CURRENT COMMENT

GOVERNOR GENERAL IS OPTIMISTIC.

His Excellency the Governor General has been making speeches, none of which will be cited as examples of eloquent oratory. None of the Cavendishes had that gift, but they have a more valuable one of sound common sense. The present duke has shown the public spirit and devotion to duty distinctive of his character and the Marquis of Hartington, his eldest son, has just been elected Mayor of Brixton. His Excellency has been speaking on the necessity of supporting the movement for scientific research in Canada. In commercial and manufacturing fields, in mining and agriculture, in forestry and marine, there are vast areas still unexplored, and it will be the mission of researchers to discount the utmost values in all our wealth of produce. His Excellency also spoke of the present outlook in commerce and in affairs as most hopeful, without wider rating, the obvious difficulties of the situation, attending as he did to the bitter disappointment over the present conditions in Europe, where war in its most aggravated form still prevailed. His Excellency also appealed for assistance for the Red Cross effort on behaf of the three or four millions of children in Europe who depend almost altogether on assistansce from abroad. He touched on the coal strike in Britain and expressed the opinion that the settlement was a triumph for British people, by whom the miners and the owners had been compelled to submit. He considered it might be a blessing in disguise in bringing the people together in works of co-operation and forbearance.

NEW EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

It is not as well understood as it ought to be, and as experts have described it, that our education system is deficient in nearly everything in which it ought to be dominant. It teaches but it does not teach thoroughly, and our children leave school without being able to read, spell, write or figure well. Those who wish to go into business, must first attend a commercial school to learn to spell and write and keep books. And worse than this, our teaching system does not develop the brain ,nor, what is more important, does it teach the pupil to think. All this is partly the result of doing things cheaply. We are afraid to spend an education what is needed, and teachers are expected to flourish on pittances. That we shall suffer for this as a nation and individually goes without saying. But it becomes more increasingly difficult to get anything done in the way of reform. In Ontaro for years the Department of Education has been reactionary or at the best stagnant. It is true salaries have been raised slightly in the last fifteen years, and the price of school books has been cheapened, but these are as the titting of mint and arise against the weightiest matters of the law. Indictments have been framed against our educational system, but they rarely get a hearing, and the reports get pigeon-holed and suppression does its deadly work. Technical and vocational training have had a rough road and a tough experience. There is a lack of team play among the teachers. High School teachers indicate the possession of a sense of superiority that does not permit co-operation with other departments for the benefit of pupils. The boy or girl exists for the teacher, instead of the state and the teacher existing for the boy or girl. The defective and feeble-minded children are not given the attention they require, and this problem is urgent. It is well-known but too little practised in Ontario, that the use of the hands reacts for the development of the brain, and this mutual inter-relation has been widely availed of elsewhere. An effort apears to be in progress in Toronto, which is notoriously reactionary in educational matters, the mayor and other authorities opposing every effort to get adequate school accommodation, to utilize this principle, and an appointment, the legality of which was immediately and characteristically questioned, of Mr. Thomas Bengough, a well-known authority on such subjects, as a director of vocational and opportunity work. This experiment is of importance to the whole province and if the Department of Education would back it up in an intelligent way, much good might be accomplished. It must not be forgotten that man is a tool-using animal, and if he does not get the opportunity to use tools, his intelligence suffers.

SWITZERLAND HOME OF OUTCASTS OF WORLD

OF THESE RUSSIANS WITHOUT HOME ARE BY FAR THE MOST NUMEROUS.

The man without a country has become legion in Switzerland, where thousands of outcasts of the world war have been cut off from national affiliations.

In Switzerland, with her central situation, it is easier than elsewhere to realize the number of those whom the events of the last few years, the war and the peace treaty, have made aliens. Dwellers in Great Britain, in the United States or in Brtish dominions do not realize, happily for them, how many citizens of no country there are now in Europe, how many enforced and unwilling outcasts. Some few may be indifferent to the fate which has overtaken them, but to the very great majority it is the last thing in the world they would have wished—to have no country which they can call their own. Among these countryless persons are some who, a few years ago, held high positions and owned large estates, and were welcome guests in any land.

It is not merely the war which has made so many homeless. One pathetic case was that of an Austrian who was was born in a part of Austia now handed over to the Poles, and who has just been found dead, lying in the grass, literally on the frontier of his native land, into which the Austrians would not allow him to enter, saying that he was a Pole. A Pole he would not be; an Austrian he could not be. His name was Isodor Fuchs, and for many years before the war he was a Paris correspondent of an important German newspaper.

When war broke out, he, of course, had to leave Paris with all his belongings, and come to Geneva, where he continued to act as correspondent for his German and Austrian newspapers. The money he had saved he invested during the war, like the rest of his countrymen, in Austrian war loan stock. He set out for Austria, but when he reached the frontiner and showed his passport, he was told that he could not enter Austria, for he was now a Pole, whereupon he laid himself down and died—died at his country's gates, and was found by some peasants a few days afterwards lying on the grass by the wayside.

Homeless Russians.

But homeless Russians are by far the most numerous of all political outcasts. Thus a Russian countess, whose husband before the war was very wealthy, and whose jewels were worth thousands of pounds, is now in Geneva, homeless, countryless, and well night penniless. Kieff, which was her home, is now in what is known as Ukrainia, but no one at present knows whether there is a Ukrainian government; at any rate, there is no Ukrainian nor Russian representative here who can issue a valid passport. The lady can neither remain here, except on the tolerance list, nor go to England, where she has some influential friends.

To take another case, that of a well-known dramatist, who before the war lived partly in New York and partly in London. He is an Austrian subject, but was born i na part of Austria now handed over to Roumania. During the war he remained in Switzerland, but recently he wanted to return to London and New York to look after his business interests. He was told by the British and American consulates that his Austrian passport was invalid, and that he must now obtain a passport from the Roumanians. Hence, although very unwillingly, he went to the Roumanian consulate, only to be told that the consul would merely give him a passport to return to his birthplace in what was once Austria, and is now Roumania, but would not grant him a passport to go to either England or the United States.

In the Roumanian legation the officials even refused to talk to him in any language except Roumanian, which he does not know; and it was only after much negotiations that they consented to do so in English. To the credit of the British and American governments, be it said, in view of the circumstances, they have allowed this man to go to London and New York with a special passport granted by themselves. The attitude of some of these small countries only just raised to the dignity of independence recalls nothing so much as the proverbial saying: "Set a beggar on horseback and he'll ride to the devil."

Where the Red Cross Was Born.

In fighting for its liberty is a proof of greatness, Geneva, where the next session of the Peace Conference will be held, certainly merits being called "the greatest of the small towns." In 1602, the then Duke of Savoy made a determined attempt to take the Swiss town. A moonless night was chosen to put his project into execution. The intention was to attack the town while the inhabitants slept. Long ladders were erected against the walls of the city and the Savoyards began to mount. In a moment, however, the alarm was given, and the Genevese poured from their beds, and, dressed only in their night-clothes, prepared to defend their homes. Four hundred Savoyards were accounted for, while the defenders' losses only numbered fourteen. The following year Geneva entered into an alliance with Fribourg, and later with Berne. Finally, in 1815, the town became recognized as part of Switzerland.

JUST DOING A FEW "CHAPLINS".

London.—Henry Jesson was in court charged with insulting behavior, resisting the police and smashing a constable's whistle. "'Tisn't fair," complained he, "I was only showing my little girl some Charlie Chaplin stunts. Didn't mean any harm." The magistrate smiled and then he said "forty shillin's," which means about $10.

Team Work

We hear much these days about "TEAM-WORK."

Mostly it is used in connection with athletic affairs. We are told of wonderful victories—when every member of a team PULLS TOGETHER—when someone doesn't go off trying to make a star play, at the expense of the others.

Trouble is that we limit the word to our recreation—sport—athletics. We should follow through; think, use, live team-work in everything we do.

If team-work is a winner in sports, then team-work is good in family affairs—and we all know how the household thrives wherein every member has a shoulder to the wheel.

If team-work is good in the family then it is good in our work—the commercial organization or unit where we earn our daily bread.

If team-work is good in our work—then team-work is good for our neighborhood affairs—our comm nity—our town.

And right there, friends, is where we can make the greatest showing—when we ALL practice team-work in the development and growth of OUR town and county.

When the merchants of this town spend money for advertising space to send you a message of economy—savings—bargains—that message should be read. They've invested thousands of dollars in goods to supply you—and without one guarantee that you will buy

To earn your money here, then take it to the big city store—or send it to th mail order house—neither of which contributes one cent to the upbuilding of this community—is not team-work.

Read the advertisements in this paper today, then patronize our home merchants.

HOME-SPENT DOLLARS mean team-work.

A Little *of* Everything

Useful Wasps.

Despite the general impression, the wasp is not a vexatious, good-for-nothing insect, but performs quite a useful office. He is very largely responsible for the reduction of the enormous number of flies which threaten the world every summer with disease and death. The inhabitants of a small wasp nest bring home at least 2,000 of these pests every day to make their meals of. A nest of good size inflicts a death roll of something like 24,000 upon the tribe of pest-bearers between every sunrise and sunset. The hostility we bear the wasp is, therefore, ill-advised, seeing that he is sparing us a lot of trouble we should otherwise incur. Wasps also assist in the fertilization of plants by the carrying of pollen from flower to flower.

Keep Thin in Middle-Age.

Adding to the bulk of the body in middle age is risky. This does not mean that the diet should be Spartan. It must be simple and moderate. Tasty dishes tempt stout people to eat too freely. Corpulence may be reduced by abstaining from fat meats, sugar, soups and pastry. Bread and potatoes should be eaten rather sparingly. Fresh fruit and green vegetables may be taken regularly in moderation. No sedentary middle-aged person can eat hearty meals habitually without impairing health and curtailing the span of years. The diet must be plain and digestible, and the quantity eaten limited strictly to the repair of tissue expended in work.

Mute Who Uttered One Word.

An extraordinary story of how a dumb man, a peer of the realm, was given the power to utter one word, thereby saving many lives, was told by the bishop of Bath and Wells, at the dedication of a new home for deaf mutes in Bath, England. The peer was a former Lord Carberry and a friend of the bishop's. "Lord Carberry," said the bishop, "was aboard a steamer sailing from Cork to Bristol. A dense fog came on and passengers could see nothing. Even the lookout man was unaware of danger, when Lord Carbery, who was sitting in the bow, shouted loudly, 'Land!' It often happens when God has deprvied a man of one sense he increases the power of another. Lord Carbery was able to see what others could not, and realizing the ship was making straight for the black mass, his excitement forced that one word from his lips. The captain put the helm round and the vessel just skimmed past the southernmost rock of Lundy Island. We all had a most narrow escape, and many lives were saved by Lord Carbery's warning." That word "land" was the only one Lord Carbery ever uttered.

Stock Exchange in Tokio.

For picturesqueness the Tokio Stock Exchange has no rival. In addition to the exchange hall and the huge blackboards covered with Japanese characters, all of the brokers, without exception, wear kimonos, carry fans, and the only persons dressing in European garb are the recorders of prices. As a noise maker, too, this exchange is undoubtedly champion of the world. The Japanese brokers do almost everything but give college cheers; they shout and yell and whistle, and vary their sawings of the air with their hands and arms by occasional bursts of handclaping. In making trades the Tokio brokers used their fingers to indicate prices and quantities much as is done in the exchange of this country. Prices are also recorded on boards as with our exchanges, but instead of being simply blackboards on which the figures are written with chalk, there are boards of red, white and blue, each color representing quotations of different days.

French Army Gives Up Kepi.

The kepi is to go. The French army is to wear either trench helmets or glengarries. For a hundred years the kepi has in various forms seen the French soldier through his few defeats and his many glories. There are some sentiments which the most hard-headed can hardly deny. All the rest of the old uniform has gone—the dark-blue overcoat buttoned back, the baggy red trousers, and now the cap. The great point of honor about the cap, of course, was that it had to be as broken and squashed as was consistent with a passing on parade. The little shiny peak had to be cracked, and the red crown shapeless and faded. A new-looking kepi could only be worn without ridicule by some glorious veteran. The younger the soldier the more thought he gave to rendering his headgear disreputable. No youth ever colored a meerschaum more carefully than the eighteen-year-old French conscript discolored his cap.

Living Cheap in India.

India has suffered less from the high cost of living than most countries, because she is now withholding instead of, as in former years, exporting a large part of her grain. The export of foodstuffs is prohibited, so that in spite of the depletion of stocks there should soon be as much grain in the country as before the war. Less than 9,000 tons of wheat were allowed to be exported during the last financial year, whereas exports ordinarily amount to anything from 700,000 to 1,500,00 tons. Rice exports from India proper ordinarily amount to 500,000 to 600,000 tone, whereas this year only 49,916 tons have been exported up to date.

U. S. Not a Church-Going Nation.

Facts about the interest of the people of the U. S. in the church are interesting and enlightening. The Protestant church numbers 201 different denominations; it includes all but the Jewish and Roman Catholic congregations of America. In these 201 denominations it would seem that every American would find some shade of religious opinion to which he might attach himself. But of the 106 million of them, leaving out 25 million children under 10 years of age, only 26 million are members of Protestant churches, and only 44,788,00 0are members of any church at all—Protestant, Roman Catholic, or Jewish. Incidentally, there are 218,000 Protestant churches and 15,194 Jewish and Romanist churches in the U. S.

Pictures By Wireless.

Recently a young Dane, Th. Anderson, a watchmaker, invented a method by which he is able to transmit pictures by wire or wireless for any distance. Mr. Anderson asked the Danish telegraph department for permission to demonstrate the invention by using two of the government's wireless stations. His request was granted, and the picture of a young woman was transmitted from the wireless station at Bloavndshuk (on the west coast of Jutland) to the wireless station at Lingby, near Copenhagen. Mr. Anderson declares the transmission of the picture required the same time as the transmission of an ordinary message of one hundred words, and that it is the first picture transmitted by wireless.

Paradoxical Duckbill.

The Duckbill, or platypus, is one of the strangest and most paradoxical of all the animals of nature. It is sometimes called nature's joke. It has a bill and webbed feet like a duck and can swim and dive like a fish. The most unexpected trait of the animal is that it actually lays eggs. He makes long tunnels in the banks of streams in his native home in Australia. These are made barely large enough for his body to pass through; so that if he desires to return at any time he simply backs out, which he is enabled to do, since his fur is like that of the common mole, set in such a way that, no matter what direction he moves, his fur neither hinders him nor gets full of dirt. The duckbill is all that is left of a once large family.

Helps for the Housewife

BREAKFAST MANNERS.

Don't bury yourself in a newspaper at the breakfast table unless you breakfast above or with others who take their breakfast in the same unsociable manner.

Don't fail to say "Good morning" to those who are already at breakfast when you arrive. Never fail to say "Good morning" to your maid in your own home or to the waiter or waitress if you have frequented the hotel or restaurant where they are employed.

If you take oranges or grapefruit for breakfast be content with what you can get with a spoon and don't squeeze the last drop out by taking the skin up in the fingers.

If you have boiled eggs for breakfast remember that they should be eaten from the shell in the English fashion or broken in a cup, preferably an egg cup. Never break an egg on your plate or on a slice of bread. At a restaurant, if the waiter asks you whether he shall break your eggs for you, it is not actually bad form for you to permit him to do this for you. However, those who pride themselves on their strict table manners prefer to open their own eggs.

Breakfast is not a meal at which good form demands that we should all sit down together and await each other in rising. If you have duties that make it necessary for you to leave before the rest, all that is necessary to say as you rise is a simple "pardon me," addressed to the hostess or feminine head of the house.

There is no reason why you should eat more breakfast than you are accustomed to or wish to simply because it is provided. At a dinner one feels that courtesy demands that if we are in good health, we should eat some of the soup, and various courses presented, but there is no such obligation regarding the various courses of breakfast.

SPANISH RICE.

Three small onions, one cupful of rice. Fry onion and rice in one tablesponful of butter and lard, season with salt and pepper to taste. Add boiling water three times until rice is well done. Just before serving add four tablespoonfuls of tomato catsup.

CARROT MARMALADE.

One pound carrot, two lemons, three cups sugar, one-half teaspoon ginger. Wash and scrape carrots and put through the food chopper. Squeeze juice from lemons and put and through food chopper. Barely cover each with water and cook until tender. Combine and add sugar, lemon juice and ginger and cook a few minutes longer, but not long enough to give a strong taste.

TO BAKE A HAM.

If you have not a pan large enough to take the ham, cook it like this. The result is excellent: Soak the ham in cold water for twelve hours unless very salty and hard, when twenty-four hours soaking will be necessary. Trim and scrape off all rusty parts. Make a paste of flour and water and cover the ham completely with this about quarter of an inch thick. Put it in a baking tin in a moderate oven and bake. As regards time, the rule is to allow twenty-five minutes to the pound up to twelve pounds, and beyond that fifteen minutes to each pound. When cooked, remove the paste and skin and cover the ham with fine brown breadcrumbs. Serve hot or cold.

ASPARAGUS IN SEASON.

Choose fresh asparagus, wash, scrape off the white skin from the lower end and cut the stalks even. Put them into cold water for ten or fifteen minutes. Have ready a saucepan of boiling water; add two teaspoonfuls of salt. Tie the asparagus into bundles; put them into the boiling water and boil gently, with the lid off the pan, from twenty-five to thirty minutes, or until the soft parts are tender. It is best to use a pan with a drainer, on which the asparagus is placed and easily lifted out when cooked. Failing this, wrap the bundles in a piece of muslin to prevent the danger of breaking off the tius. Drain, untie the bundles and dish on a piece of toast. Send oiled margarine or the following dressing to table with them: Dissolve a saltspoonful of salt in two tablespoonfuls of vinegar; add one teaspoonful of French mustard, a pinch of pepper and two tablespoonfuls of olive oil. Mix all well together and serve in a sauce boat.

TAPIOCA FRUIT SALAD.

Three tablespoons minute tapioca, half pint boiling water and pineapple juice, pinch salt, half juice of lemon, two bananas, marshmallow or whipped cream, three-quarters cup sugar, one can pineapple (small), one egg white, one orange, nuts. Bring water and pineapple juice to boiling point. Add sugar.

AMERICAN CHOP SUEY.

Half package spaghetti, cooked; four small white onions, two teaspoons salt, two tablespoons butter, one pound Hamburg steak, one can tomato soup. Cut up onions, salt, and cook in butter until tender, but do not brown. To the onions add the steak and cook until partly done. Then mix meat and onions with spaghetti, and taste for proper seasoning. Over mixture pour one can tomato soup and mix. Bake in moderate oven half an hour. Eight generous servings.

FRUIT RICE PUDDING.

Two cups cooked rice, two eggs, half teaspoon grated orange or lemon peel, half cup sugar, two cups milk, one cup dried peaches or apricots, two tablespoons butter. To the steamed rice add sugar, eggs, slightly beaten, with grated peel or fruit that has been well soaked. Pour into a baking dish. Dot with bits of butter and bake in a moderate oven until custard-like and firm. Ten generous servings.

PLACE FOR BROOMS.

Never plan a house without arranging for a convenient broom closet, is the advice of one housewife who didn't. She planned clothes chutes and a winter coal box and a nice place for the ice box in summer, but when she moved into her house she found that there was no place for the brooms and carpet sweeper, the dusters and dust mops. There was no landing at the top of the cellar stairs, a place where many housewives keep these devices, and there seemed to be no corner or cranny in the kitchen where they could be hung.

The average flat or apartment has no closet especially planned for this purpose. If you are planning your own home remember that if you have only one set of brooms and dust mops it is a good plan to have them placed conveniently to the first floor and the upstairs floor or floors. One new house has a rather shallow closet on the landing of the stairway from the first to the second floor and in here the housewife who is just settling in this new house keeps all cleaning devices, including the newly acquired vacuum cleaner.

Of course you can have a board placed on the wall somewhere where you can have hooks from which to hand brooms and cleaning mops, but this does not take care of the carpet sweeper and various duster pails, etc. Perhaps the best thing to do if there simply is no closet at the furniture store. They set against the wall like a small wardrobe and of course may be moved with you whenever you change your residence. The carpenter may help you out and make a closet at a lower cost than this ready-made broom closet, but of course you would probably not be able to take this closet with you. Sometimes he can make a little three-cornered closet in the kitchen, where these things can be stowed, with a low shelf for pails and a place above for dusters and varous small brushes.

NUT BREAD.

Two cups graham flour, half teaspoon salt, half cup broken walnut meat, one teaspoon soda, one and a half cup sour milk, one and a half cup white flour, one tablespoon brown sugar, half cup raisins, two tablespoons molasses. Mix well flour, graham and white, salt, sugar, nuts, raisins. Add soda to sour milk and combine with molasses. Add liquid to dry ingredients. Beat well. Bake for forty-five minutes to one hour in a slow oven. One bread tin full.

BUTTON-HOLE STITCH MAKES FLAT FINISH.

Ends of bands on baby garments may be given a flat finish much easier to launder, by leaving the ends raw and finishing them with a button-hole stitch. The old method of folding in the ends often makes a clumsy finish.

HIGH COLLAR POPULAR.

One of the most striking details in fall styles appears to be the popularity of the high collar, which is used regardless of whether the sleeves are long or short.

FOR GUESTROOM DOOR.

A thoughtful touch in the furnishing and decorating of the guestroom is the addition of a knocker on the door. There are many quaint flowered ones designed, which are as dainty as they are practical.

BOX FOR OVERSHOES.

A handy place for overshoes is a box underneath the back doorstep. The boards from the step may be taken up, cleated and hinged, and a box to fit, placed beneath the step.

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF.

There is a big demand in Italy for Canadian agriculture machinery, according to the Canadian Trade Commissioner for Italy. A recent estimate of Italian requirements made by the ministry of agriculture includes 30,000 plows, 20,000 seeders, 9,000 mowers and 1,500 threshers.

The British capitalists who have recently been investigating conditions in the Columbia Valley have purchased 56,000 acres of land there for ranching purposes, and have taken an option on an additional 800 acres. The land will be heavily stocked with horses and cattle next spring.

Pulp resources in northeastern Manitoba wil constitute a large source of future supply, according to the inspector of Dominion forest reserves ports that a good quality of spruce is who recently made a survey. He refound which would make excellent pulp, but there is no outlet at the present time for the finished article.

DESCHANEL CAN'T FIND A HOUSE.

Paris—M. Deschanel, the resigned French president, hasn't a house. He moved from the presidential home to a hotel and he can't find a place to live now. The new president, Millerand, has two flats as well as a home in the country and the use of the Elysee, the French "White House."

ORGANDIE FLOWERS AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Organdie corsage bouquets are very much in vogue and make very dainty Christmas gifts. They are easily made from short lengths of organdie in all the shades.

Devon's honey harvest is stated to be the worst known for thirty years, owing to the wet July and August