CURRENT COMMENT

THE WORLD'S STRAITENED INCOME.

People are beginning in the coast to think of the world as a unity just as in China the people there are only beginning to think of the nation as a unity. It is perhaps not unnatural that this sense of unity comes first through economic and financial considerations. We read the vast figures of the world's debt, of the world's assets, of the world's resources, and of the world's revenue, and it is beginning to be realized that the world is probably worth all she owes if she could raise money on her property. But like many a millionaire the world is short of cash. Ready cash cuts a considerable dash in the world and in order to get it there must be available plenty of saleable goods. Lord Haldane tells us that the weekly national income of Britain is only $3.12 a head of the population, and as he says: "This is not good enough." The only way to improve it is by greater production, and in a world which is becoming self-conscious, and in which the nations are becoming civilized enough to produce for themselves the revenue of exporting nations is going to have a ragged time. This would seem to point to the necessity of self-supporting measures for peace times such as the war imposed upon during the conflict. Australia, we are told, owes $700,000,000 and there are only 5,000,000 people to support the burden, or $140 a head. This is enough to make the kangaroo jump. As long as it was possible for part of the world to exploit the rest and the burden laid on the rest was not too heavy no great harm followed. But when great masses of people like China's 400,000,000 and India's 300,000,000, comprising nearly half the population of the Globe, begin to work on their own account and even export to other countries at very cheap rates it should be quite plain that a new science of economics should be on the way. And this is why it is such a blessed thing to live in plenty on one's own farm.

CHINA SELF CONSCIOUS.

A remarkable change has come over China according to many observers and in the lucidly worded opinion of Fletcher S. Brockman, who has recently returned from the Celestial country. The war has primarily been responsible for the change, but not directly. It came after the war and as an indirect result. Before the war one part of China had not the least regard for the other. During the Japanese war the southern Chinese refused to admit that they had a war on. "Those fellows up in the North are fighting the Japanese," they said, "but we have no war." It was owing to this lacking sense of nationality that other powers were able to encroach on China, to extort concessions, to impose conditions, that no self-respecting nation could tolerate. Since the war a new sense of Chinese solidarity has sprung up. The Chinese begin to think of themselves as one people. and a national consciousness, the foundation of patriotism has been born. Some people will "view this with alarm," while others will "point with pride," that whatever may be thought of it, it brings a new element into the affairs of the world, and recreates the far East. If national self-consciousness sweeps through the 400,000,000 of China and binds them together, as, for example, it binds the people of the United States, the Dragon flag will have to be reckoned with in the future even more than that of the Rising Sun of Japan. Mr. Fletcher does not minimize as many do, the religious, moral and internal ideas of China. Confucius is a great teacher, and those who follow him have at least as secure a footing for their political principles as the ordinary politician of the west can boast.

BUSINESS INTERESTS AGAINST LIQUOR.

It is not to be wondered at if the minority who find participation in the liquor traffic profitable feel annoyed at the modern tendency to suppress all opportunities for alcoholic indulgence. For a few the illicit traffic in alcoholic drinks has been more profitable than the regular traffic ever was, and most of the outcry has come from or been inspired by those who regard more their own means of gain than the possible result to their fellow citizens. The liquor traffic has always been a tremendous expense to the state. The cost of criminal courts, officers, prisons, of hospitals and asylums, of orphanages and pauperism generally, is enormous, to say nothing of the loss to the community in labor efficiency and the disorganization which accompanies all alcoholic indulgence. Moderate drinkers do not like to be reminded of these things, and perhaps they do not grumble about the taxes which result, but the majority of people are learning to look at these things from a business point of view and in consequence we get such votes as the Prairie Provinces and Nova Scotia have recorded. It is customary to hear complaints of the intolerance of church members and others who mass their opposition to liquor on religious grounds. It is not stating too much to say that had there been no opposition to the liquor traffic but that of the churches it would still be in full swing. It is the cold, hard business sense of Canada that has been aroused against the promiscuous use of alcohol, just as it was the political and business sense of the nation that overthrew slavery in the United States. There is a good deal in common between the agitation against liquor and that against slavery. In each case the churches were divided on the questions, and in each case opponents of the new views urged that man's moral freedom was at stake. A man should be left free to take it or leave it, it has been urged, but almost invariably the man who thus contends, takes it. When this generation has passed away the new one will no more desire the free sale of liquor than the present one rgrets the abolition of slavery or the suppression of the opium traffic. Whatever it may do for a few liquor is unprofitable to the community, and Ontario people know this as well as their neighbors.

RESULTS OF CLIMATE.

We hear more about people leaving the United States for Canada. We are not surprised. Many people from the South have been spending their summer vacation with us this October, and the Rugby teams in their struggle for the championship complained of the prostrating heat on October 23. It may not have been thus through our entire three and a half million square miles, but Ontario was selling raspberries picked on this date in crate loads. It has not always been thus, and we do not profess to understand it, though an astronomer fellow says that the planets, or most of them, all got pulling together and managed to make it warm for the earth. He thinks that winter may settle down more or less permanently south of the equator and that our climate may revert to something milder than they get it in White River. Another set of fellows have been digging up wild beasts in Alberta that lived on the shores of an ocean of what they say was three million years ago, but some other chaps say was nearer twenty-five or thirty million years ago, when at that time they had tropical heat and Red River rivalled Port Nassau or Rio Janeiro. If Red River was like that 25,000,000 years ago, it is about time White River got a chance to thaw out, and we may all have the kind of weather that will raise sugar cane in the back yard. This isn't what brought down the price of sugar, though. It came down, when one big fellow said it had got sugar beat, and another big fellow heard him, and thought he had got sugar beet, so he cut the price. But the main reason the folks in the United States are coming to Canada is in search of work. They are closing up the factories over there because it takes anywhere from $1.10 to $1.25 to buy a dollar's worth and Europe won't put up the money. So what with the fine weather and news of work, and a dollar buying a dollar's worth in Canada the folks are hopping across the border like toads, and there is some talk of telling them to stay at home. If they are decent, law-abiding folks and bring their dollars along, they will do us no harm.

MAKING FARMS MORE PRODUCTIVE

Comport Heap Most Essential Because of Fertilizing Value

The examination of many types of soil—clays, silts and sands—virgin and cultivated, has furnished evidence of a very emphatic character regarding the fundamental and vital importance of semi-decomposed organic matter (humus) as a soil constituent. It acts mechanically in improving tilth, lightening and mellowing heavy clays and increasing the moisture-holding capacity of all classes of soils. It supports the microscopic life of the soil, the function of which is to prepare plant food for crop use. And, lastly, it is the natural storehouse of nitrogen—the most expensive of all plant foods when purchased in the form of fertilizer.

Every farm, every market garden, should have its compost heap, for such affords the most economical (and sanitary) means of utilizing the vegetable and animal refuse, indeed all forms of organic waste. To enumerate some of the materials that can be profitably used in this way: potato tops, cabbage leaves, waste straw, dead leaves, kitchen waste, old sods, the cleanings of ditches road scrapings, muck and peat, pond and stream deposits; all these materials and many more rich in organic matter may by composting be converted into a forcing manure of very considerable value by reason of its humus content and its store of readily available plant foods.

In these days it behooves us to abandon our wasteful ways and utilize everything that may make the land more productive. The practice of burning all organic refuse is an exceedingly wasteful one and should only be followed when, by reason of the presence of the eggs, spores and seds of injurious insects and plants, the composted material would be likely to disseminate disease.

The making of the compost heap is a very simple affair. It can be built up of alternate layers, of say six inches, of refuse (including swamp muck if such is obtainable) and manure, to any convenient height, covering the whole with a few inches of good soil or muck. The heap should be kept moist, that decay may proceed, but not so wet as to cause drainage from the heap. The result, in a few weeks or several months, according to the season of the year, will be a manure of very considerable fertilizing value, capable of improving both clay and sandy loams and especially useful for vegetables and garden crops.

WINGED CAT

A half-Persian cat, with wings on its back similar in shape to those of a fowl, but covered with fur, is in possession of Mr. J. Crute, the sexton of the Old Normanton Cemetery, Derby, England. The animal, which seemed in a half-wild state, went to Mr. Crute's house for food.

New Zealand has 20 societies for protecting native game birds and animals and introducing others into that country.

FOUR U. S. FARM BOYS WIN INTERNATIONAL STOCK-JUDGING CONTEST AND TRIP TO EUROPE

ATLANTA, Ga.—Four farmer boys without any agricultural school training will make a trip to Europe, the reward which goes with the winning of the International Stock Judging championship in south and southeastern competition here. This non-college team came from far off Texas, winning over teams from all parts of the country—including college-trained men. The Texas team finished with 3110 points against 2965 by the Mississippi team which was second. The Texas team were all members of Boys' Club and were coached by Cy W. Evans and W. B. Cook of the Texas Extension Service from the state college. The trip will be first to the Royal Stock Show at London—then to the agricultural districts of France, Holland, Belgium and Isles of Jersey and Guernsey. This is the highest honors ever conferred upon farmer boys in this country. Top row—left to right—W. B. Cook and C. M. Evans, coaches; Alva Debman, Lamesa; lower row—Gorden Gillispie, Coleman; John Turner, Hillsboro and G. W. Welting, Marlin, Texas.

Advice to Girls

By Miss Rosalind

Registered according to the Copyright Act

Miss Rosalind welcomes letters from young women asking for advice on any subject. All you have to do is to address your letter to

MISS ROSALIND,
34 King William St., Hamilton, Ont

Dear Rosalind:

I am a girl of 19 and have been keeping company with a young man 5 years my senior for 2 years, and he has asked me to marry him, but I cannot make up my mind as to what I should do as there is another young man whom I like better although I have never kept company with him as he is keeping company with another girl, but people say that he is not in love with her. The one who has asked me to marry him has a good position, but I think he is too many years my senior. The other one is about my own age, but his wealth is limited. Please advise me what I should do as I value your advice very much.

—Sunshine.

Dear Sunshine:

If you have been going with the young man for two years you should be pretty sure by now whether you care enough to continue the journey through life with him. Five years difference between your ages is not too much if you are congenial. I like to see a girl practical enough to study every side of matrimony before she enters it; but Sunshine, dear, it strikes me you are too practical to be very deeply in love. If I were you I would make no definite decision yet. And just between you and me—I would not bother about what "people say."

—Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind:

Seeing others asking advice from you, I have taken advantage of this, and am going to ask you a question which is entirely different from the other questions. I am a girl 12 years of age, and in the Entrance Class at school. I have always wanted to be a movie actress and still I don't know how to go about it. I don't know where you go to practice or anything about it. I'd like to be an actress after I pass the Entrance. Please write and tell me full particulars.

Hoping to see your answer in the paper at a near date.

—Sunshine.

Dear Little Girl:

It is surely a bright day for me with two Sunshines come to visit. Only I am afraid you will think I am a very dark cloud that is doing its best to blot all the shine out. Because my dear, I cannot advise you to take up pictures as a profession. In the first place I have no idea that you could make good—not knowing you, your appearance, or your ability. But you may take it from me, it takes a tremendous amount of all three commodities — personality, beauty and brains—to become a Mary Pickford or a Mae Marsh.

There are few openings for a twelve-year-old star; and just think of the years you would have to spend in hard study to make yourself famous at eighteen

Wait awhile, Sunshine, get your entrance and then go on and get your matric or your Leaving and stay in school as long as you can. It will not hurt you to look forward to becoming a movie actress some day if your ideal helps to make you a more studious little girl and a more painstaking daughter. Write to me again.

—Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind:

I have been reading your advice to girls very carefully nad I think it is a splendid thing for girls to get such helpful advices free, and would you please give me your advice on a few questions"

My girl friend is eighteen years of age. She has been engaged to a young fellow a year and a half. During this time she learns there are others she thinks a great deal of and she does not think as much of him as she should. She has got his ring and thinks it would be a bad disappointment to him to give it back. Would it be selfish and rude to break an engagement like this? Or what should she do? She feels as if she is too young and would rather be free; should she?

Do you think Rosalind if a man and wife disagrees that they should get a divorce?

—Rose.

Dear Rose:

In the first place, Rose dear, your girl friend has no business to be engaged at eighteen. The fact that she has changed her mind proves that.

It would be a much greater disappointment to the man if she married him and then wanted to give back the wedding ring. Let her tell him honestly that she is too young to know her own mind and ask for freedom from the engagement.

I fancy if married folks got divorces every time they disagreed there would be more divorces than weddings. People are human, my dear, even if married, and are bound to have differences of opinion; but if young people only take the time to consider things carefully before marriage and decide whether they can agree on all vital questions that make for the happiness and success of homes, then there can be no danger of foolish quarrels and constant bickering.

Divorce is not granted in Canada for the reason you have stated.

Advice your friend well, Dear Rose, and talk things over with her calmly and sensibly.

—Rosalind.

Dear E. A. B.:

In the confusion of moving, I packed away my address book, and will not be able to get at it for another week. I shall forward you Violet's address then. A mso glad you are going to become paper friends. Here's hoping you'll like each other.

—Rosalind.

POEMS You Should Know

THERE'S A BOWER OF ROSES.

There's a bower of roses by Bendemeer's stream,
And the nightingale sings round it all the day long;
In the time of my childhood 'twas like a sweet dream,
To sit in the roses and hear the bird's song.

That bower and its music I never forget,
But oft when alone, in the bloom of the year,
I think—is the nightingale singing there yet?
Are the roses still bright by the calm Bendemeer?

No, the roses soon withered that hung o'er the wave,
But some blossoms were gathered while freshly they shone,
And a dew was distilled from their flowers that gave
All the fragrance of summer when summer was gone.

Thus memory draws from delight 'ere it dies,
An essence that breathes of it many a year;
Thus bright to my soul, as 'twas there to my eyes,
Is that bower on the banks of the calm Bendemeer!

—Thomas Moore.

Public Health Talks

(By Dr. J. J. Middleton)

Good Health is a Natural Right Due Everybody, and Child Welfare Work in Canada is Most Essential

A series of Public Health Talks will be given in these columns by Dr. J. J. Middleton, of the Provincial Board of Health, Toronto. Persons desiring any information on the subject of health are invited to write to Dr. Middleton, who will answer all questions earnestly and in confidence.

A great awakening in public health matters is now in progress all over the country. People are beginning to "think health"—that is, they are convinced that good health is a natural right due to them, and if not that faulty heredity and environment are the chief obstacles to its attainment. There is a lot of truth in this, and how to get past these obstacles is the great problem that public health activity is seeking a solution for to-day.

To begin with we have discovered that health, like happiness, is to a large extent a matter of habit, and that it can be taught. Where, then is the most promising field to diffuse this teaching? At once the suggestion comes to one—the public schools. The determination is already widespread to arrange it so that the time allowed for routine book learning in the schools of Ontario does not encroach on hours allotted to physical culture and to the teaching of the usefulness and practical elements of public health work. Physical culture should be made compulsory in schools—it should be regarded as one of the most important branches of education a child can get.

TEACHING BEGINS WITH MOTHERS.

The education of school children, however, is not enough. The teaching must be begun with the mother, even before her child is born. You cannot have a healthy baby without healthy parents, and of the two the mother is the most important. Mothers, especially those having children for the first time, do not know much about the care of themselves during this important period of their life—the pre-natal period. Far too much is left to haphazard, and the young woman often times has symptoms and danger signs which portend disaster to herself and child if the warnings are not heeded. To bring this information home to mothers, to teach them to seek medical assistance at the earliest possible moment when seemingly trifling ailments appear before the birth of the child, and to so arrange her daily habits as to food, clothing, exercise, that she may continue in good health; that is the chief purpose of pre-natal clinics now being established in this country and in all progressive countries.

The care of the new-born child will automatically follow the pre-natal care of the mother, and hence baby clinics are also being established, indeed have already been established in many of the lrager cities of this Province. Children's clinics will also provide guidance and advice for the parents of the growing child up to five years of age, and at school age the child will come under the medical supervision of the Board of Education. A complete network of clinics will thus be provided even from before the birth of the child, so that it may be constantly in touch with expert medical and nursing advice in case its growth and condition is in any way abnormal.

FIGHTING THE "WHITE PLAGUE."

There are many lines of public health activity, in addition to the important one of Child Welfare. Tuberculosis is one of the greatest scourges of the age, and the campaign against this "white plague" has made rapid progress in Ontario during the past ten years. The number of sanatoria in this Province has grown from 10 in 1910 to 25 in the present year. The annual grants for maintenance have increased year by year from $26,073 in 1910 to $279,91.22 in 1919. The accommodation for patients in sanatoria in Ontario is now including several Preventoria for pre-tuberculous children, about 2,000, as compared with 615 ten years ago. Practically all the cost of the effort in tuberculosis, with the exception of an annr l grant of $10,000 from the Dominion, has been borne by the Provinces. Intensive work is being done in treating those affected—in strengthening those exposed, how to keep well. As a result of this campaign the deaths from tuberculosis have been reduced from 102 per hundred thousand in 1910 to 78 per hundred thousand in 1919. In view of our present knowledge of tuberculosis and its treatment this is a remarkable result.

The venereal disease problem is also being attacked vigorously by the Provincial Board of Health, and a grant of $57,000 from the Federal Government and an additional grant from the Ontario Government brings the total amount up to $115,000 annually for the purpose of handling this very important question. Interest in the safety and health of the workers in industrial establishments is being shown by the establishment of a Division of Industrial Hygeine which is making a good start.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTIVE.

Public Health Publicity will be extremely active this year, with pamphlets, newspaper articles and public addresses on all matters relating to Public Health and Child Welfare.

To complete the work of the various divisions and to afford opportunity for ready and free diagnosis for the medical profession in the communicable diseases, and to provide for analysis of water, milk and oher foods, laboratories are being established at important centres of population all over the Province. The main laboratories are at Toronto, but there are already four in Old Ontario and new laboratories are being opened at Fort William, North Bay and the "Soo."

The advances in Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Ontario during the past ten years can be realized to some extent by noting the appropriations granted for Public Health. In 1910 these appropriations were $50,000, while for the present year they are $530,000, an amount greater than that voted by all the other Provinces put together. Governments as well as individuals are fortunately awakening to the fact that in Preventive Medicine an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and even more rapid progress is expected in Pubic Health activity in the immediate future. This is as it should be, for it affects the health and well-being of the coming generations as well as the people of to-day.

LITTLE FOOD IN STRICKEN EUROPE

Millions of Children in Pitiable Condition—Canada to Help

"While we at home are intent on industrial expansion and a place in the sun, Europe, in its war-weakened condition is fighting for its very existence," said Donald W. Brown, director of the Department of Organization in the League of Red Cross Societies of the World, which has its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland. He visited Toronto to learn the peace programme of the Canadian Red Cross Society and to establish closer contact between it and the League.

MILLIONS OF WAR ORPHANS.

Having just arrived from Europe, Mr. Brown was able to give the Canadian Red Cross some first hand information concerning the people of Europe. He called information particularly to the condition of the children, so many of whom are now orphans. While the exact number who have lost one or both parents during the war cannot be determined, the most conservative estimate places the number at over ten millions. This number seems quite consistent with the heavy war casualties among so many nations.

DEPENDENT UPON CHARITY.

The condition of these childern is in most cases very pitiable. Many of them have no homes and they are dependent upon whoever may be charitable and kind enough to help them. Conseqeuntly, in the great area, between the Baltic, the Black and the Adriatic Seas, there are millions of children who face the next few years, and particularly the coming winter, without hope of decent food and care unless outside assistance is given them. The vitality of these children is already very low, on account of their having been deprived of fats, milk and sugar during the years that they most needed them and they are therefore very susceptible to children's diseases, particularly rickets.

DISEASE PREVALENT.

In addition to the unhappy condition of the children, the adult populations are in the direst of misery on account of disease. Suffering has been accentuated by lack of food and clothing, nursing and medical attention, and tuberculosis, small pox, typhus and dystentery are continuing unchecked.

BRITISH EMPIRE APPEAL

For these urgent reasons, Mr. Brown said, the League of Red Cross Societies has made an earnest appeal to the people of the British Empire, and he was glad to hear that the cause of the suffering children was being taken up in Canada. He had learned that an appeal on behalf of the British Empire Fund would be made in Canada by the Canadian Red Cross during Armistice Week, and wished it every success.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

An exhibition of fur-bearing animals that are being "farmed" in Canada will be held in Montreal on the 24th, 25th and 26th of November. This project is an outcome of the conference of fur farmers held in Montreal last winter, under the auspices of the Commission of Conservation. Widespread interest is being shown by fur farmers in different portions of Canada, notably in Prince Edward Island, where the industry is mainly centred. It will be the first national exhibition of its kind to be held in Canada, and it is confidently expected that, at least, it will equal in quality and extent of exhibits the similar exhibition held last year in the United States.

The exhibition is being arranged under the direction of the Commission of Conservation with the co-operation and support of the Federal Department of Agriculture and of the Provincial Governments. The fur-producing and marketing interests also are lending their active and enthusiastic support.