CURRENT COMMENT

GERMANS IN SOUTH AMERICA

A strange development resulting from the war is taking place in South America. The Argentine withdrew from the League of Nations and it is now very clear what was behind this move and why. One of the pet schemes of William Hohenzollern was to Colonize South America with his Prussians and turn the southern continent into a Teutonic counterweight to the English-speaking north. The Monroe doctrine stood in the way, but the Monroe doctrine could be circumvented by the method of immigration, combined with the German theory that whatever the nationalization oath or compact a German citizen remains always a German citizen. What the Argentine Republic with its large supply of German-born citizens wants is deducible from the latest squabble over the purchase of German shipping in contravention of the terms of the Versailles treaty. Another straw indicating the direction of the wind in South America is the concessions made to the Krupp company by Chile. Vast waterpowers with 346,000 acres of the richest timberlands are covered by this concession which is located round the base of Mount Calbuco and on the borders of the river Petrohue. The advent of the Krupps in South America with the co-operation of the Teutonic settlers there are enough to stimulate the defenders of the Monroe doctrine, and it is stated that the Harding administration will make the extension of United States interest and influence in that region one of its very first considerations.

A PESSIMISTIC HYDRO CRITIC

Mr. Arthur Hawkes, who has been in various journalistic adventures, and undertaken numerous political expeditions, is now posing as the saviour of Ontario from the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario and Sir Adam Beck. He wants to preserve the public, he says, from "theories and promises which past experience and present truth prove to be extravagantly deceptive." Mr. Hawkes after much unsuccessful experience of public life, has become pessimistic. He supported the Borden campaign against reciprocity and was rewarded by a Commissionship which resulted in his report on immigration. For some reason or other this was pigeon-holed, and Mr. Hawkes changed his allegiance. Seized with hostility for Sir Adam Beck and the Hydro system he has been one of the chief props of the Sutherland Commission. If Mr. Hawkes' judgment were as good as his intentions he would not be so constantly on the wrong side of the causes he is interested in. No doubt he thinks the Chippewa Canal is a gigantic failure. He says its shadow "already falls upon the land." He was a long time with the Canadian Northern Railway and may have fallen into the habit of expecting fallible estimates. The Hydro management is in a different class, however. It is not out to exploit the country or to do anything but serve the public. Having the one clear idea of serving the public the greatest pains are taken not to do the public disservice, or in other words to make mistakes. With his dark suspicions of graft, and the pessimism engendered by long contemplation of the seamier side of political life, Mr. Hawkes cannot but think that the Hydro Commission is out to plunder the public, forgetting that the Commission belongs to the public, is organized by the public, is supported by the public, and that all its acts and works are wide open to the public at all times.

THE DEADLY GRADE CROSSING

The ghastly railway smash at Porter, Indiana, when two trains tried to pass over the same spot on a railway crossing at the same time should surely do something towards waking up the country to the necessity for doing away with level crossings. It is unlikely that this generation will see the elimination of ordinary grade crossings, but undoubtedly where two railway lines cross each other on the same grade there ought to be separation. The question of expense would be slight compared with the cost of such accidents as this; and they recur not infrequently. They are not perhaps all in the same place, and the same people may only have one experience, but one is sufficient. To take a chance of this kind appears to be more the weakness of the railroad corporation than of any other. It is true that a long time sometimes elapses, but sooner or later there arrives the inevitable blunder and tragedy. The co-operation of the railways and the public have been a vital feature of railway management. Without it there could have been no railway travel and no railroading. In pioneer times there was sufficient excuse for the grade crossings, but as the country is settled up, and more particularly on main lines such as the scene of this latest wreck, there should be co-operation on the part of both the public and the railways gradually to put such hazards beyond possibility.

SNOW, LIVE STOCK AND FARM HELP

A snowfall arter two months of winter passing without any is certainly a novelty for Ontario, but was welcome none the less, both as a covering for winter wheat and clover, and as a guarantee of moisture when the spring growth begins. The value of snow as a top-dressing is well known, and some farmers in the absence of the usual white blanket have top-dressed lightly with manure. The snow did not last long, the high sun and rising temperature giving promise of an early and unusual season. A good deal of perplexity is felt over the live stock situation. The fact that the United States is talking hostile tariff and that Britain remains obdurate in the matter of the cattle embargo, does not dispose the cattle breeder to a sanguine view of the situation. Prices are steadily falling for the farmer but the consumer finds no relief and he is reducing his meat consumption. In some quarters consumers are arranging to buy beef direct and combine to do their own butchery, and buying in quarter lots is popular in good cold "keeping" weather. The whole problem of butchers' meat will have to be reconsidered in the light of hygienic as well as economic and agricultural science. The dairy cow may yet prove to be the more profitable animal. A movement for co-operative dairies such as has made Ireland so prosperous, would probably do more for the farmers than any other system. This is being steadily recognized by the fruit interests and the principle is widely applicable. It is reported from Middlesex that farmers are calling for married help and offering from $450 to $525 a year with house, fuel and garden. This should attract many immigrants who would like to learn the ways of the country for a few years before going into farming on their own account. It should be advantageous for both parties and be of great benefit to the state in training strangers for citizenship.

GOODWILL OF UNITED STATES FOR BRITAIN

Addresses by such men as John Appleton Stewart, honored some years ago with a complimentary degree by the University of Toronto, and chairman of the board of governors of the Sulgrave Institute which is devoted to furthering amicable relations among the English-speaking peoples, should be widely known about. At an Empire Club meeting he spoke on "Twentieth Century Munroe Doctrine," and his reminder of its origin was timely and interesting. It is usual to attribute the Monroe doctrine to President Monroe, but it really originated in the mind of George Canning in 1798 when he sounded the United States on the subject of South America. President Adams was reluctant, not believing that the republic should have any agreement with any other nation. In 1802 Thomas Jefferson recognized the need of a united American and British people. George Canning never gave up his idea and a second and and again a third time pressed it, proposing a joint announcement warning Spain that her domination of South America was over. The answer to this was the Holy Alliance of France, Austria, Russia and Prussia based on the doctrine of the divine rights of kings. One of the brightest pages of English history, thought Dr. Stewart, was the resolve to stand by the United States in Repudiation of this doctrine and in defence of the republics of South America. President Munroe did not join Great Britain in promulgating such doctrine, but made his own proclamation in December, 1823. The challenge of Germany in 1914 brought Britain and the United States once more together for the sake of goodwill on earth. The United States, he declared, "was going to start on this goodwill matter at high noon on March 4th, next, when Warren Gamaliel Harding will on a Masonic Bible take the oath of office as president of the United States." Harding had been criticised for writing a letter expressng good fellowship for Britain because, it was said, other nations would immediately begin to plot against. Friendship he thought was the finest thing in the world and its cultivation could do no harm. They must not think anything of the Hearst utterances and other incidents in the United States such as the tearing down of the Union Jack from the Union Club. They had a joke about that in New York. How far, it was asked was the club from the Cathedral. Just a stone's throw, was the answer, every time a bitter thing was noticed or replied to, it only played into the hands of those who wished to make trouble. They were pleased when they attracted attention. "No matter what you may read," he asserted, "in the newspapers of the United States or what you may hear said by citizens of the United States, it is a certainty that the United States is a nation filled with goodwill towards Canada and that America and the British Empire will exist in association for the purpose of goodwill, no matter what some people plot otherwise." That the English-speaking nations should cultivate such friendliness and good feeling unfettered by any ties but those of common ideals and desires for universal human welfare, is the hope of the peace of the world.

The practice of judicious economy is one to success. Economy, like intelligent and uniform work, is constructive—and no one can hope to enjoy real independence who does not keep his expenditures well within the limits of his income.

The reckless spending of money quickly becomes a habit, and those who allow themselves to be enslaved by extravagance are burdened under the triple load of past, present and future obligations without sufficient funds to meet them.

There is just pride and pleasure in knowing that there is going to be a surplus left when the weekly bills are paid—much greater pleasure than the temporary enjoyment of things we cannot afford.

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A MATHEMATICAL TRICK

Try This to Find Out a Person's Age and Birthday.

Request anyone in the room to write down the number of the month in which he was born. Next ask him to multiply this by 2, add 5, and again multiply by 50. Then add his present age and substract by 365.

You then announce that if he will favour you with the result of his little calculation, you will have pleasure in telling him his age and also the name of his birth month.

Add 115 to the total, and the first two figures will give you the number of the month, and the last two will give you his age. Suppose, for example, the person's age is 17, and November the month in which he was born.

He writes down the number of the month, 11, then multiplies this by two making 22. He next adds five, making 27. This he multiplies by 50, making 1,350; he then adds his age, 17, making 1,367, and finally, substracts 3651, leaving 1,002.

This is the total given you, and to it you add 115, giving a result of 1,117. You are now able to announce that the person was born in November and that his age is 17.

Whenever three figures appear in the answer, only the first figure refers to the month. Suppose the number given you should be minus 6, and you add 115, making 103, the month would be January and the age 9.

In 1784 the territory now known as New Brunswick was separated from Nova Scotia and erected into a province, under its present name. The first Legislature of New Brunswick met on January 3rd, 1786.

TOPICS OF THE DAY AS THEY ARE DISCUSSED BY THE EDITORS OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS

Various reasons are advanced as to why the U. S. has made Washington's birthday a perpetual one, but the most plausable is that it is because he was the first * citizen of the U. S. A. who never told a lie.

*And last.—Toronto Star.

An English investigator has discovered that prehistoric man was an artist. No doubt, prehistoric woman also used to paint.—Montreal Star.

Chinese "medicine" shipped to San Francisco has been found to be 50 per cent. alcohol. For ways that are dark, the heathen Chinese is about up to the standard of the rest of this boot-legging world.—Regina Post.

If they keep on raising her pay, the schoolma'am will soon be getting almost as much money as the cook.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Motorist who just missed a policeman was fined $10. Some of those motorists are altogether too careless.—Toronto Telegram.

That German actor who died while playing the ghost in "Hamlet" seems to have taken the part too seriously.—Montreal Star.

The hog business is said to have been disastrous last year. It is not to be implied that this applies solely to the profiteering business.—Lethbridge Herald.

Henry Ford can do most anything but it is doubtful if he can invent a flivver that will give milk.—Brockville Recorder Times.

Women't hats in the spring are to be large and drooping, it is announced. Symbolic of the bills and the spirits of those who pay them.—Regina Post.

If you have ever had the experience of paying for a dead horse, you know approximately how Germany feels about paying for a lost war.—Windsor Border Cities Star.

There is reason for the existence of everything except a skunk and the man who thinks he is a hit with the ladies.—Kingston Whig.

Lord Haldane says a great store of talent is buried in democracy. The same can be found out by listening to the conversation of any barber.—Montreal Star.

A Boston laundress was found to have possessed $32,000. The general extravagance of the times is blamed for the depletion of her savings.—Portage La Prairie Graphic.

In the words we used as school boys, Germany refuses to put up or shut up.—Calgary Herald.

There doesn't seem much sense in talking Communism in a world where you have to chain the telephone books to keep them from being stolen.—Winnipeg Free Press.

"Baboons," says a scientific item, "can tell by instinct when they are near water." But who wants to be a baboon?—Windsor Border Cities Star.

A St. Mary's citizen being asked why he didn't run for Councillor, said he didn't know whether his great-grandfather was a chicken thief or not and he did not wish to find out.—Lindsay-Watchman Warden.

As we understand the reformers, the two great dangers of the present day are concealed arms and revealed legs.—Kingston Whig.

When they are dressed for market, you can't tell a chicken from an old hen. This is a poultry item, not a fashion note.—Cobalt Nugget.

Some Americans who plan to visit Montreal are not actuated so much by thirst for travel as just plain thirst.—Montreal Herald.

The Voliva Zionists have barred spats from their church. But who ever heard of a church that did not have spats?—London Advertiser.

A Kansas paper has an article on the "Kinship of Misery," but the young groom living with his parents-in-law would better understand one on the "Misery of Kinship."—Calgary Herald.

FATE'S GRIM JESTS

Performers Meet Death Though Able to do Some "Stunts" in Life.

The strange tricks Fate plays with the lives of men is illustrated by the recent case of a diver who met his death through drowning in an ordinary bath. The incident calls to mind the case of a sword-swallower who used to perform outside public-houses, thrusting a formidable blade several feet long down his throat as often as his admiring audience required him to do so. Yet this redoubtable steel-eater died from suffocation as a result of swallowing a small fish-bone. There is an account of a Spanish bull-fighter who had earned considerale repute in one quarter of Spain only to receive a fatal kick from a young steer on the farm of one of his friends. A similarly unlucky end was that of a circus performer whose particular feat was to plunge into a pond, chained and manacled, and liberate himself before appearing on the surface. While taking a bath one evening this performer took a dive into a river and, becoming entangled in some weeds, lost his life.

Russian railway stations are usually about two miles from the town they serve—this as a precautiion against fire caused by sparks from the locomotives.

The chief city of Nova Scotia was named Halifax, in honor of George Montague, Earl of Halifax, under whose immediate auspices the settlement was undertaken. The British Parliament voted £40,000 as first aid to the enterprise.

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ISSUE NO. 12, 1921

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GRAMOPHONE MANUFACTURER wants agents. Sample gramophone and records at factory price. Catalogue free. Voice-O-Phone Co., 1 Adelaide Street East, Toronto. 12

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR an energetic man to be independent and free from the worry of unemployment, representing a strong Health and Accident Company. Liberal policies, good commissions and opportunity for advancement to posion of District Manager. A. F. Stolz, Manager, Merchantc Casualty Company, Royal Bank Bldg., Toronto. 6-22

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EGGS FOR HATCHING—BRONZE Turkeys, Embden, African and Toulouse geese, Pekin and Indian Runner ducks. White and Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, and Silver Campines. Write for catalogue. J. C. Rutherford, Albion, Ont. 13

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