

EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICE

By J. E. Middleton

The portion of the Hydro-Electric System which serves all the associated municipalities and is administered by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario has a revenue of about \$4,000,000 and this sum is expended in operation, maintenance and carrying-charges. In addition the Commission has spent from year to year very large sums for construction of generating plants, transforming stations and transmission lines. Nearly \$70,000,000 has been spent on the Chippawa-Queenston plant alone.

Although the "Hydro" has enemies in every bush no one has been able to say truthfully that the administration of these great sums of money has been loose or in any sense improper. Yet one of the chief objections to Municipal or Public Ownership, as cited by the schoolmen, is that politics or other considerations must interfere with the application of business principles to the ordinary day's work. There has been no such interference in the Hydro-Electric System. The Commission from the time of its establishment has operated the System as a straight business enterprise, choosing its engineers, accountants and other employees entirely because of their competency and without reference to their politics, the color of their hair, or any other extraneous and minor consideration. All supplies have been purchased by a Purchasing Agent. Such an antique as a "preference list" of preferred merchants has never been found in the Hydro-Electric offices. The auditing is constant and close. Vouchers must accompany every charge. Even the expense accounts of travelling officials must be accompanied with original bills for hotel accommodation and other necessary outlays. The general accounting system is a model of condensation and simplicity. Ten years of operation have proved that the theory of the Natural and Inevitable Inefficiency of a Public Service is false—body and bones. With the gift of horse-sense and the determination to do a good job the members of the Hydro-Electric Commission have disproved the theory and have established a tradition of efficiency which will prevent decadence in future years.

HYDRO AND COAL

The Hydro-Electric System is selling 544,000 horse-power of energy derived from water-power to 335,000 customers. In 1915 the output was 104,000 horse-power, sold to 120,000 customers. The average rate is the lowest in the world. The service is reliable and of the highest grade and the demand is steadily increasing throughout all the Province. The amount of coal required to generate one horse-power of continuous electrical energy varies from 6 to 32 tons in accordance with the efficiency of the plant. In a generating station producing 100,000 horse-power under the most modern and economical conditions a consumption of 6 tons has been registered. But this is as exceptional, as is the 32 tons needed by an ancient boiler wastefully fired. There is authority to justify the use of 20 tons as an average, but to be on the conservative side, let it be supposed that one hydraulically produced horse-power is the equivalent of 10 tons of coal. Then the present production of the Hydro-Electric System is equal to 5,440,000 tons of steam coal per annum which is worth at present prices more than Fifty Millions of Dollars. The customers of the "Hydro" pay for their service about \$10,000,000 a year, so that co-operative municipal ownership is saving the people of Ontario fully \$40,000,000 a year and is reducing the production-cost of all manner of manufactured goods. Furthermore the reduction in the demand for steam coal by reason of the use of "Hydro" power is lessening materially the burden on the railways. It would take 136,000 cars to transport 5,440,000 tons of coal at 40 tons to the car. That is the equivalent of a train 1,030 miles long—or of one train 3 miles long every day in the year. By the wider and still wider use of electricity in all branches of industry it will be possible to reach the place where all the coal imported from the United States to Ontario may be reserved for heating purposes. The economic advantage to the Province of keeping all this money at home cannot be plain to every business man. The rapid growth of the Hydro-Electric system and in its prospective expansion Ontario and Canada have a potent creator of Prosperity.

A normal man is one who thinks his wife was rather fortunate to get a husband of his quality.

NEW CHANGES MADE IN SEED CONTROL ACT

A new phase in relation to seed control is being provided in a Bill before parliament at Ottawa. This measure, which constitutes an amendment to the Seed Control Act, prohibits the offering for sale of farm seeds that have been given a false or spurious name. Neither will the seller be allowed to offer seeds or plants under a new variety name not generally employed in Canada for that particular variety unless he first obtains a license therefor from the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister may refuse to issue a license in respect of the use of any kind or variety name unless or until the seeds or plants have been submitted to a propagating test or the mature plants have been examined and operated upon. A license will not be granted for the selling of an old variety under a new name. In explanation of this amendment it may be cited that farmer or dealer might unintentionally sell seed oats under the name of "Banner" and deliver seed oats that were not true to that variety. A complaint might be laid against him under another section of the Act, but the section under review is not intended to apply to such an offence since the variety named "Banner" as applied to oats cannot be held to be false or spurious or new. The provision is intended to apply to persons who invent new names for old standard varieties. It is regarded as likely that this new regulation will give encouragement to plant breeders by affording them more protection with respect to such new sorts as they may originate.

EUROPEAN CORN BORER QUARANTINE AREA EXTENDED

On February 26 an order-in-council was passed which quarantined the following territory in Ontario on account of the European corn borer: The Counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxford, Haldimand, Welland, Lincoln, Wentworth, Brant, Halton, Waterloo, Perth, Huron (with the exception of Ashfield, Wawanosh, East, Wawanosh West and Howick Townships), Peel (with the exception of Caledon Township), as well as Culross Township in Bruce County; Guelph in Wellington County; Etobicoke, Scarborough and York in York County; Pickering, Whitby East and Whitby West in Ontario County; Darlington and Clarke in Durham County and Brighton Township in Northumberland County. On account of the severity of the infestation in Elgin and Middlesex Counties they have been placed under double quarantine. The products affected by the regulations are corn fodder, corn stalks, including broom corn whether used for packing or other purposes, green sweet corn, roasting ears, corn on the cob or corn cobs. The movement of these products from the quarantined area to outside points is prohibited. The cities of Toronto and Hamilton are now included in the quarantined territory, consequently the markets in these cities will be open to all growers of sweet corn with the exception of those situated in the counties of Elgin and Middlesex. It is pointed out, however, that quarantined products must not be shipped from Toronto or Hamilton to any point outside the quarantined territory. United States Quarantine No. 41 prohibiting the importation, without inspection, of various cutflowers and vegetables from Ontario on account of the European corn borer, is still in force. The Dominion Department of Agriculture will cooperate with growers again this season in making all reasonable inspections and furnishing the necessary certificates for proposed shipments. For further information dealing with the European corn borer quarantine or the inspection of products for export, persons interested should communicate with the Division of Foreign Pests Suppression, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

A normal man is one who observes other women's husbands and reflects that his wife did very well.

The Right Road To Recovery

So Says Mr. Eaton of Dreco, in Praising It for His Recovery from Painful Sciatica Rheumatism.

"Since November 22," says Mr. James Eaton of 505 Nelson street, London, Ont., an ironworker in the London Rolling Mills. "I have had pains through my ankles and back. The pain was so intense it seemed I would have to quit work at times. I walked the floor many times as it seemed that when I would sit down or lie down, the pain would be more severe and when I would lean over I could hardly get up again. I was unable to lace my own shoes and could hardly get out of bed mornings my limbs were so sore and full of pain."

"Before this attack of Sciatica Rheumatism I had been in perfect health and never knew what it was to suffer pain. I cannot really describe the torture I have endured. No one really knows unless they have experienced these agonizing pains. Dreco was being so highly praised that my wife thought I had better try it. The first bottle helped me very little, but Mrs. Eaton insisted that I keep at it. I am now on my fifth bottle and practically free from pain. It is simply wonderful the way it has relieved my rheumatism so quickly. I can sleep good and get up in the mornings feeling fine."

"Both my wife and I have told many people of the great merits of Dreco and I feel sure our praise has started many on the right road to recovery."

Mr. Eaton's case—that of a hard-working man, finding his liveliness endangered by the intensity of seemingly incurable sufferings—has many counterparts right in this district. Every sufferer will find the same benefits in Dreco as Mr. Eaton discovered. It quickly strengthens and regulates the kidneys, to which most cases of rheumatism is traceable, and purge the system of poisonous acids. It acts as well on the stomach, liver and bowels and restores them to healthy functioning. Dreco is compounded from the juices of twelve medicinal herbs and roots, barks and leaves and contains no mercury, potash or habit-forming drugs.

Dreco is being specially introduced in Durham by McFadden's Drug Store and is sold by a good druggist everywhere.

Just think of the injustice of trying to start a new war before all the books on the last one have been sold.—Milwaukee Journal.

FLYING OVER THE POLE

(The Youth's Companion.)

Up almost at the northern tip of Alaska, looking out on the frozen Arctic Ocean, is the little hamlet of Wainwright. Probably few if any of our readers ever heard of it before but it will win at least a momentary fame when, on June 20, Mr. Roald Amundsen "hops off" there on his aeroplane flight across the north polar regions. He means to fly in a straight line from Wainwright to some point on the island of Spitzbergen. That will carry him directly over the Pole and will give him an extraordinary opportunity to observe and map—if there is anything to map—a large expanse in the heart of the polar zone on which no one else has ever looked. There is not much likelihood that he will pass over any land until he reaches Spitzbergen, for the top of the earth is most likely covered by the Arctic Sea; but if there are any islands within a reasonable distance of his course he should see them.

It is two thousand miles from Wainwright to Spitzbergen. In theory it is possible to fly that distance without descending; actually it is not probable that Amundsen will be able to do it. There are all sorts of things that can go far enough wrong to compel him to descend. But one of the things that Admiral Peary discovered is that the ice far up toward the pole is relatively smooth and unbroken, and Amundsen expects to find no great difficulty in landing if he has to land. Of course the flight will take place in the very middle of the six months' day, so that whatever happens he will not have the inconvenience or danger of darkness to contend with. The chief peril is a complete breakdown of the aeroplane engine, which might leave the explorer helpless on the ice, a thousand miles from the nearest human being and with only the smallest supply of provisions. But he plans to guard against that by means of aeroplane patrols sent out from Spitzbergen. If Amundsen does not arrive within two or three days of his departure from Wainwright, one or more scout planes will be dispatched to search for him and give him help if he needs it.

How will it be known exactly when Amundsen leaves Wainwright? Weather or accident may delay his departure, and the radio station nearest Wainwright is at Noorvik on the Kobuk River, near Kotzebue Sound, which is four hundred miles away. The news will be relayed thither by a chain of bon-

fires built on the headlands along the coast. The fires will be about fifteen miles apart. There will be two Eskimos at each fire. As soon as any pair sees the smoke rising from the fire to the eastward of them they will light their own pile of drift-wood. It is believed that word of Amundsen's departure can thus be broadcast to the world within an hour or two. If the news had to travel along the shore by sled and runners, it would be perhaps three weeks on the way.

Altogether it is an unusual and romantic sort of expedition. Probably the scientific results will not be important, but the world will watch with keen interest to see whether the plucky explorer gets safe across the lonely expanse of polar ice to his goal in Spitzbergen. It is distinctly a sporting chance that he is taking.

Don't Crowd.

He was an ex-gob and had decided to give France the once-over, but this time he was going to do it in style. Accordingly, he took a first-class cabin, disposed of his luggage and then sauntered on deck with a view toward stretching himself in a long chair and taking things easy. To his horror he saw a line forming, reminiscent of the old days. "Wot's this? Wot's this?" he gasped to a passing steward. "Fire drill!"

Arrested for Theft.

Richard Porteous, a young farmer of Kinross was arrested last week on a charge of stealing a violin from the Presbyterian Church shed at Kincardine some time in February. Constable Blood made the arrest and brought him to Kincardine where he

was let out on bail of \$1,000. Blood searched the house for moonshine a few days ago, but found none



In most homes the old guess-work baking days are gone, never to return. Then it was a matter of anxious conjecture as to whether or not that batch of bread would rise properly. All of our baking is a scientific success. Our bread should be one of your standard family foods.



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JERRY ON THE JOB



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