatants and supply the ammunition in the shape of two-inch macadam. The men engaged are chiefly of the type known as corner-boys. It will be noted that recent dispatches describe the killed as being about 19 years of age. It is wise to stay in the house when "the boys" are having "their sport." This is how these riots that appear so terrible to outsiders are regarded by those among whom they occur. No wonder England does not understand how to govern Ireland! The fact that political agencies have taken advantage of the national temperament to inaugurate riots on a more extensive scale than before should convince the unprejudiced observer that there are more than Irish interests involved in the wreckage of Irish property and the slaughter of Irish men and women. Two whose advantage is it to keep Ireland in an uproar at the present time? The answer to that is the answer to an historical problem. Certainly not to the advantage of England nor to Ireland herself. The source of the trouble will be found on the continent of Europe among those who recognize the Achilles' heel of the British Empire.

The Templemore Phenomenon.

It is stated that the miracle of a statue bleeding at Templemore in County Tipperary in Ireland, with subsequent cures and healings under the supervision of James Walsh, a former student for the priesthood, is being ignored by the Roman Catholic clergy. The phenomenon of one of the laity, and a miscreant neophyte at that, presiding over such a shrine is not one to be encouraged. The experienced do not deny the possibility of the facts as alleged. Similar things are to be seen in different parts of the world. The miracle of San Gennaro in Naples, for example, has been seen by many. The coagulated blood of the saint boils and fumes in its crystal bottle, on occasion. In India, at Nargercoil, a Hindu priest thrusts a ball of clay filled with water into the breast of a statue of the god Suran and then when he plunges a narrow into the bosom of the god, blood gushes out in streams. Of course it is not to be expected that anyone will believe this who has not yet seen it. Even then there will be many of the temper of the old farmer who on first seeing a giraffe, obstinately asserted, "There ain't no such animal." Which illustrates the habit we have of only accepting such facts as please us, and only believing what suits our own views of things.

Rise and Decline of Suttee.

A remarkable change in India is marked by the abolition of sait or suttee (as it is pronounced) in the province of Nepaul. The burning of widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands is an almost immemorial custom, for it has stood for almost 2,500 years. Statements go around the press periodically attributing the custom to the laws or code of Manu, or the Manava Dharma Shastra. This is entirely misleading. The code of Manu is a collection of oral traditions,, while the Vedas, of vastly greater anitquity, are held to be a direct revelation from God. But neither in the one nor the other of these scriptures is the custom of widow-burning mentioned. When the custom was first forbidden by the English the Brahmins appealed to a verse in the Rig Veda, but this verse was shown to be falsified, as Max Muller, H. H. Wilson and other authorities have demonstrated. The custom of sati was of course a purely voluntary one, at first, but becoming established by precedent as the proper course for a devoted wife to take, the women of later times would no more have thought of departing from it than our own widows would have thought of not wearing black. Among the ancient Rejputs when the warriors went out to war it was the custom of those who went to fight to the death to put on a saffron robe, and the wives of these were accustomed to build a funeral pile and plunge into it to meet their husbands in the heaven world. In savage times when women became the prey of the conqueror, these proud women thus preserved their honor with their lives. Similarly have Englishmen in the presence of savages, kept their last bullet for the women they loved. Out of these early customs grew the strange and deplorable custom of sati. The prime minister of the independent state of Nepaul, in forbidding the practice, indicates the modernity of India and its response to reason and humanity. It should not be forgotten, however, that the practice is the result of implicit faith in the hereafter and the certainty of reunion with the beloved one.

Fasting a Universal Practice.

Very few people are aware of the effect of fasting, and most people regard the possibility of such a thing as doing without food as very terrible. After the first day or two, for the person with any will power, fasting does not cause much inconvenience. Of course, if there is any considerable amount of exercise, weakness will develop, but fasting with rest and quiet is no dreadful experience. Prolonged fasts are not often indulged in by western people, but for those who suffer from slight ailments, particularly of the stomach, there is no better or simpler remedy. S. L. Clemens points out how a crew and passengers shipwrecked in the Pacific Ocean, nearly all of them suffering from disease of some kind, the sailors having scurvy, were confined to an open boat for six weeks with scarcely any food before they were rescued. At the end of that time there was not an ailment left among them, and the scorbutic skin of the sailors had become as soft and pink as a child's. It is the custom among the Red Indians and other primitive races to fast for some days in order to receive interior revelations, and the same practice is followed in many of the great religions. Brahmanism, Buddhism, Islamism, and the Christian churches enjoin fasting also, without specifying any object beyond the reduction of the lower desires. In the East and among the Red Indians, it is believed that after a purifying fast of this kind it is possible to meet one's guardian angel.

DAME FASHION'S FALL WEAR FOR MILADY

This smart little single-breasted jacket trimmed with gray squirrel will be among those to take the lead in the autumn styles.

Psychic Evidence of Murder.

A murder of the usual brutal type in England has developed an entirely new phase of psychic interest, which it is expected may bring about startling results in law. In the case in question, a London stenographer was found murdered at Eastbourne beach and absolutely no clue could be found to the murderer, although all Scotland Yard had been engaged on it. Miss Grobel, who is a well known psychic, got in touch with the murdered girl, Irene Munro, and was told by her the name of the murderer, and the circumstances surrounding it. Detectives before now have unofficially accepted such clues, but should the present one lead to the conviction of the murderer, a new precedent will be set in law. It is unnecessary to say that no court would receive evidence of this nature, but such evidence would and could only come in incidentally. Having found their man by psychic assistance, the detectives would proceed to gather ordinary evidence in the usual way, and it would be on that evidence the prisoner would be convicted, if at all.

BUTTERMILK PIE

1 cupful of sugar
1 tablespoonful of butter
2 level tablespoonfuls of flour
1 egg
A pinch of salt
2 cupfuls of buttermilk
Flavoring to taste.

Soften the butter a little, cream it with the sugar, add the flour and mix again, then put in the salt and the egg, unbeaten. Beat these ingredients very light, and add the buttermilk and flavoring. Cook the mixture in a granite or aluminum kettle and stir constantly till thick. Then pour into a pie crust which has been previously cooked.

Or, line a large deep pie plate with pie paste, pierce holes with a fork all over the bottom to prevent puffing, pour the above mixture, uncooked, into this raw pie paste and place in a moderate oven. Cook for twenty minutes or until the mixture is set and a golden color on top.

A little grated cocanut or a meringue may be spread on top if desired.

Feeding For Winter Eggs

Get Profit by Forcing the Pullets.

The period of greatest egg production in the life of a hen that is fed and handled with the sole object of getting the largest possible yield of market eggs is the second six months of her life—between the day upon which she lays her first pullet egg, usually at the age of five and one-half to seven months, and the time she starts to molt the following summer. To make successful winter layers the early hatched pullets should begin laying by November first, when the prices of new-laid eggs are high, and should continue to lay at the rate of forty to fifty eggs a day per hundred hens until February, and thereafter at the rate of sixty to seventy-five eggs a day per hundred hens until molting time.

A good depth of litter covering the floor will encourage the vigorous scratching necessary to replace the accustomed outdoor exercise. The active hen is most productive, and if the fowls are kept busy scratching for their grain the first few weeks they will begin laying sooner and will have little time to cultivate the unprofitable habit of egg eating and feather pulling. Wheat straw and shredded corn fodder are excellent litter materials.

In preparing nests and roosts bear in mind that the light breeds, such as Leghorns and Campines, require six to eight inches of roost space and nests twelve inches square, while heavier fowls, such as Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes, need ten to twelve inches of roost space and nests fourteen inches square.

As eggs are about seventy per cent. water, some arrangement should be made to supply the fowls with drinking water heated to a comfortable temperature. An ordinary two-part galvanized gallon fountain, filled with warm water and set upon a hot soapstone, will do this, or a larger fountain heated by a small lamp will solve the problem with a minimum of attention.

The greatest problem in producing winter eggs at a profit lies in the poultryman's ability to select from the available grains and feeds an economical ration that will stimulate laying. Following are the rations we have been using with very good success since September first, both in starting the pullets to lay and in maintaining production.

Mash: One hundred pounds bran, 200 middlings, 100 ground oats, 100 alfalfa meal, 100 beef scraps.

Scratch grain: Sixty grain: Sixty pounds corn, 40 oats.

The mash is fed in open hoppers which are before the fowls the entire day. At ten a. m., a feed of moist mash is given—all the pullets will clean up in twenty minutes. Three times a week this wet feed is mixed with half its bulk of cooked mixture of equal parts by measure of pumpkin, cull potatoes and whole oats. The wet mash is seasoned lightly with salt and red pepper, with a heaping teaspoon of dry ground mustard to each twenty-five fowls.

Cooked rations of this nature are giving fine success in starting pullets to lay. Cooking breaks up the bulky, fibrous feeds, which are now the cheapest and which form a high proportion of our ration, making them more nutritious and lessening the danger of indigestion.

At night, about an hour before the fowls go to roost, a heavy feeding of the scratch grain is given, at the rate of fourteen pounds to each 100 layers. Scratch grains are highest in price, so we feed only one meal of them a day and encourage the pullets to eat a greater quantity of the cheaper mash. Corn is the one grain we have found indispensable for maintaining health and egg production during cold weather, so our scratch mixture is three-fifths corn.

Small self-feeding hoppers hung upon the poultry-house walls contain the necessary grit, oyster shell and charcoal. Given comfortable quarters, layers will produce more eggs and with less feed if confined to the house continually throughout the winter than if allowed to run out in the snow and cold. —MAURICE H. DECKER.

THE MAGIC CARPET.

Visits to New Worlds.

FINLAND.

Finland, which lies at the northeast corner of the Baltic, is peopled by one of the most interesting races in Europe. Finland lies north of the Gulf of Finland and east of the Gulf of Bothnia and does not quite reach the 14,253 square miles. Except for the Lapps in the north, who pay no attention to frontiers, Finland is racially a unity. A prominent feature of the country is the lakes, of which there are said to be over 35,500, most of which are frozen over from November till April or May. The climate resembles that of Arctic Russia, with a brief hot summer and a very severe winter in December and the two following months. The Finns are of Mongol origin related remotely to the Magyars of Hungary and the Turks. The population is scattered, timber being the chief industry. The first historical records of Finland are of 1157, when King Eric of Sweden, accompanied by Bishop Henry, undertook a "crusade" into Finland and for centuries it remained under Swedish rule. But Russia, always seeking a warm water outlet, gradually encroached on Finnish territory and in 1808 it was conquered by Alexander. This did not, however, quench the Finnish national spirit and the growth of nationalism was accompanied by the growth of democracy. In the latter half of the nineteenth century it made rapid strides in social and national development and in October, 1905, there came the Great Strike, in which the whole civil life of Finland was suspended for five or six days and the Social Democrats took the reins of power. Later in the year the Tsar conceded all that the nation had demanded and while the Tsar still retained sovereignty, yet Parliament had extremely wide powers. Finland reaped extraordinary commercial advantages from the war and after the Russian Revolution Finland declared herself an independent nation. Her independence was recognized by Sweden and Germany, but Finland had many internal difficulties with her own Bolshevists until the Red Guards were completely defeated in May, 1918. A German prince was later elected to the throne, but he showed no signs of wanting to assume his new position. The railway system which is excellent belongs almost entirely to the state. There is an immense amount of water power available which is being rapidly developed. The largest harbor is at Helsingfors, which is completely deadlocked. The population increased during the last thirty years, although there has been considerable emigration during that period, chiefly to this continent. There is some mining and quarrying and the fisheries are important, but the lumber industry is the great staple trade of the country.

Eating contests are common among the villages of Alaska. He who consumes the most food is considered the most accomplished man.

Should a bridegroom in Korea stay in the house of his bride's family for more than three days after the wedding, he is compelled to live there for an entire year.

Good beef sold for a cent a pound in the reign of Queen Elizabeth in England.

Two parts of pork fat to one of beef fat form an excellent mixture in which to fry doughnuts.

"Wasn't it Luck---

that I happened to see it advertised. It was something I had been wanting for a long time

---and only by the merest chance I noticed where it was being sold!"

She only happened to see it advertised.

And she considered herself lucky.

But think how often she must have been unlucky---how many good things she must have missed by not being a regular reader of advertisements.

It will pay you to read the advertisements in this paper

---to make a practice of reading them.

Because:

They carry the news of reliable stores in your town.

They tell you of new and better things.

They tell you where and how you can buy to best advantage.

They save your time and money and make your shopping easier.

Read the Advertisements REGULARLY

BIG ORDERS FOR CANADIAN GOODS

Roumania Will Spend Seven and a Half Million For Woollens.

Allotment has recently been made among Canadian woollen mills of orders totalling $7,500,000 from Rumania. This amount represents several contracts from that country, including a large order from the Rumanian Government for khaki, frieze and serge and $500,000 for knit goods, principally heavy woollen socks, sweaters, jerseys and hosiery. The fabrics are, for the most part, blanket cloth, curl cloth and oxford tweeds of a heavy character in small demand for the domestic market and the order, coming at a time when the Canadian mills had practically completed deliveries under the contract with Greece, will keep in full operation for some months Canadian woollen manufactories, the capacity of which were largely expanded to meet war demands.

Deliveries to Rumania must be completed within six months from October 1. The order is being financed by a British syndicate and will not involve any credits from the Canadian government. Mr. Frederick H. Yapp, secretary of the Canadian Woollen Manufacturers' Association, who negotiated the order, will return to Europe almost immediately with a complete range of samples of products of the Canadian mills. This time he wil lgo as far as Bucharest. Mr. Yapp is confident that additional orders of large volume can be obtained in Rumania and elsewhere in Europe.

Reasons for Success.

The success of the Canadian Woollen Manufacturers' Association in obtaining such contracts from Rumania is due in large measure:—

1. To the ability of the Canadian mills. This time he will go as far as dertake quick deliveries of large orders and to offer a wide range of woollen goods, without the buyers being obliged to negotiate with a large number of producers;

2. To the splendid reputation won by the Canadian products which were supplied under Government credits last year;

3. To the capacity of the Association's representatives, including the salesman who has been in Bucharest for the past year, and Mr. Yapp, who went to England to close the negotiations and arrange for financing the orders;

4. To the fact that the Association was able to offer satisfactory prices.

Canadian woollen manufacturing plants, which produce only finer grades of fabrics, did not participate in these particular orders, as such factories are devoting their entire output to the Canadian market. It is in such finer lines that competition from abroad is increasing and, indeed, the very rapid enlargement of imports of such woollens from Great Britain is already causing considerable uneasiness in Canada and also in the United States. British producers have a decided advantage in exchange and as their production is increased effective competition with Canadian manufacturers seems certain not only to increase so far as the finer lines are concerned, but also to extend to the heavier and coarser lines of woollen goods. Recent investigations by the United States tariff Commission indicates that British manufacturers have retained most of their pre-war advantages over manufacturers on this continent and that increasing competition is inevitable. Nevertheless, the Canadian mills are temporarily in a position to compete in overseas markets so far as the heavy lines of woollens are concerned. The order was not secured by offering woollens at prices below those available to domestic buyers and Canadian purchasers are getting the full advantage of the efficiency of the Canadian woollen manufacturing plants. Indeed, the latter are operating on a small percentage margin of profit.

Big Wage Distribution.

Had it not been for the organization of the Canadian mills under the name of the Canadian Woollen Manufacturers' Association, there is little doubt that the very considerable amount of European business which has been brought to Canada would have been lost and that the Canadian woollen industry to-day would have been in as serious a plight as are the mills in the United States. Through co-operation, the Canadian mills have been able to effect a large measure of standardization and specialization, to bring about other economies in production and generally to increase their efficiency in manufacturing and marketing. Credit is due, too, to the Association's representative in Bucharest. Many orders have been lost through inability of the representatives sent to foreign countries to understand the point of view of the buyers.

A very large part of the money which will be brought to Canada as a result of this export business in woollens will be distributed in wages to Canadian labor.

SELL BONDS AT HOME.

(Barrie Examiner.)

A number of Canadian municipalities are beginning to take a greater interest in the placing of their debentures—an interest that is being manifested in an effort to absorb their municipal bonds at home instead of having them disposed of through bond dealers. If selling campaigns were good business in placing Dominion bonds, they should apply quite as well for finding a market for securities in the municipalities where the money is to be spent.

EX-MINISTER JOINS BROKERAGE HOUSE.

T. W. McGarry, ex-M.P.P. and formerly Provincial Treasurer in the Hearst Administration, has joined the stock brokerage firm of A. E. Osler and Co. as vice-president and managing director.