The Quiet Observer

Public Ownership To Pay Its Way

A resolution was passed by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, at the instance of the Belleville Chamber, to the effect that in the operation of public utilities, whether by the nation or the municipality, a self-supporting policy should be followed, with such charges for the service given as would be sufficient to pay the actual cost of operation without leaving a deficit to be made up by taxation. It is probable that the resolution was intended to support the increase of rates on the national railways, but one speaker directed attention to the Toronto street railway, which is to be municipalized next year, and by his remarks seemed to suggest that he was not a believer in municipal car service. The rule of service at cost has been fundamental in public ownership operations in Ontario. The Hydro Electric system is unassailable in this respect, provision for maintenance, replacement and sinking fund being made beyond the custom of any private concern. Mr. Fredericks, of Belleville, predicted doleful things for the Toronto railway under public ownership, but to judge by the papers of that city, conditions could not be worse. He anticipated a fare rate of four tickets for a quarter, but even that would be an improvement over most of the privately owned lines as they are run at present. The new transportation commsision in Toronto is already at work, and if the success of the local Hydro system and the civic railway lines is to be accepted as a criterion, Toronto will not suffer from public ownership. With respect to the present civic lines, which show a small and annually decreasing deficit, which is likely to become a surplus this year, it is to be remembered that these lines are little stub lines intended to supplement the street railway companys lines when the company refused to extend its service. Passengers on the regular lines are entitled to a transfer to any part of the city. They are actually charged two cents for their extra ride. The traffic is increasing so enormously that, as said, the original loss grows less every year. The percentage paid by the street railway to the city under the loosely drawn contract may legitimately be drawn upon to balance these temporary deficits. The city loses heavily under the contract by which the city maintains the pavements for the tracks. When the contract was made, no thought was taken of the type or weight of cars to be used. The cars now in use are four or five times the weight of the former cars, and they tear the pavements to pieces, for which, of course, the city has to pay, while the company packs the huge cars full of people and gathers in an immense revenue. The Toronto street railway franchise, if set up for tender at the present time, would attract many interests, and is estimated to be worth easily $100,000,000. If it be worth this to a corporation as a source of profit, it is certainly worth it to the citizens as a means of service.

Heavy Crop Yields.

Less wheat is anticipated in next year's acreage than in the 1920 crop. Some already up looks well. The big crops are still keeping the factories busy, corn and tomatoes particularly running strong. Tobacco and flax are two crops that have done profitably this year. Flax is reported as bringing in exceptional profits to planters. A school report mentions the result in scholars' plots, one girl getting 325 pounds of potatoes from five pounds of Green Mountain seed, while another got 237 pounds from five pounds of Irish Cobblers. Apples are very plentiful in the country, but very scarce in the city. Many farmers are willing to give visitors as many as they can carry away in bags or boxes. Scarcity of labor and of containers is given as one reason for the dearth of shipments. An outbreak of the corn-borer, a European pest, near St. Thomas, has set the United States authorities all agog. It has already been noted in New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, and all districts where it has been found have been quarantined. The St. Thomas discovery is the farthest west appearance the borer has made.

Fire Prevention.

An effort is being made to bring home to the people of Ontario the frightful risks and actual dangers incurred through carelessness about fire. Fire losses run into billions annually, and those who contribute to this often suffer comparatively nothing while their victims as frequently lose all they have. Smokers as a class do more to promote fires than any other people. This is merely the result of carelessness. Matches are thrown away careless of where they fall; cigarette and cigar ends are tossed aside smouldering. In the woods casual campers are the authors of frightful disasters and losses. In handling stoves and furnaces people take unaccountable risks in their cellars by careless storage. Stoves are as carelessly handled and fires lighted with the assistance of the kerosene oil can not infrequently carry the house away. In the motor car another danger is to be met. In the garage, and especially when the garage adjoins the house, the greatest care should be observed so that no smoking or other means of ignition should come near the gasoline. And when everything is made safe, a fire insurance policy should be taken out, in view of what the other fellow may do.

Political Camp Followers.

It has been charged against the Farmers' party in Canada that it has been supported by Sinn Feiners, pro-Germans, revolutionaries, Bolshevists, and Adullamites of various descriptions, the camp followers of the new political force that shows some ability in conquest. Too much should not be made of such a charge. Any respectable movement will always attract the unprincipled of the old who see their opportunities with the failing cause vanishing. It was a reproach hurled against the Whitney Government after some months of office that the barnacles of the previous administration were gradually transferring their allegiance to the new ship of state. It would be wiser, perhaps, if we judged our opponents by the best men among them and their leaders, or at the very least by their average merit, than to scale them all down to the level of their worst. It would be as reasonable to attack the highly respectable Republican party in the United States because the pro-Germans, the revolutionaries, the Clan-na-Gael, and all the anti-Wilson forces have combined to support Senator Harding in opposition to Governor Cox, as to censure the Farmers' party in Canada for a similar reason. As long as our voting methods make the two-party system a feature of our politics, so long will all the outlaw, irregular and ultra-radical forces attach themselves to that party with which they estimate their weight shall have most influence.

A Sheffield Magnate's Views.

The meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce brought a large number of highly distinguished men to Ontario, and as is usual, several of them spoke in public on other occasions than at the conference. Mr. Albert J. Hobson, whose remarkable record as mayor of Sheffield and during the war as treasurer of the Sheffield munitions committee, is well known, as well as his chancellorship of the Sheffield University, appeared at the Canadian Club of Toronto and talked in a general way of contemporary problems in the world of commerce. He avowed himself altogether in favor of getting back to the operation of the law of supply and demand, except in the case of coal, of which he would make an exception and leave under Government control. He denounced state socialism in every shape that it had been adopted by the British Government, and pointed out the mistakes in policy which has accompanied its operation since the war. Wool had been held to the extent of two million bales, instead of selling it when it was required, with the result that the Government missed its market. While the stores were bursting with frozen mutton, none could be had to buy, and then "they made us eat it a year later and stale." Coal was £3 a ton for domestic use, but bunker coal was £7, and export prices were £5 and £6. If coal was permitted to go out at the natural supply and demand price, the domestic supply would be so diminished that he did not know how they would carry on. Mr. Hobson did not make it clear how a similar difficulty could be avoided should it arise in the case of other commodities in which he might not be so directly interested. He recognized the coal situation as pivotal, and declared there would be no strike, as the men had only five weeks' strike pay on hand, and their ballot was only a bluff, as it was taken by open vote. His confidence that Mr. Smillie would not face a strike, fearing a fiasco, was not shared by other observers. Mr. Hobson was opposed to any plan of nationalization of the railways in Britain. Seven districts had been created, one for Scotland, one for London, and five for the rest of the country. There would be no competition, rates would be fixed, and it would be "good-bye to special rates for large quantities." His general conclusion was, "If we can get the Government out we will put business right." In this respect he appeared to join hands with the Labor party. His explanation of the effect of failure of United States trade with tropical countries, which in turn reacted in cutting down their trade with Britain, was an interesting side-light on the inter-locking exchanges of commerce. His chief criticism of the labor interest was the "deadly canker" he recognized in the "ca' canny" policy. In business, he said, everybody got as much as he could. What he objected to was the giving as little as one could in return. He instanced the tally of the bricklayers in England, which had been reduced to 400 a day, while in America 1,000 were laid. In the labor situation the tail was wagging the dog, and if they were not careful would wag it to pieces. He did not believe, however, that the party of force had any hold on England. The most conservative element in the country had been brought into political action by the enfranchisement of the women. So Mr. Hobson is not unduly alarmed.

Mistaken Identity.

Morris Fox has been released from detention at Montevideo, where he had been confined at the instance of the New York police on suspicion of being Eugene LeRoy, wanted in connection with the death of Mrs. LeRoy. Fox was entirely cleared of any possible association with the matter, and it was obvious that another case of mistaken identity had been detected. A couple of years ago a well-known Toronto business man was arrested and held for a long time by United States detectives, who were confident that they had identified a notorious forger. The real forger was subsequently caught and his innocent substitute indemnified. There have been several cases recently nearer home. The deplorable riot at Thorold was due to what must be regarded meanwhile as a case of mistaken identity. Indeed, Judge Lynch is only too frequently guilty of this error. While not strictly due to mistaken identity, the arrest of the young man and the condemnation of an innocent victim is in the same class and is, unfortunately, too common an occurrence. It is to this cause that is attributable the mental malady of the ex-President of France, Monsieur Deschanel. He does not believe in capital punishment, and in one case he was convinced that the evidence of treason was insufficient. He desired to exercise the executive clemency, but the administration overruled him and insisted that the man should be shot. After his death, evidence turned up completely exculpating him. The incident so preyed upon the mind of the President that he fell into melancholia. His fall from the railway train, reported as accidental, was really deliberate, and he afterwards repeated his attempts at suicide. Few officials so fully identify themselves with their offices as to assume personally the onus of guilt or error in general official decisions. Madness lies that way.

A Psycho-Aviation Romance.

"The Wind Between the Worlds" is a readable Macmillan novel by Alice Brown, who has adventured in a new field where she combines automatic writing and borderland communications with aviation, pseudo-scientific alchemy and the necessary love interest with some excellent character drawing. A good deal must be allowed to be taken for granted in the modern play or novel if any new situations are to be created, and Miss Brown makes no undue demand on the reader in laying down her postulates. When one accepts the first postulate that the land of romance is a real place, all the rest follows easily. Audrea Love is the daughter of an old and not too convincing Edison who has discovered olympium, a new and more subtle radium, with which he expects to be able to communicate with other worlds, whether material or ethereal he is somewhat vague. He has had a laboratory on Long Island, which has been burned down several times, thus conveniently disposing of the scientific detail with which Alice Brown no doubt believed it unnecessary to burden her readers. One day Audrea was out on the Long Island coast, and a fine, god-like young airman, with a lame 'bus fell from the clouds, and when he landed they ran into each other's arms. Then he flew away, promising to return, but he never came back. Audrea's father is in extremity for want of a little money, and in this crisis Peter Harvey, a millionaire, and a decent fellow, his wife, Isabel, absorber in the prevailing fad of mediumship, and Peter's mother-in-law, Madam Brooke, enter the story. Audrea appeals to them for money, and when leaving, sees, as she believes, the picture of her young air-god, their son, who had been killed. Her father, when he hears the story, urges her to appeal to them as the dead son's wife, and she yields to this temptation just at the moment when the dead man's brother returns from France, who proves to be her real hero. There is a good deal of sandy detail to cross to arrive at this situation, but it is an excellent problem, and Miss Brown handles it well. Madam Brook is the biggest success of the book, however, and will appeal to those who care for character study on lines not too analytical and profound.

Boric acid is sometimes found incrusted on the interior of volcanic craters.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF CHILDREN

By ELINOR MURRAY

(Registered According to Copyright Act.)

SYMPATHY AND HELP.

The longing for sympathy is one of the strongest instincts of the human nature. It halves the sorrows of the child and doubles its joys. There are twenty parents who give love to their children where there is one who gives sympathy.

Sympathy with a child does not mean that you are to try lifting the child up to your plane of observation, but that you are to adjust yourself to his and see things as he sees them, instead of from your grown-up attitude. There is no stronger bond of union between a parent and a child, no other ground upon which they can come so closely together and the child be helped by the parent's superior strength.

Many mothers overadvise and overassist their children. One of the essential elements in education is the training of youth in self-reliance. They are to be taught to do things for themselves. Of course the young ones take very kindly to domestic assistance, and like to be waited upon. But it is not good for them, all the same. Often their mothers delight to serve them, and, if they could, would keep them in the nursery till an absurd age; but it is an ill-judged devotion. There is need of a touch of the sensible idea in some of our mothers that will keep them from folding their children's napkins, or picking up their toys, or finding their misplaced caps and mittens. In the matter of advice, too, it is well for children to learn early in life to use a reasonable discretion. There must be regulations regarding diet and clothing, but these may be transferred, as soon as possible, to the child's own decision, so that he may learn to exercise his judgment.

SPIN, top, spin!
Circling out and in,
Whirling 'round before my eyes,
Like a fairy in disguise—
Who would believe a common string
Made you start to dance and sing?
Spin, top, spin!

Find four other spinners. Upper side down, in flowers, upper side down, along head and shoulders, upper side down, along head and shoulders, upper side down, along boy's clothes.

Helps for the Housewife

Graham Raisin Bread.

If the family is tiring of white bread try this simple and delicious recipe for brown bread, which is easily made: Sift together one cup of white flour, quarter cup sugar, half teaspoon soda, one and a half teaspoon of baking powder and quarter teaspoon of salt. Add one and a half cup of graham flour and one cup of seedless raisins. Mix one cup of sour milk with half cup of molasses and stir into the dry ingredients. Bake in a greased loaf pan forty-five minutes. This is an excellent bread to serve with baked beans.

Nut Loaf.

One-half cupful of chopped nut meats, two cupfuls of diced celery, two cupfuls of hot mashed potatoes, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one teaspoonful of grated onions, one teaspoonful of salt, one-half teaspoonful of paprika, one egg. The celery should be cooked in boiling salted water for thirty minutes, then drained and added to other ingredients, including lightly beaten egg. Place in a greased loaf tin and bake for half an hour in a moderate oven. Use the liquor in which the celery has been cooked to make a flavored cream sauce poured over the loaf, or serve with tomato sauce if preferred.

Chili Sauce.

Twenty-four ripe tomatoes, two large onions, six green peppers, four tablespoons of sugar, three tablespoons of salt, two teaspoons of paprika, one-half teaspoon of pepper, two teaspoons of allspice, two teaspoons of cloves, two teaspoons of cinnamon, two teaspoons of mustard, two cups of vinegar. Cut the tomatoes in halves and simmer with the sliced onions, the pepper and the seasoning for two hours. Then press through a sieve, return to the kettle and simmer another hour. Place in hot jars and when cool seal with melted paraffin.

Mixed Pickles.

Take a large, firm head of cauliflower, and, having washed well, separate into florets; to these add one quart of small button onions, two or three pods of green and red peppers, chopped fine; one quart of the smallest cucumbers, cut in dice; one pint of string beans, cut in small pieces; one-half head of cabbage, cut as for slaw; cook in boiling water until all the vegetables are tender, and then drain very dry; in one pint of cider vinegar boil one tablespoon of sugar, one-half teaspoon of salt, two tablespoons of mustard seed, one whole garlic, minced fine; one-half ounce tumeric, one gill of olive oil and spices; place the drained pickles in a wide-mouthed jar and pour the liquid over them and mix well, then seal.

Rhubarb for Winter.

Rhubarb is sometimes kept for winter by peeling, cutting up, and storing in self-sealing jars filled to overflowing with cold water, but it does not always keep its flavor in that way. A jelly can be made from it in the regular way, but not without adding any water; it can be canned or preserved. For rhubarb jam, cut up and cook six stalks of rhubarb and use the rind and juice of three oranges and one lemon. Cook together, with four cups of sugar, for twenty-five minutes. Rhubarb should always be put up in glass.

Vegetable Marrow Jam.

Three pounds marrow, three pints water, two lemons, twenty-four chili pods, two ounces ginger root, bruised.

Peel the marrow and take out the seeds, cut into small cubes and soak for twenty-four hours in three pints of water. After soaking, boil one hour. Weigh the pulp, and to every pound add one pound of sugar. Tie the chili pods and ginger in a muslin bag, and add this with the lemon juice and peel, cut very thin, then boil for about an hour until very thick. Remove the pods, ginger and lemon peel, and seal the jam in jars.

Salad Dressing that Keeps.

Soften half a cup of butter over gentle heat; add four tablespoonfuls of flour, and blend smooth. Stir in by degrees, one pint of milk, two tablespoonfuls of salt, and cook until thick. Lastly, add four eggs, beaten with one cup of vinegar and two tablespoonfuls of dry mustard. Cook until the consistency of soft custard, and pour into small jars. If desired this dressing may be mixed with cream at serving time.

Believing in Him

THERE is no greater calamity can come to any man than that he should lose his faith in his fellow man. When that happens with any, in anything like completeness, not only does the joy and zest of life go, but any possibility of real and abiding usefulness goes also. When you hear any man questioning and doubting the sincerity and goodness of his fellows, do not scold or censure him, but pity him as you would a lost soul, for, unless some speedy help come to him, that's what he is indeed. There is no greater peril facing the world to-day than that of the breakdown of men's faith in one another. In such a day as this, it is so easy to magnify and multiply the instances of perfidy and bad faith in such a way that it seems as if there were no longer any goodness and soundness at the heart of things at all. To resist such a tendency, and to call to our help every influence that can aid us to resist it, is the part of wisdom and the way of safety. We may set it down as a rather sure rule that we will help the world, in this day or in any day, only to the extent to which our faith in our fellow man remains strong and vital and unconquerable. And life will have joy and sanity and satisfaction only in the same degree and way.

—The Guardian.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson II. October 10

BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS.

Lesson—Matt. 3: 1-4: 11 Printed Text Matt. 3: 13-4: 11.

Golden Text.—"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3: 17).

Historical Setting.

Time.—A. D. 27. Place.—Bethabara and the Wilderness.

Daily Readings.

Monday, October 4.—Baptism and Temptation of Jesus (Matt. 3: 13-4: 11). Tuesday, October 5.—The Spirit on Jesus (Isa. 11: 1-10). Wednesday, October 6.—John the Baptist Baptizing (Matt. 3: 1-12). Thursday, October 7.—Enduring Temptation (Jas. 1: 12-18). Friday, October 8.— Example of Warning (1 Cor. 10: 1-12). Saturday, October 9.—Able to Help (Heb. 2: 9-18). Sunday, October 10.—Tempted and Tried (Heb. 4: 1-16).

Comments.

3: 13. After the return of Joseph and Mary from Egypt to Nazareth (2: 19-23), there is no record of Jesus' life except the incident in the temple when he was twelve years old (Luke 2: 41-51). The present lesson gives us the very next glimpse of Him in His activity. John was probably at "Ænon near to Salim." Jesus walked a day's journey in order to be baptized.

Verse 14. John must have known and reverenced Jesus even thus early, though there is no record. John's mother was a cousin, or "kinswoman," of Mary (Luke 1: 36).

Verse 15. Jesus was not baptized because of His sins, but because of the eternal fitness of things. He set the example for all.

Verse 16. Read the other two accounts of Jesus' baptism (Mark 1: 9-11; Luke 3: 21-23). The marginal reading in Mark has it "into" the Jordan instead of "in."

Verse 17. We would infer that Jesus alone saw the vision, but John 1: 32 says the Baptist also saw it. At the transfiguration the voice proclaimed Christ as the Son of God, and said, "Hear ye him" (Mark 9: 7; Luke 9: 35). Christ is the ultimate authority in religion.

4: 1. Christ's temptation followed immediately after His baptism. The devil begins his attack upon Christians immediately after they dedicate themselves to Christ.

Verses 2, 3. Hunger makes a strong appeal. The devil knows his business.

Verse 4. In Jesus' first recorded utterance He exalts the Word of God. Christ's test of Sonship is faith in, and obedience to, God.

Verses 5, 6. The devil here tempts through a flattering appeal to self-glorification. He also pretends to quote Scripture (Ps. 91: 11, 12).

Verse 7. Jesus refuses to perform a miracle in order to glorify Himself.

Verse 8. The devil here tempts through an appeal to the desire for power. This was the last and strongest.

Verse 9. The devil lied. He could not make good on his promise.

Verses 10, 11. Finally our Lord vanquishes Satan with Scripture.

Illustrated Truth.

That which is good in itself may become a source of offense if it is given too large a place in our lives (vs. 3, 4).

Illustration.—Two years ago, when the war-garden fever was at its height, a large concern employed an expert to come and lecture to the men on the advantages of amateur gardening. Gradually the men became interested, and it was soon so that men were rising early and working late in their back-yard gardens. The manufacturer was jubilant. He saw the lure of the saloon decreasing. However, there began to come in complaints that the men were no longer interested in their work at the shop. They left work half done to hurry to their gardens. The thing that was excellent in itself had become a drawback because the men had allowed it to throw their work out of proportion.

Topics for Research and Discussion.

I. The Baptism of Jesus (3: 13-17). 1. How far did Jesus walk to be baptized? 2. Why did John object? 3. What was Jesus' own statement as to the reason for His baptism? 4. Describe the baptism of Jesus.

II. The Temptation of Jesus (4: 1-11). 5. What was the purpose of Jesus' temptation? 6. What were the three temptations? 7. How did Jesus overcome them? 8. How may we overcome temptation? 9. How did the devil misrepresent the truth?

For the use of electric companies a caterpillar tread tractor has been designed that quickly bores holes in any kind of ground and then hoists and sets poles in them.

Research by a French scientist has proved that paper of every kind harbors living and cultivate microorganisms that are proof against comparatively high temperatures.

Oil and grease proof gloves with cuffs full arm length have been patented by an Indiana man for the protection of automobilists' clothing while working about their cars.

An attachment for farm tractors invented by a Louisiana man is intended to stop them the instant they strike an obstruction which would cause them to overturn.

French scientists have found a way to protect a person working with X-Rays from harm by surrounding him with a shield of infra-red rays, which neutralize the others.

Devil's Food Cake.

One and one-half cups sugar, one-half cup butter, one cup buttermilk or sour milk, teaspoon soda dissolved in warm water, a little salt, two eggs, one teaspoon cinnamon, two cups flour, one-half cake unsweetened chocolate. Add the chocolate last of all.