# CURRENT COMMENT.

## Successful Canadian Shipping

Shipping is the biggest problem in the commercial world to-day. Whoever controls the shipping trade holds the trump card of commerce. Britain has relied upon it for generations, and owes her supremacy among the nations to this marine dominance. The control depends largely on the cost of freight, and that again largely on the cost of building ships. It is owing to the latter cause that the United States failed to secure a larger share of the trade. Germany for long before the war subsidized her marine and built up an enormous shipping connection. The cost of shipbuilding is now entering once more into the calculation of freight rates, and the price of coal is said to be making for the revival of sailing vessels as carriers. It is satisfactory to know that the Canadian national fleet, built, equipped and manned in Canada, has been successful and prosperous, and able to establish itself mid the strong competition of many long-established lines.

## Social Ills Rooted in Society

It is difficult for ordinary, sane, well-meaning and kindly-disposed persons to understand the temper and disposition of people—men and women—who will plot such events as the Wall Street bomb explosion, in which over thirty perfectly innocent people were done to death and over 200 injured. After the exhibition of Satanism that plunged Europe into the great war of 1914, however, it should be possible for almost anyone to conceive the almost incredible fact that forces of evil, destructive, unscrupulous, with a desolating disregard for consequences, seek to impose their own minority will on the majority. It is recognizable that good and evil are relative terms, and it is quite usual for such evil-doers to indulge in casuistry and suggest that what is apparently evil works out for good. The surgeon's knife is necessary, they say, in amputation, to preerve life. But the fallacy of such argument consists in overlooking, blinded by selfish conceit, the vital fact that the surgeon's patient is allowed a choice in the matter, whereas these anarchistic prescribers for society give their patients no option. They are anti-democratic, anti-evolutionary, and simply constitute ctancers in the body politic. It is perfectly true that a condition of ill-health or of artificial habit brings about the cancer, but none the less the cancer must be exterminated if life is to be preserved. The cancer, after all, is but the warning of the greater danger—the evil habit or diseased condition of the body politic. It was said by the Wise One that it needs be that evil should come, but woe unto him by whom it cometh. No maxim applies more appropriately anywhere than this does to the bomb-throwers, whether of Russia, Ireland or the United States. The direct authors of such outrages, however ingenious, whatever their intent, or however plausible their self-exculpatory theories, are absolutely ignorant of the real laws of life, and permit themselves to be guided by the most superficial and materialistic views of society. This shallow consideration of the laws of human life and relations is fostered, unfortunately, by current religion and philosophy, and therein lie the real roots of all our social troubles. Bombing will not end these things, nor will present methods of dealing with social maladies end bombing. Social disease is rooted in society itself.

## Bolshevistic Bad Faith

Whatever merit there may be claimed for an abstract Bolshevism which has never yet been seen in operation, it cannot be admitted that the brand of Bolshevism imposed by Lenin on Russia, which he desires to extend to the rest of the world, possesses the elements of a successful social economy. Mr. Lenin's method is the old stage way: "Off with his head. So much for Buckingham!" If Lenin was the wise and loving little Father to his people that some would have us believe, he would soon "draw all men unto him." This he appears to be unable to do. Any father who found his child forward or obstinate or disobedient and who sought to cure it by slaughter, would soon find himself childless. Lenin has deprived himself of his best argument—reluctant believers—by giving us nothing to believe in. The conditions upon which he is willing to admit the French Socialist party to fellowship with the other Leninists simply requires the abandonment of all reasonable evolutionary methods of social advance, and the substitution of rebellion and slaughter. His new beatitudes subvert all humane ideals. "Blessed are the poor; for theirs is the kingdom of hate. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be assassinated. Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit disease. Blessed are the ignorant; for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for blood; for they shall be filled. Blessed are the unmerciful; for they shall be strong." Those who find in Lenin the Beast of the Apocalyse who was to continue in power for 42 months, are hoping for an early close to his reign of terror. The bad faith of the delegation to England, which undertook to refrain from propaganda work, and was discovered in the act of bribing the Labor "Herald" of London with $375,000 to uphold the Bolshevist cause, has shaken the faith of many who still held to a belief in the integrity of Bolshevism. The directors of the Herald hastened to repudiate the deal, but the money was traced to a son of the editor and to one of the directors, who has resigned. The incident discredits both the Herald and the Leninists.

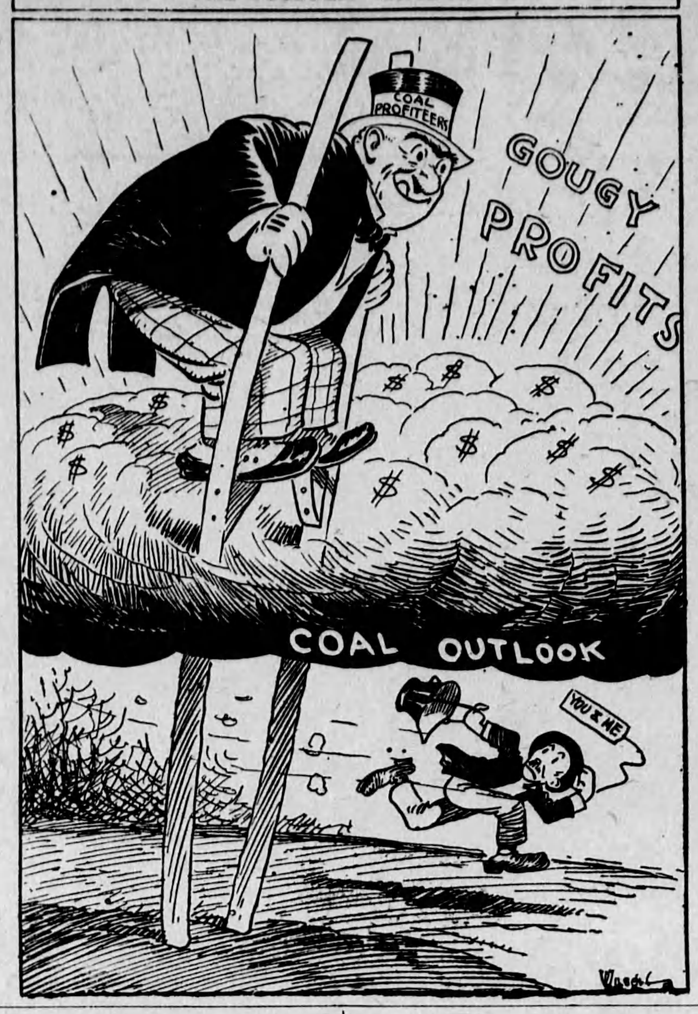
## Ireland For the Irish

On the first announcement that the British Government had called for volunteers in Ireland, it looked as though another unfortunate mistake had been made and that by arming a pro-Ulster party preparations were being made for civil war in earnest. If anything of this sort should occur, it is, of course, exactly what the enemies of British rule would like, and it would unfortunately tend to widen the rift between South and North more than ever. Further explanations declare that the volunteers are for the purpose of policing Ulster, which is to be granted self-government on a Dominion Home Rule basis, modified, no doubt, in some respects. Should Ulster be granted a real Home Rule administration, the South will have no excuse not to accept a similar enfranchisement. The Sinn Feiners have been acting like the spoiled children of some barbarian tribe, and they cannot expect to gain sympathy by a policy of murder and assassination. Very few people consider the anachronistic aspect of the Irish agitation. The whole Sinn Fein demand is out of harmony with the spirit of the times and with the actual conditions, besides being inconsistent with the principle of Sinn Fein itself, which began with an effort to unite all Ireland. This cannot be done by antagonizing Ulster. Careful observers recognize and understand that the main Irish problem is a commercial and fiscal one, and to that Ulster holds the key. The modern genius of Ulster is a commercial genius, and possesses administrative talents of a very high order, and integrity, honesty and fair dealing on a very high plane. But wh n Ulster chose a Galway lawyer, or allowed a Galway lawyer to be chosen, to lead her cause, it was morally impossible that thees principles should have free play. Ulster has no essential desire to be separated from the rest of Ireland, and it is certainly not in the best interests of the rest of Ireland to be separated from Ulster. But how are New York and Chicago gunmen on the one side and a Galway lawyer, reared in an atmosphere of bitterness, ever to be likely to adjust these interests? What is needed is to get the alien elements out of Ireland, and representative Irishment representing their own districts into council together. Only a familiar hand can touch the Irish sensibilities with any hope of success. Americans do not know how to begin. English statesmen, with the best intentions, have never meddled and muddled to worse purpose.

## European Bush League Banned

Maine is naturally Republican, and the fact that it is a little more so in the recent election is explained by the theory that the Republican women came out and voted and the Democratic women stayed at home. Or was it that the ladies who favored Mr. Harding got on the lists and the ladies who favored Mr. Cox did not? As an indication of the result in the Prseidential election, Maine is a proverbial barometer, and Wall Street, which regards the Republican party as its special patron, became unusually cheerful and proceeded to "bull the market," indicating that Mr. Cox's "finish" was adumbrated. Wall Street would probably have to look up the meaning of that last word, but Wall Street won't care what it means unless it helps to elect Harding. Mr. Harding does not believe in the League of Nations, and has not the natural shame about saying so that some of us would have. The League is going along quietly sawing wood, probably unaware of Mr. Harding's existence. However, it got after Mr. Harding lately, first after he had made an elaborate explanation of what he would substitute for the League—a Court of International Justice. The next morning or so the League of Nations propounded its plan for a League of Nations International Court, which had evidently been in preparation for months past. If Mr. Cox's spellbinders have any ability at all they ought to be able to score off Mr. Harding on this point. The election in November is by no means a foregone conclusion. Wall Street would elect Harding by acclamation. But this means that the "interests" are behind Harding. If the common or garden variety of voter turns this over in his mind he may conclude that if Harding is for the interests, Cox is for the people, and his best friend. The Presidential election will not turn on a European issue.

## THE SILVER LINING




## ADVICE TO GIRLS

**By Rosalind**

*Registered According to the Copyright Act*

**To the girls and young women of this district who have any problems they wish solved, or any question upon which they desire advice, an invitation is extended to make use of this column. Hundreds of young women, and young men also, have received advice from Rosalind. Their names are never published, and no one knows, except themselves, who has asked for and received advice. All you have to do is to write a letter stating your problem upon which you wish to receive advice, address it to Rosalind, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto, and your letter with the answer will be published in this column about three weeks later. You are most cordially invited to make use of this service. It is for you and will help you.**

Dear Rosalind:

I wish you would settle a dispute between me and my brother. It started a few days after school opened this term. We both attend High School. My brother is sixteen and I am fourteen. A bunch of girls, all friends of mine and mostly a little older, were on the school steps when Bill passed. The girls all called out to him and he looked as mad as could be and just walked right on. I felt quite ashamed of him and the girls were hurt and said they had thought that he could take a little fun.

I told mother about it and when she asked Bill he said that he was sick and tired of the way the girls acted. They were always bothering around on the steps when the boys passed to school and asked all sorts of questions just made up for an excuse to talk. He said some of them wrote him notes or telephoned him every day; and walked past the book store, where he works after school, about a dozen times. Mother said he was right not to notice them, but I think he was rude. What do you think?

ANNABEL.

My dear Annabel:

I agree with mother. Now don't get cross until I tell you why. There is an inborn instinct in all nice boys that makes them want to make the advances towards making friends with girls. It is a very old fashion that came in so long ago that nobody knows just when, that it is the man's part to seek and the woman's to be sought. I cannot put it too strongly how much this means to carefully brought up boys and girls. Boys want to make the advances. You are very young yet, Annabel, to bother about these things, but it is a good thing for fourteen-year-old girls to get the right idea.

Never, no matter what the occasion, be the first to make advances. If a boy wants to talk to you let him come; if he wants to walk with you, let him ask; if he wants to see you let it be in your home where your mother can welcome him; if there is any telephoning, book-lending, lesson-questions, let him begin it, always. This does not mean that girls must be stiff and priggish. They can always be unaffected, polite and pleasant.

Isn't that exactly what mother said? When she was young that is what she was taught, and although nowadays people talk glibly of equality they have not found a rule that is anything like as good as the old one.

ROSALIND.

Dear Nellie:

Because yours is not a "wax doll" face should give you no cause for unhappiness. Every girl can cultivate the beauty of an attractive expression by first cultivating an interest in others, another form of tact. Wouldn't you rather talk to a friend whose face responds sympathetically to every detail of your conversation than to a cold-faced beauty? Loveliness of thought and character is much more lasting and desirable—and easier to acquire.

Your letter reached me after some delay in the post office. Next time address it just to "Rosalind," 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto, and I shall look after the sending of the answer to your paper.

ROSALIND.

## Fire Prevention Day, Saturday, October 9th

The Governor-General has, by proclamation, set aside Saturday, October 9, as a day on which to specially emphasize the great loss which Canadians, individually and collectively, are sustaining through destruction by fire of both natural and created resources.

At a time of high building costs and acute scarcity of material, we are burning buildings at a criminal rate. Our fire loss of last year, viz., $23,500,000, or approximately $2.90 per capita, was the highest per capita in the world.

Not only is this a complete loss of national wealth, but its replacement creates increased competition for available building supplies, thus enhancing prices for new building. How can we hope to overcome the housing shortage when, in Ontario alone last year 5,804 dwellings were damaged or destroyed, causing a loss of $1,753,333? There were also 744 farm barns destroyed at a loss of $1,189,906, of which $557,736 was uninsured.

Lightning damaged or destroyed 1,102 buildings in Ontario, involving a loss of $506,885, of which $212,778 was not covered by insurance. None of these farm buildings was equipped with lightning rods, whereas but two buildings protected by lightning rods were damaged, and these to the amount of $22 only.

Matches were again responsible for the largest number of known fires, 1,148 in Ontario originating therefrom. Practically every fire due to matches is the result of carelessness.

Public education and a recognition of personal responsibility are essential to a reduction of the fire waste. It is particularly essential to interest the younger generation, through the Canadian teachers, in the efforts being made towards a reduction of the fire loss.

Fire Prevention Day will give a splendid opportunity for bringing this subject to the attention of pupils, and should produce good results.

### BREAD 2,000 YEARS OLD.

One of the most interesting things found in ruined Pompeii is a baker's shop, with forty-eight loaves of bread ready for delivery to customers, each loaf stamped with the baker's name. Pompeii was a summer resort where wealthy Romans maintained beautiful villas. And to-day we may walk about the streets of Pompeii and get a pretty fair notion of what the place was like, for the ashes did not wholly bury the town. They fell deep enough only to reach the second stories of the houses or not much more than that. In recent years the task of digging it out and uncovering most of it has not been too difficult or arduous to be worth while from an antiquarian viewpoint.

A curious form of water-hole is found in the deserts of western Australia, dry by day, but yielding an abundant supply of water by night. The flow of water is preceded by weird hissing and sounds of rushing air. On examining one, it was found that the water supply occurred in a long, narrow trench, at the bottom of which was a thin plate of gneiss, separated by a cavity from the main rock mass beneath. Apparently the heat of the day causes this plate to expand in the form of a depression, in which the water retreats. When it cools and contracts at night it forces first air and then water back into the trench.

# THE BRAIN BOX.

## CONDUCTED BY E. GUNN RAMSAY.

**Registered According to the Copyright Act.**

Opportunity! Does she knock only once?

"Opportunity knocks once at every man's door" has often been quoted to spur people on to take advantage of time and a chance, or to rouse someone who appears indifferent, but too often have the words proved a hindrance and discouragement to those who have failed, those who have missed an opportunity, realizing too late the importance of it.

Sometimes the quotation that "Opportunity knocks once" has been accepted by such as a fatalistic indication that for them the last chance in life to climb, the last opening for them has passed away, never to return. Henceforth their life will—**must**—be more or less of a failure. How foolish!

Far better let such remember another quotation:

"We are not here to mourn, to dream,
to **drift;**
We have hard work to do and loads
to lift;
Shun not the struggle—face it—'tis
God's gift."

The greatest thing life can offer us for our own good is this chance to "struggle," as the poet puts it, or the fact of being put in the way of having to make our **own opportunities.**

It may be true that similar opportunities are seldom or never repeated—that what has once passed cannot return in the same way; but life is teeming with real opportunities, born every day anew for those who will see them and take hold.

Opportunity is an open door, many doors, leading to many avenues of success and places of rightful desire.

There is the opportunity to learn more open to-day to **all.** All who wish, who will, may enter into more knowledge—about themselves (and he is a wise man who studies his own workings), about their work, investigating improvements, finding better methods, getting the **best** out of every task, and knowledge about their country and their fellow men.

Where is the man or woman who has not daily an opportunity somehow, somewhere, of getting better acquainted with his or her neighbors? an opportunity of giving a helping hand?

You may regret that you failed to do a kindness once, that you let slip a chance to help someone out of a difficulty, but do not say that the opportunity has gone forever.

For those who desire her, who wish to use her, and whose mind is ready, "Opportunity" always waits — not only for the rich and the influential, but for the less wealthy and the obscure.

Whoever you are, wherever you are, do not lose sight of this. It is only as we push open the doors marked Opportunity into the small ways and things, that we shall come into the Opportunities that will lead to bigger fields.

Do not listen to the voice which tells you all is lost, Opportunity has passed. Go out and find her still waiting—in another road, perhaps, in a fresh guise, but waiting—for you.

You may make of her what you will.

## WONDER WHAT WE'D FIND IF WE DUG DOWN INTO THE EARTH'S CRUST

"The skin of an apple measures in the neighborhood of a hundredth of an inch in thickness. The apple—a large one—is, say, four inches in diameter. Enlarge it to the diameter of the earth, and the skin will measure about twenty miles in thickness. What do we know about the skin of our apples?" asks the Scientific American Monthly.

"The deepest well ever bored is on the Lake farm near Fairmont, W. Va. It is a hole six inches in diameter, which was driven to a depth of 7,579 feet, or nearly a mile and a half, before a slide of earth stopped further boring. The deepest mine shaft in the world is at Morro Velho, Brazil, which goes to a depth of 6,400 feet below the surface, or approximately one mile and a fifth. So far we have barely begun to gnaw through the skin of the earth. What do we know of the meat of this apple?

"We assume that the centre of the earth is hot, very hot indeed. Samples of the earth's interior are hurled out of volcanoes or pour as molten lava from the lips of craters, but we can only guess at the depth from which this material comes. We doubt that the core of the earth is molten.

"We know that as we dig into the earth the temperature rises, but the rise of temperature is not regular; it varies with different localities. In the lake well referred to above a temperature of 168.6 degrees Fahrenheit was observed at a depth of 7,500 feet. It is assumed that the boiling point would be reached at a depth of about 10,000 feet.

"Because we know so little of the interior of the earth, it has been suggested that explorations be conducted into the interior of the earth for the purpose of obtaining scientific information. Some years ago Sir Charles A. Parsons proposed that a shaft be dug to a depth of twelve miles. It was objected at the time the enormous pressure of the earth would make it difficult, if not impossible, to dig such a shaft. It was even suggested that the surrounding pressure would actually close the bore.

"However, small scale experiments have been made with high pressures and temperatures which indicate that such would not be the case, and it is possible that the full diameter of the bore could be maintained until so great a depth had been attained that the combined heat and pressure would render the rock plastic and cause it to flow into the bore. This would certainly not take place at a depth of less than thirty miles. No doubt the greatest obstacle to be overcome would be that of high temperature. Special cooling apparatus would be required to reduce the heat sufficiently to enable the workmen to perform their labors."

Sir Charles Parsons estimates that it would take thirty years to bore such a shaft as he suggests.

The Scientific American says: "Not only would the shaft be of interest to science, but it is quite probable that it would prove of commercial value. Those who have bewailed the fact that we are fast exhausting our stores of coal and oil, and have been holding forth a gloomy prospect for posterity may be reminded that there are vast stores of heat confined within the earth which have not yet been tapped. Undoubtedly there are vast deposits of minerals still to be exploited, and it may be that there are materials rich in value yet to be discovered and put into the service of man.

"It is well worth our while to explore the skin of the apple we live upon."

### UTILIZATION OF CANADIAN COALS.

**Review of Different Problems Involved in Their More Widespread Distribution.**

It is a considerable strain upon public patience to be subjected to severe shortages of fuel from time to time, and, on the other hand, to read frequent statements to the effect that about one-sixth of the total coal resources of the world is possessed by Canada.

To promote a more general understanding of the nature of the numerous problems involved in making greater use of our own fuel resources, the Commission of Conservation carried out a thorough survey of the whole situation, and, in 1913, published the results in a volume entitled "Conservation of Coal in Canada," compiled by W. J. Dick. Mr. Dick made a very exhaustive study, covering the following problems:—

(1) Improvement of Canadian mining methods;
(2) Cheap power problem in the Prairie Provinces;
(3) Domestic fuel problem of the Prairie Provinces;
(4) Utilization of low grade fuels;
(5) The coking of coal.

Perhaps the most illuminating feature of the report is the examination of the extent to which the use of Canadian coal is controlled by freight rates.

"Conservation of Coal in Canada" is one of a series of publications issued by the Commission of Conservation to afford the best possible understanding of Canada's fuel and power resources and problems. Copies are freely available on application to the Commission at Ottawa.

A company has been formed in Australia to conduct an airplane passenger and freight service among the principal cities of the commonwealth.

### BOILERMAKER OCULIST.

In the Press recently there appeared an account of how a shipwright, who had been blind in one eye for thirty-two years, had his sight restored to him through the skillful surgical operation performed by a boilermaker! The facts have been verified, and the case has created considerable interest. The blind man had consulted several specialists who informed him that operations would prove unsuccessful; but Charles Davey, the man in question, never gave up hope. The boilermaker, a man named Kennard, studied medicine and surgery, and the wonderful treatment which has been obtained from him at the Workman's Surgery attached to the Eastern Dry Dock, Newport, has astonished many fellow-workers. The eye operation referred to took Kennard just over twenty minutes to perform, after which time the patient was delighted to be able to distinguish Kennard, who had cut the tissues of the affected eye. This case serves to recall a similar success on the part of a "farrier-surgeon" named John Taylor. King George 111. sent for him to prescribe for Princess Elizabeth, which he did with remarkable results. John Taylor was well-known, through having worked a large number of cures on fractured and twisted limbs; and in time, as a fact, he is said to have relinquished twisting red-hot iron in connection with his duties as a blacksmith, and made a successful surgeon.

### HUGE RESTAURANT PROFITS.

An investigation into the prices charged in Toronto restaurants shows that enormous profits are being made. One proprietor declared that he required an average profit of 100 per cent. Another made a profit of 1400 per cent. on tomatoes served in his place, while profits of from 250 to 700 per cent. were common. Tea at 10 cents a cup gives a profit of 719 per cent.