The Quiet Observer

IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS.

When the United States, which has never had more than a one and a half per cent. of immigration to assimilate as compared with Canada's three and a half, finds the current more than she can stem, and decides to shut down altogether practically for a year, there may be material for reflection in the Canadian situation as well. Various proposals for restriction have been made at Washington. One is to limit the members entering in any one year to five per cent. of the number of any country's citizens already residing in the United States. If 5,000 nationals of any country lived in the United States then 250 only could follow them in the next year. A popular measure of limitation is one of education and means, so that only the best classes could enter. This frankly abondons the idea of the United States as the refuge of the destitute and oppressed. There are already more of destitute and oppressed in America then Uncle Sam can provide for. He has 1,000,000 now out of work, and he is 2,000,000 houses short of the demand. To introduce a further haven of unrighteousness among these in the shape of a mass of the European proletariat infected with Bolshevism is more than Uncle Sam can contemplate with satisfaction. The real difficulty, it is generally recognized is the great modern city to which the helpless and fundless immigrant clings with the reasonless hope of food and warmth and shelter. If he could be conducted to the land and established there the problem would be solved, but huge numbers of him are as helpless on a farm as he is anywhere. The only hope for this class is to be placed on a South Pacific isle where even cotton is unnecessary, and perennial palms and bananas and crystal springs are "open day and night." Whatever the native may do, and the degenerate native has no desire to do anything, the immigrant must work. Work must be his creed. As he is loyal to it he will succeed. He can even outdistance the native by strict attention to business. Canada, any more than any other part of America, has not ceased to be the land of hard work, eight-hour days to the contrary notwithstanding. Anyone who will work as hard, as diligently and intelligently in the old lands as he will be compelled to do here will find success as ready to be wooed in one places as another. Those who look for an easy life during the next generation are doomed to disappointment. The war has laid a burden upon us all that few fully understand, and it is an old principle that "every man shall bear his own burden," though this does not interfere with anyone else helping him if he can. Only those who are resolved to bear their own, can ever hope to be able to assist others, and there is justification in this for every national measure making for an equable distribution of the load to be borne.

THE BOOT ON THE OTHER LEG.

"Surely you realize that the ultimate object of the Independent Labor Party is the collective ownership of all the means of production, distribution and exchange," is the query addressed by one character to another in a serial story published in the Industrial Banner and intended to present the case of Labor in the form of fiction. "Yes," is the reply, "that is the main part of the program. All the other items are only palliation." This character in the story has turned over from "capitalism" to become a radical labor socialist, and the first thing he does is to call in the editors of the local newspapers and notify them of his change of heart. "Of course," he says, "you know that I have never dictated to you who you should support in the campaign, but seeing that the firms I have the controlling interest in supplies (sic) the majority of the advertising in your papers I thought that you would be interested to know that I was supporting Jimmie Davidson." Jimmie is the labor candidate and was possibly unaware of what his agent was doing in contravention of the election laws, not to speak of adopting on his own behalf the policy for which capital is always so roundly denounced by labor. The editors, however, all agreed to change their policy and to support Jimmie Davidson in the campaign, and no doubt in the sequel he was elected. This is an example of Labor fiction and we do not believe that it will gain admiration for its ethical standards either among labor men or the electorate generally. No intelligent editor will consent to be bull-dozed, and the policy is one all parties are trying to shun.

GERMANY AND LABOR.

Exchange values in currency do not always work out as they are expected to do, and the United States in holding its dollar at $1.20 or more simply raises the prices of its goods to prohibitive rates for those whose money is discounted. As a consequence buyers take their money to the market where it counts for most, and all the European nations and particularly Germany are deriving benefit from this automatic adjustment. Canada stands halfway between the United States and Britain losing as much in sending money to the United States as it gains in sending to Britain, and of course losing trade to Britain and gaining trade from the United States on the same basis. Germany is said to be doing better in trade than any other European nation, having settled down to thrift and industry as a necessity, and having as its chief handicap a scarcity of coal. This difficulty is one, however, which other nations have equally to face. Germany's raw materials are fairly abundant and German labor appears to be more tractable than elsewhere. Apart from the military party and the Kaiser and Prussia the German people always had a good deal of common sense and once rid of the Prussian incubers it would not be surprising if Germany as it survives in Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemburg, Baden and Thuringen made a more rapid recovery than any other part of Europe. The constitutions of Bavaria, Baden, Wurtemburg date from the years succeeding the Napoleonic campaign and that of Saxony from 1831. These countries had therefore a whole generation's start of Prussia in reformed politics, and it is only in Berlin and the Ruhr valley that the German workman seems inclined to turn Bolshevist. The Mexican Socialists will have nothing to do with the bourgeois socialists and the extremists are now lined up with the third international. The first international was founded by Marx and Engels and ended with the war of 1870. The second international was founded in 1889 and comprised the Labor and Socialist radicals in all nations. The third international is at war with all other political movements whether of labor or Capital, and they announce that where they cannot take legal action to overthrow the established system their members must work secretly and illegally. It is specially pledged against the "yellow international of the Trades Unions founded at Amsterdam." Instruction are given to weed out the personnel of the party organization "in order to clean the party systematically from all the petty bourgeois elements which 'nevitably creep into it." Moscow will have no half-hearted Bolshevism and the white-collared, the intelligent, the benevolent are not wanted among these Ishmaelitish lunatics. The more intelligent Germans perceive that to exchange militarism for this is to jump from the frying-pan into the fire, and they are determined to choose a safer place than either. If this stable element gains control in Germany there is some hope for Europe, but with the Bolshevists on the one hand and the Kaiser-hund on the other the elements that seek peace and industry have no easy road to travel.

THE BACKUS DEAL.

A good deal of opposition to the settlement entered into by the Government of the Kenora water power and the English River timber limits have been expressed, but it is difficult to see what better arrangements could have been made. The former Government had sold the Lake of the Woods pulp limit by tender to Mr. E. W. Backus with the condition that he would establish a pulp industry at Kenora. Then the war broke out and upset everything. Mr. Backus had intended developing the Lake of the Woods power, but the International Joint Commission decided to use the Norman dam as a regulator in controlling the Lake of the Woods waters and this interfered with his development. The Lake of the Woods limit proved on investigation to be inadequate to supplying the amount of material required to keep an extensive pulp mill going. The Government provided for an increased water power from the White Dog Rapids, on condition that the development he carried out at once and that the Government retain ample contract of the water power in the publisc interest. The English River pulp limit was put up for tender for three months and four tenders were received, one of $5,000 bonus, two of $25,000 each and one of $50,000. The last was from Mr. Backus and was accepted. The contents of the limit are stated officially to have been over-estimated by about 50 per cent. In addition to the bonus Mr. Backus must furnish $250,000 guarantee that the work will be done, and he will pay 80 cents a cord for all spruce, and 40 cents a cord for all other wood cut. This is expected to bring in a yearly revenue of from $150,000 to $250,000. Kenora will get a big industry, and among non-partisans the deal is egarded as a very fair one for the province. Public ownership supporters believe that the White Dog Rapids should have been developed by the Hydro Power Commission, and the power so generated distributed to Mr. Backus and the general public at cost. The interests of the Province of Manitoba were adjusted to the satisfaction of the prairie province premier.

Facts About Canada

Until a few years ago the great areas at the north of the Province of Ontario and Quebec were considered of little value. They were regarded as lands of terrible rocks and much timber of great value, but as far as places of habitation was concerned, they were considered valueless.

In Ontario the first change in view came when great silver mines were discovered in the north region and it was found that these areas, previously considered a wilderness, possessed a wonderful wealth. Then it was learned that there was a huge clay belt there that offered wonderful possibilities for the farmer. As a result some very fine farms have been developed in the northern Ontario districts within the last decade or two.

The same is true of the Province of Quebec. Each year is proving more completely the great importance of area that were thought worthless and almost impossible until a short time ago.

Annually the Governments are endeavoring now to encourage settlers to enter these districts; roads are being built and villages are springing up in the forests. In the summer the settlers till their farms and clear their quarter sections, while in the winter they secure employment in the woods in pulp cutting and so earn the ready cash that is essential for the development of their new farms.

A future of great importance is now being spoken of very optimistically for the Hinterland of Ontario and Quebec, with its vast natural wealth in farms, forest, mines and furs. No longer is that section of Canada considered a great wilderness of little value.

The Government of Prince Edward Island has an annual revenue of nearly half a million dollars, of which $370,000 comes from the Dominion subsidy.

Prince Edward Island spends annually more than one-third of its revenue on education, and almost one-fifth on hospitals, charities and public health.

The Bureau of Statistics estimates the total yield of wheat for the Dominion in 1919 at 197,361,000 bushels. At an average price of $2 per bushel, this means that Canada's wheat crop last year was worth about $400,000,000.

The total area sown to wheat in Canada last year was 19,141,337 acres, which makes the yield per acre 10.25 bushels. Of this, 18,462,444 acres were sown to spring wheat, the yield from this being 181,228,600 bushels, the fall wheat yielding 16,133,000. The estimates show that the total 1919 crop was 7,000,000 bushels in excess of that for the year 1918.

The Maritime Provinces produced 2,284,000 bushels of wheat last year, of which about 900,000 are credited to Prince Edward Island.

All of Quebec's wheat last year was of the spring variety, and amounted to 4,394,000 bushels, at a value of $8,800,000. The yield was about 2,000,000 below that of 1918, due to a much reduced acreage.

The Saskatchewan River forms one of the main drainage systems of Western Canada. The country drainhas an area of 155,000 square miles.

The greater part of the area drained by the Saskatchewan River is composed of open prairie country. The river depends largely upon the Rocky Mountains and their foothills for its supply of water.

THE MAELSTROM

By FRANK FROEST.

Late Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard.

CHAPTER II.

Menzies, of Scotland Yard.

Punctually at half-past six the little plated alarm clock exploded and Weir Menzies kicked off the blankets Punctually at seven o'clock he had breakfast. Punctually at halfpast seven he delved and weeded in the square patch of ground that was the envy and despair of Magersfontein Road, Tooting. Punctually at twenty past eight he left his semi-detached house and boarded a car for Westminster Bridge.

There were occasions when the routine was upset, but it will be observed that on the whole Weir Menzies was a creature of habit. He had all that respect for order and method that has made Upper Tooting what it is.

From the heavy gold watch-chain that spanned his ample wrist, to his rubicund face and heavy black moustache, he wore Tooting respectability all over him.

It was a cause of poignant regret to him that circumstances prevented him taking any part in the local government of the borough. Nevertheless, he belonged to the local Constitutional club, and was the highly esteemed people's warden at the Church of All Saints. The acute observer knowing all this might have judged him as a deserving wholesale ironmonger.

And the cute observer would have been wrong.

Punctually at half-past nine Weir Menzies would pass up a flight of narrow stone stairs at the back of New Scotland Yard into the chief inspector's room of the criminal investigation department. From his buttonhole he would take the choice blossom—gathered that day at Magersfontein Road, Tooting—place it carefully in a freshly filled vase, exchanged his well-bruished morning coat for a packet of alpaca, place paper protectors on his cuffs and settle down on his high stool—he preferred a high stool—to half an hour's correspondence.

Mr. Weir Menzies, church warden of Upper Tooting, was, in fact, Chief Detective Inspector Menzies, of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard. Not that he made any secret of it. There was no reason why he should. It is only on rare occasions that a detective needs to conceal his profession.

Although the residents of Magersfontein Road, Upper Tooting, knew that Mr. Weir Menzies was an admirable church warden, they had to take his reputation as a detective on trust. And being constant subscribers to circulating libraries, they knew him as an innocent fraud.

A man something over forty, with an increasing waist-line, and a ruddy face, was obviously against the rules of all the established authorities. It was only understandable because he was at Scotland Yard. Everyone knows that official detectives are heavy, dull, unimaginative fellows, always out of their depths, and continually receiving the good-natured assistance of amateurs, by whom they are held in tolerant contempt.

Magersfontein Road Upper Tooting, would have smiled broadly had anyone remarked that Chief Detective Inspector Menzies held an international reputation—that he was held one of the subtlest brains in the service; that he was a man who had time and again shown reckles courage and audacity in bringing off a coup; that he, in short, had individuality and a perfect knowledge of every resource at his disposal in carrying out any purpose to which he was assigned.

He looked a commonplace business man; he was a commonplace business man, with many of the traits of his class. He hated the unexpected, and protested that he loathed with a fierce abomination those cases in which he was engaged that meant a departure from the ordinary routine.

Yet there was no man more capable of dealing with the slippery intricacies of such cases than he. He had the faculty of adjusting himself to an emergency, of ruthlessly destroying superfluous red tape that in twenty-three years had carried him to within one rung of the top of the ladder.

It was shortly before midnight. He had returned from a remote suburb, where, with a corps of assistants, he had made a neat, entirely successful raid upon certain pick-pockets, who had been too well acquainted with the resident detectives to give them any chance.

It had been a triumph of organization and vigilance, and Menzies had gone back to headquarters to arrange that the histories of the birds he had caged should be ready before the police-court proceedings in the morning. He was struggling into his overcoat when the telephone bell rang. He picked up the receiver irritably.

"Hello," he said.

A musical buzz answered him, and Menzies allowed himself an expression that should be foreign to a church warden. Then far away and faint he caught a voice. "That Mr. Menzies."

"Yes," he answered, impatiently. "Speak up. Who is it? What do you want?"

A prolonged buzz reached him. He was conscious of someone speaking, but only intermittently could he hear what was said.

"Pretty don-up—bpz-z—come at once—bpz-z—at thirty-four—buz—Gardens, Kensington—buz-z."

"Number, please?" said a new and distinct voice.

"Blast," said Menzies, simply, and put down the telephone. This addiction to forcible language on occasions of annoyance was a constant regret to him in his own reflective moments.

Jimmy Hallett's first impression on awakening had been that someone was swinging a sledge-hammer irregularly on to his temple. He lay still for a little, wondering why it should be. By and by he sat up and tried to piece together the events of the evening. His head ached intolerably, and he found consecutive thought painful.

It was totally dark, and he could make out nothing of where he was. Then the whole sequence of events flashed across his mind and he staggered rather uncertainly to his feet, and steadying himself against the wall, struck a match.

The feeble flicker showed him a blue-papered apartment, furnished as a dining-room. He had been lying just inside the door, and now he tried the door. It refused to answer to his tug, and he realized how weak he was as he all but toppled backwards. The match went out and he struck another.

Then it was that he noticed an electric switch, and pulled it over. A rush of light flooded the room, and he tottered to one of the Jacobean arm-chairs at the head of the table. The sledge-hammer was still swinging at his temples, and things swayed dizzily to and fro before his eyes. He made a resolute effort to pull himself together. His eyes roved over the room, and he noticed a pedestal telephone on a small table in the corner farthest from him.

"What was the name of the chap Pinkerton gave me an introduction to," he muttered, and drawing a bundle of papers from his breast pocket, sorted them till the envelope he needlay at the top.

WEIR MENZIES

Chief Detective Inspector

New Scotland Yard, S. W.

Cautiously the man began to move across the hearth-rug towards the telephone. Four shambling steps he took, and then something that had been hidden by the table tripped him and he sprawled on all fours. He gave a little gasp of horror, and steadying himself on his knees, held his hands a foot in front of his face, gazing at them stupidly. They were wet—wet with blood, and the thing that had tripped him was the body of a man.

It was one thing to be brought in association at second hand, so to speak, with a crime, as are doctors, journalists and detectives, but quite another to be so closely identified with it as to be an actor in the drama.

Hallett had seen violence, and even death in his time, but never had cold horror to thrilled him as it did now. In ordinary conditions, with nerves previously unshaken, he would have been little more moved than a spectator at a play—perhaps even less so, for real life tragedies are rarely well staged managed.

Circumstances, however, had conspired to bring home to him the last touch of terror. The sudden assault, the locked room, and now the dead man, had strung his nerves to a fine edge. He could have shrieked aloud.

He wiped his hands on his handkerchief, but the stain still remained. Carefully he stepped over the body and made his way to the telephone. His imagination was beginning to work, and he recalled cases where perfectly innocent men had been the victims of circumstantial evidence that had convicted them of hideous crimes.

The story of the checks thrust upon him in the fog seemed to him ridiculously unconvincing. Had his mind been less overwrought, had he been able to take a calmer survey of the matter, he would probably never have given his own position a thought. He fingered the telephone book clumsily and his mind reverted to the coincidence that he should hold a letter of introduction to one of the senior detectives of Scotland Yard.

"Queer that it should come in so handy," he grinned feebly, and then weakness overcame him.

(To be continued).

Bradstreet's Trade Review

TORONTO reports to Bradstreet's say that business at wholesale houses is still quiet although it is expected by many that when the returns from travellers commence to come in a good improvement will be shown. There is a strong feeling in numerous quarters that the bottom has been reached and that any change in conditions will be in the way of greater activity. The luxury tax has been lifted and with it has gone a great deal of the feeling that the public had that there was a ban placed on their purchasing. There is no doubt that the effect of the removal of the tax had a most beneficial effect on the volume of retail trade done during the last few days before Christmas. Had it come just a little bit earlier, the benefits would have been much more marked. Retail trade at of activity prevailing.
of activity prevailing.

Manufacturers of several lines of textiles are not pushing their goods for sale, as it is felt that the business will come without any effort being made to get it later on. Industry generally is irregular with attempts being made at readjustment of wages. There is a good deal of unemployment in the city.

HAMILTON reports to Bradstreet's say that following the holidays there is just a slight lull as is to be expected and a number of merchants are taking stock or replenishing their supplies with the object of facilitating stock staking. There is, however, a much better feeling apparent in trade as it is felt by a good many that the worst developments are now cut and that improvement may be looked for from this time on. Some say that they look for only a moderate movement during the current months but that very shortly there will be great activity in the way of placing orders. There is no doubt that the public in general is short of a great many articles and now that the luxury tax is gone there will not be the same difficulty in making sales as existed formerly. At the moment wholesale and retail trade is fair. Manufacturers are only moderately active, difficulty being experienced in marketing goods. Collections are inclined to be slow and require pushing more than was the case a year ago. Supplies of new laid eggs are increasing and if the mild weather continues an easing of prices may result. There is little change in conditions in the produce markets generally. Cattle prices are steady while hogs are tending a little lower.

LIVE STOCK REPORTS

Toronto (Union Stock Yards): Receipts of sales stock amounted to 1,427 cattle, 112 calves, 1,880 hogs and 622 sheep, and in addition, 199 cattle and 152 hogs were received on through billing. Even with the light receipts of cattle the market for the week was very draggy. On Monday with about six hundred head on sale prices for all grades dropped 25 cents to 50 cents per hundred. These low prices prevailed for the week with exceptions in the case of a few animals of very choice quality. The general quality of the cattle offered was only fair. Choice butcher steers sold generally from $10 to $11, and a few small lots at little higher. Good to medium grades moved from $8.50 to $9.50 and common light steers as low as $4.50. There was a fair demand for choice females, prices realized being as high and in some cases higher than for the same grade of steers. Choice butcher cows sold from $8 to $9, medium grades from $6 to $7, and canners and cutters from $3.50 to $5. Trading in milch cows and springers was very quiet. The feeder trade was very limited. Under a light run of calves, the major part of which was of very good quality, choice veal advanced 50 cents per hundred, closing at $16.50 for tops. Heavy rough calves are getting fewer in number, and we do not look for very many more of these for some time. The demand for choice veal is a little stronger on account of the firmer Buffalo market.

With 600 lambs on hand on Monday, the salesmen were asking $13 for best lambs, but the buyers did not take a single lamb. On Tuesday and Wednesday there was fair activity and lamb prices rose about 50 cents above the previous week's close, the market closing with a little firmer tone. The sheep receipts have consisted mostly of culls and heavies which have been hard to dispose of at very low prices.

The run of hogs for the week was very light and the demand continued strong. Prices rose a little higher, fed and watered selects selling generally, at $16.75 at the close of the week on a firm market.

Sand of different colors can be fed through a new pencil for children to enable them to draw outline pictures.