

Canada a Land of Home Owners

Probably the most dominant of man's instinctive desires is to own his place of residence. Perfect contentment and satisfaction do not become the lot of the farmer until he is sole owner of the land he yearly tills and until the harvest he garners is wholly his. So it is the first of all aims among city dwellers to purchase a house which shall be for them a sure haven, and the accomplishment of this becomes the prime object of such monies as can be set aside from the contents of the weekly pay envelope.

Just as Canada is a land of farm owners, where the tenant farmer is practically unknown, so is the Dominion a country where city dwellers very largely own the property they reside upon. If prosperity is to any extent to be gauged from the extent of home possession, which is usually the prime aim of human acquisition, then Canada is a land of prosperous and civic urban population. A comparison between Canada and the United States, for instance, shows the Dominion to be in at least as desirable a situation in the matter of individual home ownership as the richer and greater republic.

Statistics carefully compiled in the United States reveal the fact that 45.6 per cent. of the people of that country own their own homes and that 54.4 per cent. live in rented quarters. The same statistics are not available for Canada, but for the purposes of a rude comparison, figures have been secured on the ten most populous cities of the Dominion, and it is found that 35 per

cent. in these are owners of their own homes. When it is considered that the remainder of the country comprises agricultural land and the small town and villages, and that the tendency is for a larger proportion of home owners the smaller the settlement, it will readily be conceded that the percentage for the entire Dominion must be higher than that of the United States.

Taking only Canada's larger centres of population, these are found to possess a greater proportion of home owners than the corresponding centres of the United States, though, in justice, the great disparity in population must be considered. London, Ontario, leads the Dominion with 80 per cent. of its population owning their own homes, Hamilton and Calgary have 60 per cent. of their people living in homes they own. The city of Toronto has a fine record for the second most populous city of the Dominion—it has 55 per cent. of its people living in homes owned by them. Fifty-one per cent. of the people of Halifax are home owners. Vancouver, the fourth Canadian city in population, is another fine example of home ownership with 46 per cent. of its people home owning. Edmonton falls slightly behind with 45 per cent., and Winnipeg, Canada's third city, just after this with 44 per cent. Ottawa has 40 per cent. of its population owning their own homes, and Montreal, the first city of the Dominion, has a scant 5 per cent., pulling the average of the ten cities down to 35 per cent. when it might have been more than 50 per cent.

are summarized as follows:—69 apartments, 95 churches, 124 factories, 195 public garages, 23 hospitals, 54 hotels, 103 office buildings, 46 public buildings, 10,725 residences, 243 schools, 823 stores, 24 theatres, 38 warehouses, 79 bridges, 19 dams and wharves, 103 sewers and water mains, 161 roads and streets and 138 general engineering.

Activity in General.
The resumption of building in Canada is not confined to certain sections but is general, and exceptional construction activity is evidenced in all cities from coast to coast. According to the reports received from 56 Canadian cities there is a building increase of over 30 per cent. in comparison with 1921. Quebec Province reports an increase of more than fifty per cent., and Saskatchewan shows an increase of more than 300 per cent. Montreal and Toronto, particularly the latter, have exceeded by a wide margin the value in permits for the same time last year. In Winnipeg the permits for the first six months of 1922 show an increase of practically \$1,000,000 over the corresponding period in 1921. In Calgary, for the same space of time, the million dollar mark was passed. Improvements are noted in Regina, Moose Jaw, Brandon, Lethbridge, Edmonton, and other western centres, as well as Halifax, Moncton, Sherbrooke, Westmount, Fort William, Kitchener, Oshawa, Peterboro, and other cities of the East. In construction already accomplished this year, the leading cities in order are Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Windsor, Ottawa, Vancouver, Quebec, London, Saskatoon, Port Arthur and Calgary.

The resumption of building in Canada on a substantial scale, more so than perhaps any other factor, may be taken as an indication of the return of brighter and more settled times and a further emerging from post-war depression, for building in the Dominion is so indicative of progress and expansion that it has come to be a gauge which marks, in a fairly accurate manner, the trend of economic affairs; it estimates the status of business and reflects the prosperity of other industries. In a resumption of building is reflected the downward trend in the price of all materials used in building, and a decline in the cost of labor to a level closer approximating the pre-war level. More building is indicative of hope and of faith in the immediate future. No other disturbance of the years following the war caused such inconvenience and upheaval as the cessation of building, and in view of all it portends, nothing is so gratifying as the return to a normal amount of construction.

The habit of looking at everything from the bright, hopeful, expectant side, instead of from the doubt side, the uncertainty side, will improve your entire outlook on life.

1922 IS A BUILDING YEAR IN CANADA

DISTINCT REVIVAL IN THIS BASIC INDUSTRY.

Return to a Normal Amount of Construction is Indicative of Prosperous Times Ahead.

Since the beginning of the year, Canada has experienced a distinct revival in the building industry after a virtual stagnation which existed throughout the war years and into the post-war era. Prices of building materials as well as the high cost of labor seriously curtailed construction of all kinds, and confined it to such as was absolutely necessary. With the establishment of a new level in the price of material and the readjustment of the cost of labor a decided impetus was given to the building industry from the opening of the building season. There has been unassessable activity, and the figures for the first six months indicate the accomplishment of a volume of construction unequalled in any year since 1914.

For the first six months of the year 1922, building permits in Canada had an aggregate value of \$132,452,000 as compared with \$117,763,500 in the first half of 1921, \$144,747,100 in 1920 and \$78,113,300 in 1919. In 1922 the Province of Ontario accounted for \$74,586,900 of the total permit value; Quebec \$31,294,200; the Maritime Provinces \$5,521,700; and the Western provinces \$21,049,200. Of the total, the sum of \$53,435,300 is accounted for by residential building; \$39,660,900 by business construction; \$10,050,700 in industrial erections; and \$29,265,100 in engineering construction.

An Increase of Over Twenty Million.
Compared with the year 1921, the total value of permits throughout Canada shows an increase of \$20,688,500 over the value of the same period. In Ontario the value of construction undertaken has practically doubled, and Toronto has led all Canadian cities in the building undertaken so far this year. The even distribution of the kinds of building undertaken is clearly illustrated in the figures for June, 1922, the value of permits, \$35,620,400, being the second largest monthly figure since May, 1914. Of the total, residential building accounted for 33.4 per cent.; business, 29.1 per cent.; industrial, 13.8 per cent.; and public works and utilities, 20.7 per cent. The amount of contemplated new work throughout the Dominion at the end of June was \$26,117,400.

The buildings undertaken during the first six months, from coast to coast,

The Fish That Takes Cow's Place

March is the month when the Indians on the British Columbia coast put up their butter for the entire year—and it is gathered from a fish, which appears only once a year, for about three weeks' time. It sounds ridiculous to tell of a butter-giving fish, but that is actually what the eulachan, or candlefish, is, for the fats derived from it serve the Indians as an equivalent for the life-sustaining material which Anglo-Saxons get out of butter, and Italians and the people of the south of France out of olive oil.

The eulachan is the Indians' most precious fish, and is quite as mysterious in its way as the much-told-of salmon. Like the latter, it comes yearly from the unknown deeps of the Pacific and goes up fresh-water rivers along the Pacific coast. On the Columbia the run is in February; farther north, it lasts from two to three weeks in March.

The Indians are on the lookout for the beginning of the run, and take millions of the fish. They are dumped in great bins of cedar logs and left to soften. When the eulachan have softened from a week to 10 days—or other periods, a great deal depending on the weather—they are transferred to great vats and boiled in hot water. The Indian method of heating the water is to drop hot stones into the vats, and though this is a much more laborious way than boiling in modern kettles, many of the Indians to-day, though they have adopted the white man's phonographs, drag saws, motorboats, etc., still stick to this method. They claim that the grease produced in their own way is superior in flavor and texture to that boiled in the white man's way. And this is true. A parallel may be cited in the old and modern ways of making maple syrup.



The Mayoress of Lewisham, England, Miss Kathleen Dodd, taking a high dive, her novel method of declaring open the borough's new swimming bath.

Heralds.
My garden is a very wondrous place
Especially in the early morning hours;
When fairy dreams the river still embrace,
'Tis then I hold communion with the flowers.

With joy I watch the spiders weave a veil
For dainty bridal roses; I behold
The Marigolds when touched by dew-drops pale,
Seem all the more like heaps of yellow gold.

The daisies spread their linens soft and white,
A golden tray placed in the middle,—
—so,
A zephyr comes with satin footsteps light,
The bluebells chime for breakfast—I must go.

—Alleen Ward.

Build.
Build, for the world is sick of tearing down;
Your hammer must be one of industry;
Smile, it is more constructive than to frown
And smiling, one can do the work of three.

Teeth shut, eyes open with a forward look,—
Faith in the vision, willingness to sweat,—
Iconoclasm shut within the book,—
An edifice must rise, the bravest yet.

It matters little what may be your goal,—
A house, a coop, a kennel, or a trade,
The state, an institution or a soul,—
For building, not for wrecking, swing your blade.

—John Girdler.

Both Impatient.
First lady (in village shop, speaking to another patron)—"Would you mind if I made my small purchase first? We have a horse outside and he won't keep quiet."
Second lady—"Certainly; but you won't be very long, will you? I have a husband outside and he's rather restive, too."

Where It Might Have Helped.
"Don't talk to me about colleges!" scoffed the self-made man. "Look at me! Do you suppose I would have been any more successful than I am if I'd had a college education?"
"No," admitted the Professor, "but you might have been less inclined to brag about it."

Stories of Famous People

The Queen's Memory.
Many stories are told of Mr. Herbert Smith, the new President of the Miners' Federation, but perhaps the best is that about his first presentation to Queen Mary.

"I have seen you before," was the Queen's first remark.

"Oh, yes, I have," replied Mr. Smith. "You were the big man in the little brown jersey who went down the Cadeby mine."

It transpired that the Queen, who visited the Cadeby pit immediately after the disastrous explosion in 1912, had noticed Mr. Smith going down with a rescue party. It had quite slipped his memory, but the Queen had not forgotten.

Over-Married

Here is a story of Lady Astor and her old Negro nurse, Aunt Betty, whom she met again during her recent visit to America. She was showing Aunt Betty some pictures of Clivedon, her beautiful home on the Thames, with its wonderful lawns and gardens. Aunt Betty looked at the photographs, looked at Lord Astor, and then at Lady Astor.

"Well, Miss Nancy," she said at last, "all I's got to say is dat yo' suttin'ly did overmarry yo'self."

A Little Wisdom.

To delay is not always dangerous. That which is always your own is your future.
It's a sign of wisdom to admit you've been a fool.
A million dollars' reward will never bring back lost time.
A minute's carelessness can undo a whole day's work.
Those who carry scandal are worse than those who make it.
Never limit your mental exercise to jumping at conclusions.
It's as hard to live up to a good reputation as it is to live down a bad one.
Never judge anyone to be so thick-skinned that they would not feel a friendly pat on the back.

His Motto.

A smart boy of fifteen entered the office of a prosperous merchant and asked for employment. He gave satisfactory answers to a few questions, and then the merchant inquired:
"What is your motto?"
"Same as yours," the boy replied.
"Just what you have on your door—Push!"
He got the job.

A Churchill Story.

An amusing story of Mr. Winston Churchill's expense reached me the other day.

On one occasion during the war the Forage Committee received a letter signed "Winston Churchill," asking what the committee meant by commandeering his hay. In reply it was pointed out that the hay was taken under an order signed by the Minister for War—at that time Mr. Churchill himself! After that there was no further correspondence on the subject.

Meat Salesman Claims a Throne.

The throne of Monaco is now claimed by a meat salesman. He is Mr. George Frederick Grimaldi, of Smithfield Market, in London, whose real title is the Marquis Grimaldi. He has gone to Monte Carlo, which is practically the whole of the tiny state of Monaco, to establish his right to sit on the throne. He states that the late ruler, Prince Albert, was not the legal heir, and the College of Heralds, which has examined his claim, agrees with this.

The Grimaldi family has a history stretching back for hundreds of years, and has had many ups and downs. One member of it, for instance, was a Duke of Spain, while another was a poor cabinet-maker in London.

Concentration.

When Lord Northcliffe was in this country and was asked the secret of his success, he said he didn't attribute it to any one thing except concentration. "I concentrate," he said, "upon whatever I take up and keep my mind wholly upon it until I see it through."

Mr. Edison said he early resolved to concentrate upon electricity in all its various phases, and he said it had yielded him marvelous results. If he had split up his attention on a great many different things as many smaller inventors do, he would not now have been regarded as the greatest living inventor.

Measures Tea.

Withdrawing a slide in the bottom of a new metal container allows a teaspoonful of tea to drop into a teapot.

Lighting the Earth at Night

The recent celebration of the jubilee of the Institution of Electrical Engineers is a reminder of how rapidly history has been made in connection with the science practised by its members, says an English writer.

It is little more than fifty years since that telegraphy was the chief purpose to which electricity could be applied. The "electric telegraph" was then comparatively new on railways, though the first installation, which was from Paddington to West Drayton, was made in 1839.

When John Tavell killed Sarah Hart at Salt Hill, near Windsor, in 1845, a message announcing his flight was flashed along the line to Paddington, and the arrest which followed was the first to be brought about by telegraphy.

Soon afterwards the incandescent lamp made its appearance. In August, 1878, it was installed in the Gaiety Theatre, where it made a great sensation. A well-known expert declared that it was not suitable for street lighting in London—an opinion which, strange as it seems now, was borne out by the failure of the new system at Billingsgate, where it was abandoned early in 1879.

Nevertheless, the new light soon began to gain ground. In 1883 a great stimulus was given by the use of the system for lighting the railway from Westbourne Park to Paddington. A popular novelty in many towns about the same time was skating by the arc light.

Soon after 1887 there was a further development, and one which was destined to have a great effect, though not in this country. At the Whitehall Electricity Works the exhaust steam from the engines was used to heat water, which was supplied to one hundred houses and flats in the neighborhood. This utilization of "waste" was

England's Oldest Industry.

Hidden away in Suffolk there is a little colony of men who gain their livelihood in the same primitive way as their forefathers of two thousand years ago.

These men can trace back their descent for five hundred years, and always the families have been engaged in the same industry.

They are the flint knappers of Brandon, and though there are not two dozen men engaged in the industry today, there was a time when Brandon was known to the world for the quality of its flint tools and weapons.

In the beginning flint arrow heads and axes, hammers and ploughs were made in the small town, and owing to the fine quality of the flint found in the district Brandon was prosperous.

When metals began to replace stone, however, tinder boxes were the only things for which flint was used, until the discovery of gunpowder and the invention of cannon and shot guns relieved the trade depression.

Any of the inhabitants of Brandon may quarry for flint so long as he does not open more than two pits at a time. He must fill them in again when exhausted.

When the flint has been quarried it is handed over to the "knappers," or gun flint makers, who, judging from the ring of the stone when hit, which way it will split, break it into sections.

The hardest blow against the grain would not chip the flint.

Next comes the flaking. The knapper holds the stone in his left hand and against his knee, and tapping away at an incredible speed he splits the flint into flakes about six inches long and one inch wide. Not all the flakes are of use for ignition purposes, the great majority being hard, and until it was discovered that this waste material could be used for foundations for concrete there were thousands of tons of bad flakes, the accumulation of centuries, in Brandon's backyards.

Another branch of the industry is the shaping of flints for decorative purposes for churches and other buildings.

No Flies in Alaska.

Everybody knows that mosquitoes are a frightful pest in Alaska; but it is news to learn that houseflies do not exist there.

This interesting fact was definitely ascertained by Dr. J. M. Aldrich, of the United States National Museum, in the course of a recent expedition which he made for the purpose of studying Alaskan insects.

He found two entirely new species of mosquitoes. Horse flies were abundant everywhere. But there were no houseflies. In vain did he explore grocery stores, restaurants, canneries, garbage dumps and other likely places for them.

The fact is that the housefly is by origin a tropical insect. It cannot endure cold weather. In temperate latitudes a few houseflies manage to live over the winter in heated houses—enough of them, that is to say, to start a fresh crop in the following spring.

Chinese Breadfruit.

The Chinese breadfruit, otherwise the pampelo, is a citrus fruit that may be described as a cross between the orange and the grapefruit, combining the good points of both. It is regarded by many as the finest fruit grown in the Far East.

Germany Has No Anthem.

At the present time the German people have no national anthem, according to an official announcement of the Berlin Government.

Influence of Public Schools in Music Appreciation.

There has been for a long time much feeling among private music teachers that the public school music teachers are superficially educated, drill masters, not artists. This fact, however, is merely long-standing prejudice. The public schools are training more for musical appreciation, producing patrons for our symphony orchestras, for the opera and the oratorio than any private agency. Private teachers are usually specialists of a keyboard or of a fingerboard. They count, yes, but not in the influence of numbers. The public school music teachers are developing musical citizens and lovers of music, and are towers of strength in the life of this country, as far as the widespread interest in music counts.

Recently a vocal teacher of class singing in the public schools said: "Youth is the period for laying a good foundation for the unfolding of musical instincts, for the unfolding of talent and making preparation for after years. A year or two of voice training like this would be of great value and lasting benefit to every student taking it. Those especially gifted would not only have valuable preliminary training, but having tested their talents, would feel no doubt as to the advisability of pursuing further vocal study if they so desired."

Class singing instruction in the school arouses a healthy competitive spirit, and the flashes of inspirational thought of the teacher benefits many rather than a single individual, as in private teaching.

Time to Investigate.

Pretty Nicee (blushing)—Auntie, what would you do if you learned that a young man was secretly inquiring about your ability as a cook?

Wise Aunt—"I should immediately make secret inquiries as to his ability to provide things to cook, my dear."

Kenora Gold.

The Kenora district of Ontario is being actively prospected for gold and silver. 75 prospectors' licenses being issued. Several claims are being stripped, trenched and sampled by engineers retained by prospectors in Toronto and Montreal.

and the worst is yet to come



—H. Wellington

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