Of Interest to Motorists

CAREFUL CHECK IS ALL-WINTER NEED OF AUTO.

A problem of the human being is to adjust himself to his environment. During the winter months those who own automobiles have a few extra details included in the adjustment problem. To get the best results out of motoring during the frigid term there are a few items to consider. Having adapted the car to the changed conditions, it performs with an efficiency approximating that of warm climates. The fact that motoring is increasingly becoming an all-year-round affair is fair proof.

It often happens that the motorist will neglect the details of an adjustment to cooler weather, and along in November find himself in some sort of trouble. Then he braces up and doesn't get negligent again until along in March. Or it sometimes happens that he is very careful in the early fall and gets less cautious in the later days of winter. Some may think that spring is so near that precaution can lessen. Whatever may be the reason, it is found that many operators of cars benefit by a second check up on cold weather adjustment. There are a few matters that can well be attended to now.

A piece of equipment that adds immeasurably to the safety of winter driving is the windshield cleaner. Dimming of the motorist's vision through snow, sleet or rain on the windshield is dangerous both to driver and pedestrian. An automatic cleaning device, requiring no attention from the driver, is preferable.

PERFECT BRAKES NEEDED.

Perfectly functioning brakes are a requisite to safe driving in any season of the year, but this is especially true during the winter months when the brakes are necessarily subjected to unusual demands. The wise driver will test them every day when taking the car from the garage and will make any needed adjustments before the car is used.

Safe driving when the weather brings snow or ice demands properly fitting chains on both rear wheels. In this connection it should be noted that one chain is worse than none at all.

The time of greatest danger from skidding is just after the first precipitation, before the grease which is usually present on roads has been washed away. Tires which have been worn treadless increase the possibility of skidding, as this is practically certain to occur with worn tires if the brakes are suddenly applied.

Extra precaution as to the condition of headlights, taillights, steering gear, tires and horn during the winter season is desirable in the interests of safety. The best plan is to have the car thoroughly overhauled at a reliable service station before the onset of inclement weather. When this is not done March is a good time for checking up on these details. In most cases the motorist will be amply repaid for the outlay thus incurred.

WATCH DISTANCE CLOSELY.

When icy pavements invite skidding, especially when a quick stop is made, it is imperative to watch one's distance closely. Where city traffic is comparatively light and a speed of eighteen to twenty miles an hour is the rule, it is a safe idea to allow fifty feet between vehicles. Under congested conditions, of course, this is not possible. The motorist should keep in mind the fact that unfavorable weather conditions increase tremendously the importance of traffic signals, and should act accordingly.

Following car rails is especially foolhardy in wet weather, as the brakes frequently fail to function when a sudden stop is necessary. Furthermore, skidding is very likely to accompany the forcing of the car out of the wet tracks. The best course to follow if caught in this predicament is to bring the car to a gradual stop by shutting off the power and applying the brakes slowly.

All gasoline engines give off carbon monoxide gas. This compound is fatal when present in the proportion of 15 parts to 10,000 parts of air. To start a motor in a closed garage is thus inviting death. This danger must be kept constantly in mind during the cold season when garages are made as airtight as possible. In connection with the use of closed cars this factor must also be considered, as a defective exhaust may permit the escape of this gas in sufficient quantities to endanger the lives of the occupants.

BRITISH PRESTIGE

London Spectator: It is perhaps not waste of time to inform those foreigners who have had no means of keeping in touch with British thought that the old British Imperialism which was synonymous with taking for the sake of taking and painting the map red is as dead as the dodo. The tendency nowadays is rather to repudiate all responsibility which is expensive or troublesome. . . . Shanghai is a great and rich city which was built on an empty marsh by British money and enterprise. It is an elementary duty to protect the British and other foreign residents in that crowded and highly civilized place. If Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, or some other Labor leader, were Prime Minister, he would not take the risk of having it said, if there were a massacre in Shanghai, that he had not taken every precaution to avert the disaster.

An Aviator Took Her Up.

"She was always a high flyer. Whom did she get to marry her?"

"Oh, an aviator took her up."

Another Sort of Case.

"I am not expecting any package," said the lady of the house.

"This is the number," persisted the driver, looking at his book again. "Name's Higgins, ain't it?"

"Yes."

"No. 74?"

"That's our number."

"Then it's for you."

"I think not. It must be a case of mistaken identity."

"No, mum. It's a case of ginger-beer."

Now She Knows.

A young officer was showing his elderly aunt round the camp, when suddenly a bugle blared out.

"What's that for?" she asked, apprehensively.

"Oh, that's tattoo," said her nephew, reassuringly.

"Oh, is it really?" she said. "How interesting! I've often seen it on soldiers' arms, but I didn't know they had a special time for doing it."

Why are the buttons on a man's coat always on the right and those on a woman's always on the left? Or hadn't you noticed that they are?

Town v. Countryside.

By C. W. Peterson.

The evidence of the apparent attractions of urban as compared with rural life lies in the final result of the century long race the world over between town and countryside as rival claimants for popularity. Decade after decade the city has won out. We all know the reason. But perhaps this movement is essential to national preservation. The infusion of the vigorous blood of God's open country arrests human decay in the crowded centres of population. The cities obtain from the farms not only their food and the raw materials for half of their industries, but the human material itself, and were this movement from country to city to cease, in four generations the cities would perish. More than two thirds of the inhabitants of our cities were born on the farm, or are the children of farm-born folk. The remaining one-third almost invariably traces to the farm in two more generations. They have learned in older civilizations, that the land is the "healing and the saving" of the nation. That, as a matter of present commercial self-interest, and for the protection of generations to come, organized society can well afford to make great sacrifices to foster and encourage its agriculture. We, in Canada, have as yet almost everything to learn on that subject.

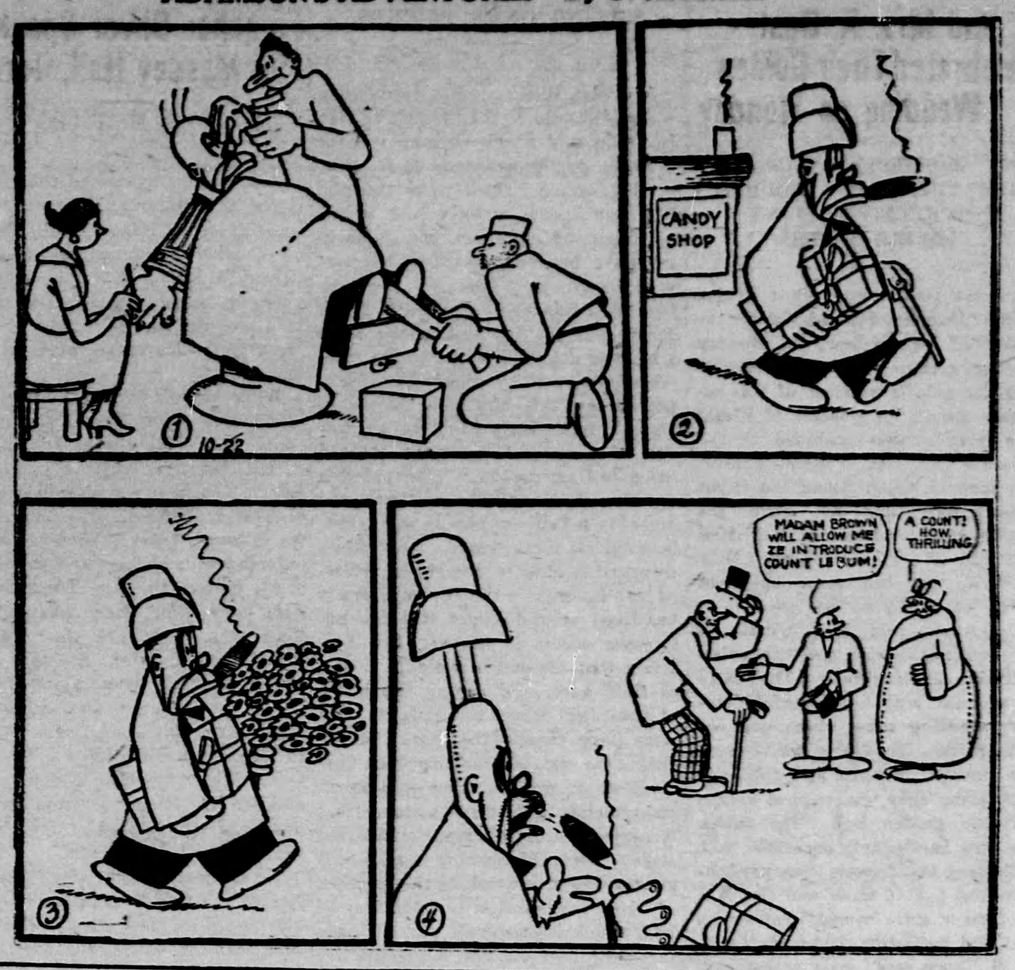
The late Luther Burbank, comparing our densely populated cities with the badly tended garden, says that the crowding of our cities is like the crowding of a neglected garden, and there is where spindling, weak, attenuated growths occur, and where the average of strength, bodily and mental, is lowered by the struggle and the pressing in of a multitude of weeds. The growth of cities is unhealthful for a nation, but there now seems to be a tendency to spread out into suburbs and outlying districts that may solve a problem that has caused disaster in past history. Our task is to go into that neglected garden, and by pruning, weeding, opening up breathing spaces such as parks and playgrounds, and giving the human plants such environmental advantages as education and training, enable them to meet the competition of the crowd an dreach a fuller stature, mentally and physically. Happily our country population stands in no need of the care which is essential to the well-being of the more tender urban plants. The country has its compensations. Canada's policy should centre around the building up of her enormous, undeveloped rural area. This course would ensure a sound foundaion for national greatness.

Where Charity Begins.

"We are going to sweep the country," declared the active club woman on her return from an enthusiastic political meeting.

"But, dear," said her husband, "wouldn't it be wiser to begin at home?"

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.



The English Cottage.

O sweet small house in the valley
woodland planted,
Native as acorn cupped, thatched gray
as mouse,
Snowdrop and robin haunted—
There is none like you, little English
house!

Old as the oak you are, in oak dark
timbered,
Old and how friendly with years your
firelit beams.
O well, O well remembered
Homestead of sailors' and of exiles'
dreams!

To you in the spring bright swallows
first come flying,
Rosy and azure-winged thro' the April
rain,
With low crooning and crying,
Under your silvered brows to nest
again.

In your honey'd garden of June, what
bat-winged fancies
Flit in the twilight dim where fragrance dwells
With dark red peonies, pansies,
And nodding phlox and Canterbury
bells.

Let leaves in the high wind whirl by
your door and dormer,
Red apple dropped long since, and fallen the flowers;
Still frised doves low murmur
And jasmine stars your walls in darkest hours.

O sweet small house! I would find you
yet, enchanted,
Far in the wooded hills of England's
heart,
'Twixt road and river planted,
And builded strong by one who loved
his art.

—Hamish Maclaren.

Upbuilding begins with "U".

Democracy.

The word democracy has been a rallying cry throughout the ages from the day of Pericles to that of the Chartists, a cry with a great tradition that one would not treat lightly. Where the borders of freedom have been most enlarged, the cry for freedom and justice has been most insistent. But even with the establishment of political democracy, freedom and justice have often seemed far off in the modern prevalence of squalor and luxury, great inequalities of wealth and opportunity. — London Quarterly Review.

Drunk With Success.

"I'm-hic!-drunk with success."

"You're just drunk."

"Not so. I had great success-hic! in getting something to get drunk on."

"The day may come when we shall be able neither to walk nor write," said Dean Inge, in a recent lecture. "We shall use the motor-car for the first and the typewriter for the second."

Homesick Tree.

A tree gets homesick when you move
it.
That is a fact, and I can prove it.
I watched one all last year, and know
The struggle which it made to grow,
I saw its last expiring breath;
That maple grieved itself to death.

The nursery man had guaranteed it.
I have the contract. You may read it.
A tree is easy to transplant
Unless you've chosen one you can't.
And this one which he brought to me
Was such a sentimental tree.

Despite the tender care I gave it
I knew that I should never save it.
I fancied I could hear it sigh,
Heedless of summer sun and sky,
And I have waked, 'tis truth I write,
To hear it sobbing through the night.

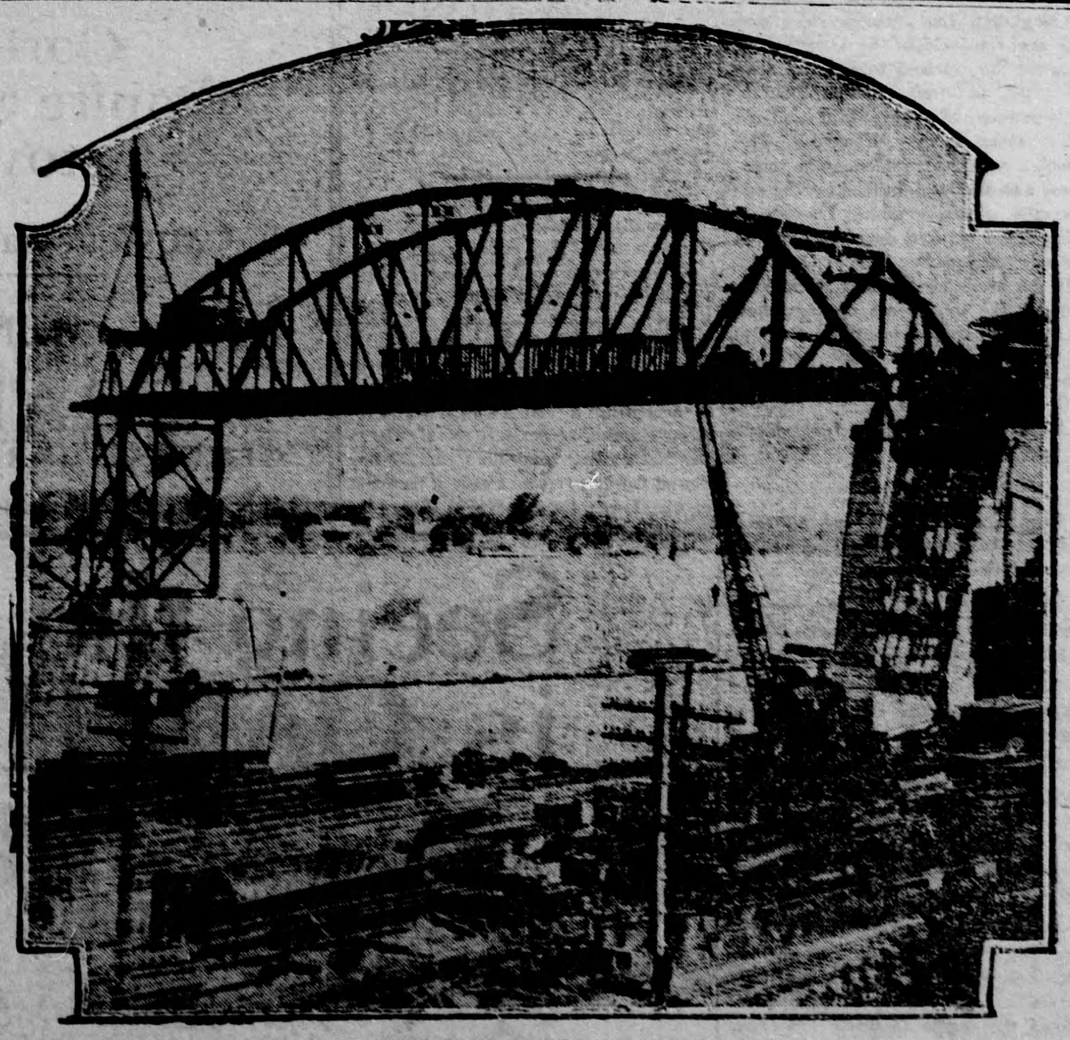
And then at last that tree departed,
Withered and gaunt and broken-hearted,
But were I snatched from all I've
known,
Loved and learned to call my own
To live my life elsewhere, so I
Should languish, wither, sicken, die.

—Edgar A. Guest.

Three British Envoys Meet in Washington.

With the arrival of Vincent Massey, the new Canadian Minister to the United States, three permanent envoys of the British Commonwealth met in Washington for the first time in history.

Sir Esme Howard, the British Ambassador, and Prof. Timothy Smiddy, Minister of the Irish Free State, greeted Mr. Massey at the station upon his arrival from Ottawa. Staffs of both the British Embassy and the Free State Legation comprised the welcoming delegation.



NIAGARA'S BRIDGE OF PEACE

An excellent view of the mighty bridge of steel that is being flung across the Niagara from Ontario to Buffalo, New York state, to commemorate a century of peace and good will between the two countries.

Lenin's Dream.

Wickham Steed in the London Review of Reviews: A main purpose of Soviet policy is to destroy the chief "stronghold of capitalism" which they believe to be situated in Great Britain. This purpose explains, in part, their intrigues in China. The other part of the explanation may well lie in their desire to organize "the East" against "the West" so as to bring on the universal revolution of which Lenin dreamed. . . We, as a people, cannot afford to ignore what is being done to hurt us and the type of civilization for which we stand.

Tempering Justice With Mercy.

The distinguished British judge, Sir Henry Hawkins, later Lord Brampton, was noted rather for severity than gentleness. But on one occasion, and that a difficult one, he managed very neatly to secure mercy for a prisoner, whom it seemed impossible to rescue from punishment.

The man, already suffering imprisonment for some earlier offence, had tamed a mouse which visited his cell, and made a pet of it. A brutal warder, entering while he was playing with his little friend, deliberately stepped upon the little creature and killed it. Frantic with grief and at the cruel outrage, the prisoner caught up his dinner knife, and dashed at the warden, who only just escaped, the knife stabbing the door as it closed behind him.

Sir Henry Hawkins, as judge, wanted to get the unhappy man off: but the attempt at murder was obvious, and the law equally clear. Nevertheless, he was not nonplused. In his charge to the jury he said:

"If a man tries to kill another in a way which is absurd, it becomes a foolish rather than a criminal act. If, for example, a man in London discharged a pistol to hurt a man in Edinburgh, we could only laugh at such an offence. So also when a man stabs an iron-plated door while another man is at the other side of it, we cannot take it seriously."

The jury were only too glad to follow such a lead, and promptly brought in a verdict of "Not guilty." Doubtless the judge's legal— or illegal quibble—was bad law; but it made possible a mercy more just than a sentence more legally correct would have been.

The Bee's Dance.

A hive bee, finding flowers with abundant nectar, takes a full load and flies straight home. Very shortly there are more bees on the flowers. How do they know the nectar is there and how do they find it?

Professor J. Arthur Thomson, in the "Scottish Journal of Agriculture," quotes experiments by Professor Karl von Frisch to explain this problem.

It has bee nfound that when a bee which has sucked to the full returns to the hive it starts a "round dance" on the comb. This excites the workers close by and they hurry out to find the nectar themselves. But before they leave the hive they nose at the discoverer, and thus obtain a clue by scent of the kind of flower to seek.

They go off alone, the discoverer remaining in the hive. If the flowers with the nectar have no scent the discover can give no clue.

The Professor's answer to this is the astonishing one that a hive bee, excited by a discovery of nectar, at once sprays the blossoms with a characteristic scent formed in a glandular pocket near the hind end of her body. This scent serves as a tell-tale clue to the searching bees.

It has been found that when a bee patch of flowers begins to be exhausted the visits of new bees decline. Soon they stop. This is regulated by the fact that when a bee returns with little nectar she does not dance, and so no more seekers go forth.

Out to Stay.

Wife's Friend—"Has your wife taken any recipes out of that cook book I gave her?"

Hubby (rather shortly)—"Yes, and I'm going to see they stay out as long as she cooks for me!"

One Way.

Teacher—"How would you practice economy, Johnny?"

Johnny—"Well, for instance, by not letting our mothers wash our hands and necks we could save soap."