The Quiet Observer

Secret of Cheap Power

Apparently the flat rate fallacy for the sale of Hydro power will not down. It was revived at the meeting of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association at Hamilton, of all places, and the delegates asked for an explanation as to why it was not possible. For the same reason that a flat rate for railway tickets is not. It would be possible to have a zone system of railway fares, on the same principle that street car fares are uniform in any particular city. But this zoning system is really the principle on which the hydro-power is now sold. It would be practically as reasonable to charge all consumers in a city a flat rate for their light and power as to charge all cities a flat rate for the power measured to them. Those who are anxious for a flat rate cannot understand the immense reduction made in the cost of light and power for them by the distribution system of the Ontario Hydro Commission. Scores of places which now enjoy the advantage of Niagara Power, some of which talk about flat rate, would have no power at all but for the present installation. A flat rate would wipe out the possibility of supplying many of these places on the longer distance lines, and at the same time would raise the rates to places nearer the source of power to such a point that the competition of other forms of power than electric would leave the Hydro without patronage. Every point in the policy of the Hydro Commission is aimed at the reduction of cost and the increase of consumption of electric energy. This is what lies behind the hydro radial policy which some members of the Ontario Government do not appear to understand. The distribution of power over the radial roads is probably an even greater advantage to the country than the radial lines themselves, and this distribution will depend upon the cheap rates made possible by the reduction of cost in using the right-of-way for both power and radial purposes. The division of the overhead in management, in cable costs and other matters will make the radials the greatest success of the system.

Labor Congress Declines Politics"

Labor, assembled in Congress, rather wisely decided to keep its political and its administrative activities in separate jurisdictions. The Independent Labor Party has an admirable programme which no one can possibly object to as such, but many labor men still cling to the old partisan policy and are unwilling to relinquish the allegiance to their special party which they may have inherited from their fathers. The new party perhaps does not contain anything attractive beyond what the old offered, and the old parties are constantly adopting a little more of the new party's programme. They hope always that their party will adopt all that they desire to see achieved in political action. Any attempt to impose political uniformity on the sturdy labor men would probably lead to a split, and this is prudently avoided while the educative work of the labor party goes on and the young men practically all join the new movement. The views of labor men as a whole are sane and sensible. Only one man declared for Soviet rule at Windsor, and the young men are usually too well informed to accept the Bolsheviki doctrine.

Lull After Harvest

After the big and bountiful harvest there is a certain measure of slackness in farm affairs. There is delay in fall plowing and sowing in some localities, with various reasons assigned, and a lesser area of wheat is anticipated by many. Threshing is proceeding and where done, by the bushel is proving profitable. A Middlesex example is reported by the provincial authorities where 400 bushels of oats were threshed in an hour. Wet weather in Essex has delayed the tobacco crop. Apple pickers have been in demand and prices rule high. On the other hand pasture is wearing thin in many districts and farmers are feeding green corn and other fodder.

Individual Effort or Leadership?

Premier Meighen's address to the Labor Congress had many admirable points and his recognition of the power and authority of the Labor body was timely and wise. It was in dealing with the possible further developments of the labor movement that he perhaps failed to appreciate the constantly progressive method of the labor movement. He joined issue with the principle of communistic effort and asserted that as a nation we could never "hold up our end or hold any place at all in the world to-day, except by reliance upon individual energy, individual effort and individual reward." While no exception will be taken to this by the great majority the labor advocates would say that it is not individual energy, effort and reward that has secured success but individual leadership of collective energy, effort and reward. Mr. Meighen went on to say that "if there are any in this country who ever relied upon any communistic system as possible or practicable, or even thinkable in competition with countries that hold fast to the energizing principle of individual endeavor, they must surely have had their theories rudely shattered by recent experiments in Europe. Where the so-called theory of production for use has been put into practice in substitution for production for profit, it has resulted practically in no production at all, and has ended in chaos and starvation." Which to the logical labor man is merely to state that the system of production for use had not been put into practice at all. Even Mr. Meighen will admit that the more united in effort any country is in its industrial energies, or, to phrase it in another way, the more highly organized it is, the more successful it will be. If ever the communistic or profit-sharing system should supplant the present system of individual profit appropriation it will be not through any such attempt as that in Russia, but by the gradual evolution in America of a system of equitable profit-sharing in which all the essential features of individual leadership will be maintained, while the "energizing principle," which is undoubtedly control of the product, will be applied so as equitably to share the product among the producers, including both brains and brawn. Some of the largest Corporations have already recognized this and with markedly favorable results. The transition has proven simple, and might be extended indefinitely. The question whether this would bring about what Mr. Meighen so excellently stated is what has not been finally settled. "Nowhere in the world," he said, "is there so large a proportion of those who are neither rich nor poor as there is in Canada, those who stand on the happiest ground of all, the middle ground of moderate means and comfort. To increase that proportion should be the aim of government."

The Bankruptcy Act

Approval of the new Bankruptcy Act was voiced at the Chartered Accountants' Convention by such an excellent authority as Mr. G. T. Clarkson. Insolvency is unfortunately a malady as prevalent in business as measles, scarletina, whooping cough, mumps and several other diseases in childhood, but still more unfortunately it is more frequently fatal than these. Statistics show that from 90 to 95 per cent of all efforts to transact business and found an establishment result in failure. It speaks well for the optimism of our wholesale houses that they continue to take a chance on every new-hatched unfledged comrade. Good bankruptcy laws are designed to facilitate the winding up of defunct businesses with the least amount of expense, and the least possible degree of friction. The new act provides for this, and also makes it easy for the honest and unfortunate debtor to secure a discharge without the expense of court formalities, while at the same time fraudulent or dishonest debtors are compelled to go be fore the court. The incentive to fraud is thus prevented and the effort in such cases to compound with creditors is frustrated.

"Singing in the Village Choir"

Guelph has organized a Choral Association and every city and town and village in the province should follow the example if they have not already done so. A civilization first discovers itself in its devotion to the arts, and of them all, music is the most widespread and the most gregarious. It is true that musical soloists develop disagreeable features of egotism and selfishness at times, but in the village choir with a capable conductor the singers may well learn to "sink all thought of self, all personal ambition, the small jealousies and suspicions which mar the heart's melodies in love of the work." The devotion of a body of singers to their chorus, to the ensemble cannot well be understood by an outsider, but it is a fact, and a powerful one.

The sacrifice and discipline entailed on the members of the great Mendelssohm Choir, for example, could scarcely be credited. But they were inspired by "love of the work and devotion to the cause." They had their great reward in belonging to an organization which before the war under Dr. Vogt, reached the highest pitch of vocal excellence and distinction and had attained a reputation in Europe which would have been validated by the visit projected to Europe, to which the war put an end, as it had been validated by the greatest musical critics of this continent, in Chicago, Boston and New York. The village choirs of England and Wales achieve wonderful results and their competitions are revelations of musical beauty and taste. Ontario could accomplish much in this way with a little local effort. Our climate gives us the voices and the adoption of choral singing would add an attractive feature to our social life.

Absolute Monarchy Dead

Ex-Kaiser Hohenzollern has been declaring as he chopped a tree and made the chips fly with his little axe that this was the way that heads would fly when he returned to Germany. He forgot to say whose heads, but his own and those of his five surviving sons are the most likely to be first on the list. Vorwaerts, the Berlin Radical paper, remarked that his words showed Wilhelm in all his old greatness as a politician, which, of course, is "writ sarcastic," as A. Ward would say. Wilhelm will show his sense best by keeping quite quiet, "laying low," like Br'er Rabbit, and saying nothing. There is a suggestion that if he fails to do this the present German Government may demand his extradition from Holland, which might create an ugly situation for Queen Wilhelmina and her Hollanders. It is clear that Wilhelm does not understand that he was the last absolute monarch and that sovereignty by divine right died with his dethronement. Japan still holds the idea, but it is exercised with discretion, and discretion was the virtue lacking in the last of the Hohenzollerns, otherwise he would never have gone to war. And Japan is being rapidly modified, and her standard of divine right is not supported by the general sense of humanity. The centre of gravity in government has shifted from the apex to the base of the pyramid, and the result will be eventually a more stable condition.

Prince Krapotkin's View

If any doubt remained about the failure of the Lenin administration in Russia it should be removed by the message given by Prince Krapotkin to Miss Margaret Bandfield, the British Labor delegate to Russia. Russia, he says, in the revolution was trying to make a step in advance of the two great revolutions in England and France, and to go beyond where France left off at real or economic equality. "Unfortunately," he goes on, "the attempt to make that step has been undertaken in Russia under the strongly centralized dictatorship of one party—the Social Democratic Maximalists; and the attempt was made on the lines taken in the utterly Centralist and Jacobinist conspiracy of Babeuf. About this attempt I am bound frankly to tell you that, in my opinion the attempt to build up a Communist Republic on the lines of strongly centralized State-Communism under the iron rule of the dictatorship of a party is ending in failure. We learn in Russia how Communism cannot be introduced, even though the populations, sick of the old regime, opposed no active resistance to the experiment made by the new rulers." There are still a few misguided ones in Canada who think differently. They must learn to seek another way than through Leninism to the Millennium.

Imperialism and the World Commonwealth

No student of world politics can afford to ignore "The Round Table," that quarterly review of the "politics of the British Empire" which conveys the fairest and least prejudiced estimate of British affairs in general to the reader. Some think that there is an imperial tone in The Round Table but the September issue betrays no such tendency, unless the recognition of the existence of the dominant race and the dominant race characteristics constitutes an imperialism. It is not the German idea of imperialism which advocated domination for the sake of domination that we find here, but the fact of domination due to those qualities which must always secure control to their possessors. These qualities are not the monopoly of any. They are open to cultivation by all. Had Germany cultivated truth, honesty, fair dealing and justice as she cultivated efficiency and force she would easily have gained her place in the sun and no one would have begrudged it to her. There is a principle that works among good fellows that they rejoice in each other's success, "in honor preferring one another." Canada is glad to know that Australia flourishes, and New Zealand casts no jealous eyes at South Africa. There is something internally wrong when nations begin to cast jaundiced glances at each other. The Round Table has a pregnant sentence or two on this matter which should rid any reader of the fear of Imperialism in its pages. "The attainment of a world commonwealth is the inexorable condition of world freedom—of life, that is, in the highest form which this planet can offer. Immunity from war will be one of the results of such freedom and a visible sign of its attainment. This final freedom with all its manifold blessings is not in sight, for the spiritual basis of the world commonwealth is as yet lacking. If to-day a world government were erected, its law would quickly be questioned by a number of subordinate governments." There is no imperialism here, because imperialism in the old sense requires force. The world government spoken of here is a voluntary one made up by the voluntary adherence of all the nations, as the British Empire is made up by the voluntary adhesion of the British nations. Voluntaryism of this description and imperialism are incompatible. In discussing the League of Nations The Round Table attributes its comparative failure to the fact that the scheme was framed apart from the men who had the experience gained on the Supreme Council, and that its form was dictated by conceptions natural to the Head of a Republic with a written Constitution.

POEMS

CROSSING THE BAR.

Sunset and evening star
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning at the bar
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark;

For tho' from out the bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see My Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

—Alfred Tennyson.

ROSEMARY green and lavender blue,
Thyme and sweet marjoram, hyssup
and rue;
Tulip and lilies, forget-me-nots too,
Grow in my garden and here's some for you.

Find three other gardeners. Right side down, along flower basket, upper right corner down, on ribbon; upper side down, along dress

For the Motorist

Canada's Prosperity Lies in Good Roads

Good roads bring all parts of the community together; they make a more united people. Produce can be hauled to market; merchants will do a better business if persons are enabled to reach their headquarters, and thus the entire community is bettered.

No community can afford to let its roads deteriorate. It is well known that no highway is better than its poorest part. A uniform programme is needed in each town, county and Province, with which Federal officials can co-operate. If this is done there will be an improvement in the country's highways and the result will be better health, commerce and living conditions.

INSURANCE PEOPLE MAY MAKE REPAIRS

They Are Considering the Operation of Their Own Repair Shops

Many of the larger insurance companies in the States have been considering the plan of operating their own repair shops in large cities, to take care of automobile insurance work.

This information is brought out by Frederick C. Russell, writing in The Motor World. He points to the prime cause for this contemplated action as being a general misunderstanding between the repairmen and the insurance companies.

"Repairmen in general are not spoken of highly," says Russell, "always waiting for the opportunity to 'do' the insurance companies."

But the repairman has a valid complaint against the insurance companies. They "beat him down"; damaged cars take up valuable space while legal difficulties are being untangled; and he must wait months for settlement.

The car owner, as the main reason against this plan of the insurance companies, prefers to have his machine repaired by his own garage man. And here springs the fear of the insurance companies that collusion may dupe them of more damages than should be paid.

Russell, who is an insurance adjuster, does not favor the central repairshop idea in itself, but insists this is sure to come if the differences between the repairmen and insurance companies continue.

"Unless there is better understnding between car owner, repairman and adjuster," he says, "the insurance companies will try their plan, because they will be forced to."

WHEN JAM SUGARS.

When jam becomes hard and sugary, place it in a moderate oven until the sugar melts. When cool it will be found to be as good as new.

AFTER EATING ONIONS.

Onion may be eaten without offence to others if one-half teaspoonful soda is dissolved in a cup of boiling water and used as a drink.

RIGHT REAR TIRE WEARS MORE THAN LEFT, SAY EXPERTS

Right Front Tire Also Gives Cut Quicker; Both Carry More Weight

The fact that tires on the righthand side of a car wear out faster in proportion than those on the lefthand side often puzzles motorists. The popular supposition, that this wear is caused by turning many corners to the right is incorrect. The fact is that the increased wear is actually caused by the pitch of the road, which throws more of the car on the right side than on the left.

The round of the road from curb to curb is far more important in determining the sequence in which tires normally wear out—right rear, left rear, right front, left front—than is gutter wear and abrasions from grinding off and on pavements.

The slope of the road causes the right rear tire to carry more weight than the left rear tire. Thus the right rear wears the faster of the two. The right front also, according to tire and tube experts, will wear more rapidly than the left front, for the same reason.

However, as the left rear wheel receives a driving pull while the right front does not, it will wear the faster of the two. Under average conditions the right rear tire wears out first and the left front last.

To secure uniform wear from a set of tires, change them around about once a month. Particularly is it important to reverse the rear tires. After the rear tires are worn down, reverse them with the front.

THE MAGIC CARPET.

Visits to New Worlds.

ESTHONIA.

There have been so many changes during the last two years in the Baltic States that is is difficult to speak authoritatively of the new states. But no realization of the difficulties and the problems of these new provinces can be formed without some knowledge of their history. In discussing Esthonia, therefore, we speak of the old Russian province of Estland, rather than of the new country which has successively combatted the Red and anti-Red forces of Russia. Estland is bounded on the north by the Gulf of Finland; on the west by the Baltic Sea, on the south by what was formerly Livonia and the Peipus Lake, and on the east by the River Narova, which divided it from the Petrograd Government. These may be called the official boundaries. The linguistic boundaries on which an attempt is now being made to outline these provinces, include the northern Livonian districts of Pernau, Fellin Dorpat and Verod, where the population is essentially Esthonian. This Esthonia has an area of 7,818 square miles. Its surface is low, not rising above 185 feet along the north coast, while the average height in the interior is between 200 and 300 feet. Lakes and marshes form nearly a quarter of the surface, and the soil can hardly be called fertile, the larger half of the province being sand, some of which is incapable of cultivation. The Esths, in nationality, speech and customs, belong to the Ugro-Finnish family, and, therefore, to the Ural-Altaic branch of the human family. They cling tenaciously to their language, which is closely allied to the Finnish. It is a distinguishing feature of the Baltic provinces, that their population grows slowly. The average rate of increase for the last ten years of the last century was less than nine per cent. It was in 1238 that the Danes conquered Esthonia, but a century later Esthonia fell into the hands of the Teutonic knights. In 1560 Esthonia became Swedish, and in the Northern war of 1700 to 1721, it was conquered by Russia. There were several revolutinary outbreaks, notably in 1905, as protests against the Russification of the Baltic provinces. Behind this revolution there was a good deal of German intrigue, and Germany has never abandoned her hope that one day the land colonized by the Teutonic Knights would voluntarily return to Germany. Dorpat has a university of good repute, Revel and Kunda, on the Gulf of Finland, are the two chief ports. More than sixty per cent of the people of Esthonia are engaged in farming, rye being the main crop. Even without the complications brought about by the Great War, the Baltic Provinces were in a disturbed state, and their future is still in the balance. It is probable that with the development of Central Russia and the freedom of access thereto, there is a great industrial future for Esthonia and the other Baltic Provinces.

Helps for the Housewife

MAIN POINTS ABOUT TEA.

Like coffee, tea is desired for its aroma, its stimulating effect and its delicate flavor rather than for its food value, of which, truth to tell, it has none. There is something soothing about tea, as well as stimulating, however! Possibly merely the atmosphere of leisure and relaxation that it creates. As with coffee, the thing is to get a cup of tea that has the essential oils and volatie essences, flavor aroma, with the least tannin or bitter astringement principle. The first step in this direction is to get a black tea rather than a green one. The difference is not in the tea—both may come from the same plant—but in its treatment, the black tea being fermented and the tannin rendered less soluble, while the green is only steamed and dried, keeping the color bright. Originally tea leaves are 80 per cent water, but they reach us with only about six per cent to nine per cent left. More than half of our teas come from China and Japan, about 40 per cent or so coming from Ceylon, India, etc.

DROP COOKIES.

The following may be called a foundation mixture for drop cookies, from which a great variety may be made by the use of different ingredients. Melt one-third cup of shortening, and mix with it one-half a cup of corn syrup, or sugar, or molasses. Add one beaten egg. Stir into the mixture two cups and one-half of flour, sifted with one teaspoonful of baking powder and one-half a teaspoonful, each, of salt and baking soda. On this foundation may be built spice cookies, by adding one teaspoonful, each, of cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. Fruit or nut cookies may be made by adding one cup of either fruit or nuts. Or fruits, nuts, and spices may be used in the same recipe. Oatmeal cookies call for the substitution of three-fourths a cup of rolled oats for three-fourths a cup of flour. To these, too, nuts and fruit may be added. For chocolate cookies a little melted chocolate (one ounce) may be added, and the amount of sweetening in the foundation mixture doubled.

BANANAS, COOKED AND RAW.

When buying bananas, do not select those which are too green. A safe guide is to look at the end opposite the stem and see that the green has entirely disappeared. If it has, the fruit is ready to be eaten raw. There is no objection to the banana the skin of which has begun to turn black. All fruit is sweetest when at its ripest state. When cooked, however, green bananas may be eaten with as perfect safety as ripe ones.

In preparing the fruit, always remove the strings, and fry over a hot fire. Remember to grease the pan thoroughly, otherwise the sugar in the bananas will cause them to stick to the pan. Bananas should be salted before baking. A few drops of lemon juice sprinkled on the raw fruit when it is to be used in salads, will prevent its turning.

TO KEEP CEREALS.

During hot months buy cornmeal, graham flour, or cereals in smaller quantities, then can in air-tight glass jars, for insects seek dark places mostly to do their damage. If one is afraid it has been visited by insects, sift and place in a hot oven in shallow pans and heat almost to the scorching point, then cool before bottling, to insure it from getting musty. If cornmeal does scorch a trifle it gives a pleasant parched flavor to corn bread or mush.