The Quiet Observer

Supply and Demand a Broken Reed.

At the foundation of the coal miners' claims for higher wages in Britain is the high price obtained for coal exported to the continent of Europe. There was no possibility of paying the higher wages unless that report was maintained. The failure of the foreign nations to buy coal, or the failure of the miners to produce coal to be exported alike meant a loss of revenue which make increased wages impossible. It is very difficult to get the average labour man to understand that his wages are derived, not from the employer, except in a secondary way, but from the purchasing public, domestic or foreign. It is true to a greater extent of all aspects and channels of trade. The proposal for a sliding scale depending on production and profits. It is obvious that this leaves the way open to further difficulties in the future quite independent of production. Prices may not remain as they are, and it is by no means certain that the demand for coal from freign countries will continue on the same scale as at present, or that prices will hold up to their present level. This is the weak point in all wage settlements. No provision is made for any conditions but those of (usually) unexampled prosperity. When dull times arrive it is impossible under our present economic system to keep on paying the wages that prevailed in brisk times, and a period of unemployment usually accompanies the drop in wages. It is to remedy this, in some measure, that all the Labour conflicts tend, and the Labour leaders, on bending their energies. And that is why all economic reforms tend to assume the socialistic turn to which such objection is raised. It is impossible so long as an artificial condition of supply and demand is permitted to govern the relations of capital and labour to do away with the agitation and unrest that have attended labour movements for years past. The reluctance of the academic world to relax the authority of this "law" of supply and demand, and the unwillingness of capital to accept any other basis for production threatens to precipitatethe whole problem into the domain of strife. The Labour men in Britain have taken up the conception of supply and demand given them by the authorities, and they argue, as the manufacturers do, that if the output be restricted it becomes more valuable and higher wages should be paid for it. Even this reduction ad absurdum does not shake the faith of the orthodox economists in the "law" of supply and demand. The fact is that the "law," as it is called, can apply only in the case of luxuries, and to make it apply as a principle in dealing with the necessaries of life is nothing short of a crime against the state. When this is recognized we may avoid both the dangers of socialism and of capitalism.

The Harvest Home.

Dry weather was the only complaint during October, and this trouble was remedied before the month was ended by an abundant splash of rain. It was needed for plowing more than anything else, though some complaints of dry wells were made. But for the bulk of farm operations the dry and pleasant weather suited admirably. The overflowing harvest called for extra time and labour for garnering and thrashing ,and the fall crops of corn needed the mild days for cutting and silo work. The root crops afforded plenty of labour also in the fine days, heavy yields of potatoes and forage crops requiring extra time. The sugar beets were a big yield also, and the conditions for harvest were reported as ideal. They show a heavy sugar content. Fruit operations have been confined particularly to apples and grapes, though shipments of raspberries were made from second growth crops. Grapes have been going to the United States in large quantities. The Minister of Agriculture has been investigating in London in connection with the high prices charged there for Canadian apples, as high as $18 a barrel being asked for apples that cost no more than $5 on this side, and which, even with extravagant freight rates of $2.75 a barrel, should not be subject to porfiteering, such as an $18 rate indicates. The middleman is cutting his own throat in all such transactions, destroying trade in one direction, and forcing the producer in the other into co-operative organization.

Starving Babes in Europe.

Herbert Hoover has made a general appeal to humanity on behalf of the 3,500,000 children in central in central and eastern Europe, who without western help will perish of cold and hunger this winter. To hear Herbert Hoover speak on this question is to resolve to give everything you could spare to the support of these little ones. The number is appalling. They are mostly orphans, fatherless through the war. The resources at the disposal of those trying to serve this infant host will be exhausted in January. A dollar keeps a child for a month, and $23,000,000 must be obtained without delay. It is not a large sum for the American continent to raise, but no man or woman with a heart and a consciousness of our filicitous abundance would wish to be left out of the list of those who want to serve in this cause. The life of a little child may depend on what any one or another gives or fails to give, and the Heart of the Universe does not forget these attentions. The tragedy of Europe in this matter is a tragedy of the race. The loss of these children means a vital loss to the nations to which they belong. A great gap of about 30,000,000 lives was caused in the manhood of Europe by the war. The loss of these children would mean a still greater hiatus in the stream of the population, a second generation missing in addition to that fallen in war. Only the aged are left in some parts of Europe. Elsewhere, purged as by fire, the nations are looking for a reconstructed destiny. Where these hungering, starved and shelterless children seek relief their people are near the loss of their nationhood. Assistance given them now will never be forgotten and a new tradition of brotherhood and kindliness will follow every effort to restore these little ones to well nourished health and home-like cars. The Red Cross accepts subscription for this purpose.

Killing Rebels in Haiti.

No meetings have been held in New York or Boston to protest against the slaughter of 3,000 men in Haiti. As the only means of putting down rebellion this is excused by American newspapers by the statements that American rule in Haiti and San Dominigo has been of great benefit to both countries. Other papers say that these "charges" are similar to those brought against the Republican administration of the Philippines twenty years ago. There are 3,000 American soldiers on Haitian soil, and the Government is necessarily under such circumstances a military domination. If the United States did not pursue this course either Germany of France would have been compelled too, so since the native administration practiced a Sinn Fein policy of "Ourselves alone," and declined to recognize any exterior obligations. The Monroe doctrine obliged the United States to keep the peace within its sphere of influence and so the suppression of ruffianism by the killing of 3,000 armed Haitian bandits is described as murder and slaughter by those opposed to such means of pacification. These deaths are spread over five and a half years but even at that the record is worse than anything alleged against Great Britain. In the same time the United States forces in Haiti had 13 killed and 28 wounded. A society for promoting the self-determination of Haiti may be heard of any day.

Two Sides to All Questions.

Independent thinkers always get slammed by the partisians on opposite sides of the question. The impartial newspaper writer who aims to get at the facts no matter who is hurt is similarly abored by all who dislike the facts, and who prefer the inventions that are spread abroad. It may be retorted that newspapers spread those inventions also and the charge is true, because news that comes in on the telegraph wire or the cable has to be accepted at its face value. But an editorial writer who is supposed to have time to investigate the statements he reads, and to corroborate them foundationless, either by his discoveries or from his previous knowledge, has a responsibility as a steward of the truth towards the public which the public should learn to recognize. A reputation for accuracy, impartiality and fair-mindedness is a newspaper writer's best asset. His readers slowly but surely learn to trust him according to their fidelity with which he discharges his duty towards them. If their sympathies are sometimes wounded or their pet predictions offended they should consider that they are founded on opinions after all, and that there may be grounds for different opinions. The Literary Digest has given amusing illustrations of how the same attitude with differently affect various readers in a recent issue. The Digest had been carefully compiling the views of the newspapers, the speeches of the candidates and their leading supporters, and all the information available bearing on the issues at stake in the election. Many readers could not see the value of such independent reports and Democrats wrote in to accuse the Digest of being Republican, while Republicans wrote in to object to the pretence of impartiality while carrying on Democratic propaganda. Some on both sides wanted their paper stopped which is the last resource of conceited and ill-informed egotism. We should try and digest facts even when they are disagreeable and learn to admit that sometimes we may be mistaken.

HAIR DRESS BY DAME FASHION

Here is a striking example of what a short span of years will do to Milady's hair. The pretty dark-eyed girl says, "you make a straight part down the right side, smooth it down to the ear, where you screw the ends into a tight curl, and pin them in a bunch right over the ear." The lady in the inset evidently doesn't agree with her system at all.

The government of Uruguay will establish a school or farm foremen, limited to young men unable to pay for an education.

Operated by an electric motor, a machine has been invented for opening letters in business offices receiving heavy mails.

A JEWEL IN THE ROUGH

Stephen dropped on his knees and seized the little brown hand extended to him, covering it with kisses.

"Oh, no, no; don't say it," he said, in a voice suffocating with anguish, heedless of the staring faces around Some of the mob looked on with interest; some turned back to their own tables, others went down on their hands and knees to scrape up the scattered gold dust that had mixed in the trampled sawdust.

"Lay me a little flatter," she murmured to Talbot; and he sunk on one knee and so supported her, her head resting on his arm.

"If we could get her to the air," Stephen exclaimed.

"No; the moving pains me; let me be," she replied. "I tell you I'm dying."

Stephen groaned.

"Pray, then, pray now. Oh, Katie, dear, pray before it is too late! Aren't you afraid to die like this, in this place?"

Katrine shook her head wearily

"No, I don't think I've ever been afraid," she murmured.

"Did I kill him?" she asked, a second later, opening her eyes.

Talbot looked down and nodded. Stephen's voice was too choked for utterance.

"I'm glad of that," she murmured, letting her eyes close again. "I never missed a shot yet."

"Oh, Katie, Katie!" moaned Stephen. The room was black to him. It seemas as iif he saw hell opening to swallow up forever his beloved one.

Katrine opened her eyes at his agonized cry.

"Now, Steve, it can't be helped. I'm dying, and it's all right. I only don't want you to worry over it. Nothing is worth worrying for in this world. And I guess we'll all meet again very soon in a warmer place than Alaska."

Stephen, utterly broken down, could only sob upon her hand.

Talbot felt a sort of rigor passing through the form he held, and thought she was dying. He was stirred to the innermost depths of his being by her act. She had stepped so calmly between him and death, given up her life with the free, generous courage of a soldier or a hero.

"Why did you come between us?" he asked, suddenly, bending over her "Why did you do it?"

The calm, light eyes looked down into the dark, passionate depths of the dying girl's pupils, and a long graze passed between them. What secrets of her soul were revealed to his in that instant when they stood face to face with only death between? Then Katrine turned her head wearily.

"I don't know," she answered, faintly; "more deviltry, I think," and she The laugh shook the wounded lung. Her face turned from white to gray, her teeth clinched. There was a spasm as of a sudden wrenching loose from the body, then it sunk back, collapsed, motionless, against Talbot's breast.

The two men carried her out between them. The crowd made way for them, standing on either side in respectful silence. Such incidents were not uncommon, and excited nothing more than a dull and transient interest. They took her out, and the gold for which two lives had been sacrificed, was left unheeded, scattered in the dust. They went out the way they had come, through the noisome court, up the narrow flight of rotten, slippery stairs into the pure icy air.

Stephen turned to Talbot and took the girl's body wholly into his arms.

"I want to carry her up to my cabin," he said, in a choking voice, and the other nodded.

The night was glorious with the deadly glory of the Arctic regions; the air was still, and of a coldness that seemed to bite deep into the flesh; but overhead, in the impenetrable blackness of the sky, the stars shone with a brilliance found only in the north, throwing a cold light over the snowy ground. To the south and east, low down, burned two enormous planets, like fiery eyes, watching them over the horizon.

Slowly the two men walked over the hard ground. Not another living being was within sight.

Stephen walked first, with heavy, uneven steps, and his breath came quickly in suppressend sobbing gasps. Talbot followed closely, deep in painful thought. All had happened so suddenly. The whole horrible tragedy had swept over them in a few minutes; she had passed away from them both forever. His brain seemed dazed by the shock. He could not realize it. He saw her dark head lying on Stephen's shoulder. It seemed as if she must lift it every second. He could not believe that she was lifeless, lifeless, this creature who had always been life itself, with her gay smiles, and light tones, and quick movements. Now, she and they were blotted out for all time. She had died against his breast; and for him. That was the horrible thought; it came into his brain after all the others, suddenly, and seemed as if it must burst it. And why, why should she have done it? Her last wards rang in his ears, "mere devilry." So she had always been; reckless, open-handed, generous, she had often risked her life for another, and now she had given it for him. And in her last words she had tried to minimize her own act, tried to relieve him of the burden of a hopeless gratitude. But for all that he would have to bear it, and it seemed crushing him now. That she should have given her life, so young, less than half his own, so full of value and promise, for his! It seemed as if a reproach must follow him to the end of his days.

He walked as in a dream. He had no sense of the distance they were going, hardly any of the direction, except that he was following mechanically Stephen's slow, uneven, halting footsteps, and watching that little head that lay on his shoulder. Once when Stephen paused he stretched out his arms and offered to take the burden from him; but Stephen refused him fiercely, and the two went on slowly as before, how long he did not know—it seemed a long time. Suddenly, in the middle of the narrow, pathway before him, Talbot saw Stephen stagger, fall to his knees, and then sink heavily sideways in the snow, his arms still tightly locked round the rigid body of the girl. Talbot hurried forward and bent over him, feeling hastily in his own pockets for his flask. Stephen's eyes were wide open and gazed at him with a hopeless, despairing determination that went to Talbot's heart and chilled it.

"I can't go any further, not another step," he muttered.

Talbot had been searching hurriedly through all his pockets for the flask he always carried

"Good God!" he exclaimed, "I haven't got it; I must have dropped it coming up here, or they stole it in that hell down-town."

Stephen feebly put up his hand.

"Don't trouble; I don't want it. I am just going to lie here and wait with her. Was she not lovely?" he muttered to himsel, raising himself on his knees and laying the body before him on the snow.

(To be continued.)

F.W. Galbraith Jr.
New National Commander of the American Legion

PLAN TO UTILIZE LOW-GRADE COALS

Australia Company to Pulverize Lignite for Power Purposes

The efficient utilization of lignitic coals is a problem not peculiar to our western provinces; indeed, it is a live subject wherever such coal is found. One of the most promising solutions, so far as the use of lignite for industry and transportation is concerned, is pulverization.

In Australia a syndicate has been formed "to mine, process and deliver" lignite throughout the Commonwealth. Mining operations are well under way, and the company has erected a pulverization plant in a suburb of Melbourne.

The process employed is briefly described as follows:

"The lignite is mined in either shafts or open cuts, the coal crushed on the spot to egg size, then hoisted to the air-driving tipples at the surface by bucket conveyors.. After drying about seven days the coal is relieved of practically half of its moisture content and is ready for final treatment. This final process, which should be undertaken near the place where the fuel is to be used, consists of again crushing the coal—to about half-inch mesh—after which it is passed through a rotary drier, where the moisture content is reduced to about 10 per cent. The fuel is then pulverized, separated by air, and stored in bunkers.

"To use it is blown through pipes, where it is mixed with air in quantity 10 per cent. in excess of requirements and ignited at the tip of an adjustable burner, which enables the length and width of the flame zone to be most accurately gauged. Boiler tubes and baffles are kept clear of ash by soot blowers and suction conveyors carry off the ash to any desired place of disposal. Three per cent. of the power generated is required to operate the plant, and one experienced man can fire a whole battery of boilers or kilns.

"Under test the boiler efficiency was 80 per cent., th efurnace efficiency 78 per cent."

The utilization of pulverized fuel, in relation to Canadian conditions, is treated of in two bulletins published by the Commission of Conservation, entitled Pulverized Fuel, its Use and Possibilities, by W. J. Dick, and Fuels of Western Canada, by James White. These are available for distribution gratis to interested parties on application to the Commission.

LAWNS AND DANDELIONS.

It goes without saying that an ardent naturalist would relegate the smooth and level lawn, cultivated through the years with much pains and no little money, to a minor pace in the human landscape. In his History of the World, Sir Walter Raleigh explained that precise gardens, lawns, hedges, parks, were invented as a retreat from the wilderness with its thorns and nettles and hidden hurtful things. That was three centuries and more ago; and though man has long since discovered the beauty and value of the wilderness, the trim garden and hedge and lawn remain as necessary adjuncts to the most modest suburban or country home going.

In the old country where "they mows 'em and they rolls 'em for a thousand years," the manifold weed has disappeared from the velvet turf. In this new land the insuperable difficulty is to eradicate plaintain and dandelion and other weeds, chiefly the dandelion. Some there are who silently or in timid speech confess to liking the low yellow flower and the smooth, glossy, persistent leaf. But even those keep up the losing fight. It may comfort them to know that one of the first living naturalists, W. H. Hudson, who is counted also a master in English, has come out in his latest book against the finished lawn and in favor of the dandelion there. Rather would he see the pretty weeds "and dandelions with splendid flowers and fairy down, than the too-well-tended lawn grass."

Several million subsidiary coins have been made of iron, zinc and aluminum by the German Government mint in the last few months.

The Sunday School Lesson

Lesson VIII. November 21

THE TWELVE SENT FORTH

Lesson—Matthew 10. Printed Text:—Mat. 10: 5-8, 29-31, 37-42

(May be used with missionary applications.)

Golden Text.—"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest' (Matt.' 9: 37, 38).

HISTORICAL SETTING

Time.—A. D. 28. Place.—Galilee.

Daily Readings

Monday, November 15.—The Mission of the Twelve (Matt. 10: 1-7). Tuesday, November 16.—Freely Giving (Matt. 10: 8-16). Wednesday, November 17.—Suffering Persecution (Matt. 10: 17-22) Thursday, November 18.—A Prophet's Call (Jer. 1: 1-10). Friday, November 19.—The Church Persecuted (Acts 8: 1-8). Saturday, November 20.—White Harvest-fields (John 4: 31-38). Sunday, November 21. —Comforting Promises (Isa. 40: 1-11).

TH" LESSON TEXT

COMMENTS

Verse 5. The calling and naming of the apostles occurred before the Sermon on the Mount, while their sending forth occurred afterwards. "Apostle" means "one sent forth," a messenger. Our word "missionary" means the same. The apostles were numbered according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Verse 6. They were to begin their work with and among the Jews only. At that time the Gentiles were abhorred and the Samaritans w — hated by the Jews. If the apostles had begun with Gentiles and Samaritans, no Jew would have tolerated them.

Verse 7. The kingdom was formally set up about a year later on Pentecost (Acts 2).

Verse 8. Health and righteousness are God's order; not disease and sin. To have taken money for the miracles would have placed them on the level with mercenary exorcists and fake healers.

Verses 29, 30. After outlining means of support and methods of deaing with the people, Jesus set forth the apostles' motive to endurance. If God considers a sparrow of such importance as to be worthy of H's notice when it falls, surely He will not neglect those who are His special servants. There seems to be here an affirmation of providence in small matters.

Verse 31. Our Lord's argument seems to be opposite to the usual one. We usually believe that God takes a hand in the great affairs of men, but ignores the little ones.

Verse 37. Jesus was seeking followers. There would be relatives who would object. When, therefore, disciples had to choose between Christ and objecting relatives, they were to take His side, and not theirs.

Verse 38. Criminals had to bear their own crosses to the place of crucifixion. The term "bearing the cross," as applied to discipleship, meant bearing the shame and criticism belonging to such discipleship.

Verse 39. Losing low ideals of life means finding the higher life.

Verse 40. The apostles were representative of both the Father and the Son.

Verse 41. Righteousness and truth must be received for their own sake.

Verse 42. "Little ones" here means the young disciples who are babes in Christ. "To do the smallest kindness to the humblest disciple because he is a disciple, shall not fail of reward."

ILLUSTRATED TRUTH

Jesus gave the world an example of intensive work (v. 5).

Illustration.—The twelve were to confine themselves to the Jews, not because others did not count, but because scattering efforts are a waste of time. "Our best salesman," said a business man, "is the fellow who lays out his field and works it to a finish before he has eyes or ears for anything else. Sometimes the finish means that the one he was after proves to be impossible, but whichever way it turns out, he does not have to waste time going back and covering his tracks again, in the meantime neglecting new fields he has entered."

Topics for Research and Discussion

I. The Mission of the Twelve (vs. 5-8). 1. What is the meaning of the word "apostle"? 2. Is there any significance in the number 12? 3. With whom were the apostles to begin their labors? 4. In what estimation were Gentiles and Samaritans held? 5. When was the kingdom set up?

II. God's Guidance (vs. 29-31). 6. What motives to endurance did Jesus set before the apostles? 7. What was the significance of His illustration of the sparrows?

III. Oneness with Christ (vs. 37-42). 8. What is Jesus' teaching in verse 37? 9. What is the significance of the expression "bearing the cross"? 10. Did Jesus mean this teaching to be accepted simply by the Jews, or what did he mean?

One of the best known guides in MINARD'S LINIMENT—

Nova Scotia gives this testimonial of Have used MINARD'S LINIMENT in my home, hunting and lumber camps for years and consider it the best white liniment on the market. I find that it gives quick relief to minor accidents, such as Sprains, Bruises and all kinds of wounds. Also it is a great remedy for coughs, colds, etc., driving and cruising during the winwhich one is liable to catch when logter and spring months I would not be without MINARD'S LINIMENT and cannot recommend it too highly.

(Signed) Ellison Gray

East Kemptville, N. S., Feb. 24, 1920.

The beautiful Paisley shawls, made of very fine wool, were manufactured in the town of Paisley, in Renfrew, Scotland. In the early part of last century the yearly value of the trade was more than $5,000,000.