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**REAL BOOST FOR CANADA.**

The Toronto Mail and Empire is back to normal and we congratulate it upon having found home again. In its review of the year and its estimate of the home land it is free to say: "Canada has done wonderfully well, considering handicaps. We have a transportation system surpassing in mileage that of any country with four times our population; we have fine laws for the security of property and credit; we have an admirable banking system; a people of intelligence and national spirit; and we have in our political, financial, industrial, commercial and transportation circles men of whom any nation would be proud. These capable men of business will be a great power to the country when the signal is given for the next advance." These are real patriotic words; in election times our contemporary gets befogged in the dismal swamps.

**THE PRISON OF THE FUTURE**

A prison as a place of education in right living is the hope of Dr. Frank Moore, president of the American Prison Association. This big, broad, brotherly idea should be the only thought that a weak humanity and a Christian nation ought to have about prisons. Then the scales on which we weigh an offender would be so delicate that we would be better able to tell whether he has reformed and should be discharged.

Of course, there are certain specific recommendations which Dr. Moore advocates as designed to make his ideas practical. In connection with the parole system, for instance, he believes that the discharge of the prisoner should not be reckoned on a time basis, but rather upon a character basis, and deprecates the lack of adequate supervision following parole. But these are merely aspects of a complex question which would largely take care of themselves if the whole problem were tackled from a broader outlook. Parole is without question a valuable feature of present-day prison reform measures, and as the years pass and experience accumulates the technique of its application is bound to improve. More important than this, however, is the fact that the whole issue is being regarded from a point of view which, though a few decades ago it would have been regarded as purely fanciful, is more practical than anything that has ever before been known along this line.

The prison of the not far distant future, adds that splendidly edited paper, the Christian Science Monitor, one may almost confidently assert, will be exactly what Dr. Moore indicated in his remarks, a place of education in right living. Little by little it is being seen that no good purpose is accomplished by heaping punishments onto a man already staggering under an overwhelming burden, owing to a perverted view of the universe. Rather his outlook must be changed. He needs to undergo a process of mental reconstruction. And in the attainment of this purpose the prison of the future, from which citizens equipped for useful activities in life will emerge after a period of regeneration and which will thus serve to lessen the crime consciousness of the whole world, will be of inestimable value.

**BIBLE THOUGHT**

KNOWEST THOU NOT THIS OF OLD, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?—Job 20:4, 5.

**JOHN BULL PAYS.**

The St. Catharines Standard has been collating facts and shows that within the past week Britain has paid to the United States in gold, some \$92,000,000 interest and part payment of her war debt of nearly \$5,000,000,000 to that country. The Standard proceeds to say that if Britain had the money which was put up to stiffen the backs of her Allies in the Great War, she would have about nine billion dollars to her credit. Even excluding Russia, which country has refused to recognize any of the Czar's obligations, Britain would still have seven billions to the good. The United States debt in that case would cause no worry to the British taxpayer.

It is an heroic struggle the Old Land is putting up, paying the other fellow's debts. And it all falls upon the individual taxpayer. The British currency is on a gold basis, and the credit of the country is unimpaired. After all, it must be a very gloomy person who can see retrogression, disintegration and a general break-up of the British Empire, and the Mother Country can present a clean slate to the rest of the world. And the greatness of a state rests upon the character of the individual in the long run. In Britain patriotism means self-sacrifice. Not otherwise could John Bull maintain such a stout heart and sound constitution.

**CARDINAL MERCIER.**

The many friends in Canada of Cardinal Mercier will be cheered at the reputed improvement in his condition following the operation of last week. Cardinal Mercier is the Primate of Belgium, and in 1924 he celebrated the fiftieth year of his ordination. He is a distinguished scholar and during the war his "pastoral letters" which had to be printed and circulated with great secrecy, did much to keep up the courage of the Belgian people. In 1919 the Cardinal visited Canada and on that afternoon in the summer of 1924, when he entertained a party of Canadian editors at his palace in Malines, he referred in feeling terms to the kindness and hospitality he had met with in this country.

**THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA.**

Parliament will open tomorrow and in a few more days there will be a test of strength in the house to determine who has the largest number of supporters. The indications are that the Liberals have the majority and if an actual test proves this to be correct, Mr. King will immediately seek election somewhere and proceed to carry on the government.

It is expected that on Monday Mr. Meighen will denounce the government in those scathing terms that fall so readily from his lips, but in Mr. Lapointe, who will lead the house, he will find a foeman worthy of his steel. Just what will develop from the present situation is hard to forecast, but should the Liberal party be sustained it is possible that they will proceed to carry on for several years. No one wants another election in the near future, not even the leader of the Conservative party, so it is doubtful if there will be any serious demand for another appeal to the people. At the present time everybody is watching Ottawa.

**HOW TO REACH THE TOP.**

Joseph S. Donovan, president and treasurer of the Donovan Motor Car company, Boston retailers of Studebaker automobiles, although but forty-five years of age, has announced his intention of retiring from active business because he has made \$1,000,000. He does not purpose travelling to win millions more but will enjoy life as he feels entitled to. He began at thirteen working on the New York Central Railway, and told his chums that he purposed making a million and then quitting. Mr. Donovan's advice to boys is this: "Do not be afraid to do more work than you are paid for. Any boy who takes an interest in and shows that he is interested in the success of the business he is in, and does not mind the time clock, will bring himself to the front of his organization."

**PUBLICITY IS THE CURE.**

Texas had more divorces granted last year than any other state in the union, and it is one of the smallest of the states in population. And there are reasons. There is no alimony law and few wives seek divorce. Then it is libellous to publish divorce news. The suppression of news tends to make divorce popular, and as in crime lack of publication increases disorder and disgrace. Publicity is the best preventive of desperate deeds and unholy living and every community should rejoice when it has a fearless press and wide open methods of telling the world of misconduct and foul abuses.

Some people, comments a wag, hope every day will be Sunday by and by, and others are afraid it will.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Men and women may get too old to love, but they never get too old to want to be loved.

Rich people miss one thing; they never know the joy of paying the last instalment on something.

Voices across the sea by radio may be more influential than hands across the sea, is a bright saying from the Toronto Globe.

It was Theodore Roosevelt who said that the man who punts is the man who is decent and who makes himself felt, as a force for decency.

The Hudson Bay Railway has cost Canada to date over twenty million dollars. Estimates say it will require \$27,000,000 to equip it for real service.

St. Catharines teachers are opposed to wearing gowns so that they might be distinguished from their pupils. Of course, why did they get their hair bobbed? is a pertinent question.

There are so many Tories of the bull dog breed in parliament, says the Toronto Mail and Empire, that the ministerial anatomy views the future with alarm. Not so; the Liberal lions can readily subdue the bulldog variety!

Sir Henry Thornton reports an increase of 900 per cent in the net revenue of the Canadian National Railway system in three years from \$8,000,000 to \$30,000,000. Some splendid work by the chief and his capable staffs.

Estimates say next August the world will be short of bread stuffs. We are short of coal, and some of us are short of cash. Thank the Lord we still have a fair abundance of good cold water; we would have more but for the 4.4 beer which is a drug on the market.

Quakerism in England is growing. Its rigidities have been mitigated but its essential principles have endured. It is claimed that its religion has made a wide appeal in a time like our own, and many who choose a silent personal and direct approach to life's mystery instead of the formal way of ritual are sharing a portion of the Friends' belief.

It is stated by the manager of the Great Lakes steamship service of the Canadian Pacific that if Chicago continues to drain the Great Lakes by its diversion of water through the drainage canal, Port McNicol, will be permanently ruined as a shipping centre. And this fact should stimulate Canada to see that the colossal steal of water is speedily suppressed.

Canada promises to be the major source of the world's gold supply in the near future, says the National Bank of Commerce, which discusses the future of the gold supply in the January issue of the Commerce Monthly. The United States has contributed \$4,250,000,000 of gold since the discovery of the California fields, but is now looked upon as having made its major contribution.

It is disquieting news that comes from Scotland that the hardy inhabitants of the Isle of Skye and the Outer Hebrides have given up oatmeal as a part of their daily diet. Doctors, dietitians and scientists are seeking to teach humanity to get away from the artificial foods and get back to the natural ones. They point out that we fail to get the necessary nutriment from the highly refined food products of today. But here, we find the Scots giving up porridge and eating white bread, tea and jam.

**Up to the Parents**

Border Cities Star.  
Canada is thin and timorous in her literature, says Principal W. L. Grant of Upper Canada College. He finds the average boy's language, after he leaves school, a "weird mixture of street vulgarisms." He takes a sideways at newspapers (which are probably unique among all classes in their readiness to publish attacks on themselves) and charges also that "to the contempt of the pioneer for the dreamer is added the contempt of the parvenu for the professor." He urges schools to combat "this unworthy feeling" by spreading a wider love of English.

Much can be done by the schools, of course, but the impressions on which they work are planted before pupils come to them. They are planted in the home. If the parents speak improperly because they fear to be thought "high brow" if they speak properly, then their children will lack the appreciation they might have had for good English. It is little wonder that they start life with the suspicion that parents are "fossils," and that they gladly supplant grammar with jargon. The duty, or rather the opportunity, of teaching English, assuredly lies in the schools. But it lies first in the homes.

As for the "hissness" of Canadian literature, Principal Grant might speak more enlightening views if he studied the literature of any other nation in its 88th year. Even at that, Canada has managed to send a few writers into the front ranks.

**News and Views.**

**Premoting Capital Punishment.**  
American Lumberman: Nevada bankers will pay \$1,000 for a live bandit, and \$2,500 for a dead one. No Governor can pardon a dead bandit.

**Come To Breakfast.**  
Guelph Mercury: Canada, with a yield of 550,000,000 bushels of oats, ought to make a great appeal to Scottish settlers. Think what quantities of porridge that would make.

**Stop Warring Themselves.**  
Florence (Ala.) Herald: The growing movement on the part of the churches to end all wars might be appreciably advanced if they would end war among themselves.

**Reciprocity.**  
Minneapolis Journal: Sir Harry E. Brucewell, London child specialist, says that it is wrong to keep quiet while the baby is asleep, as it ought to be allowed to get used to noises. That is the position taken by the baby toward the family in the night, also.

**The Happy Life.**  
Sennouque Reporter: The life of service is the happy life. If, therefore, we have done something toward lightening another's load, if we have carried our share of the burden, if we have used the talent entrusted to us, then we can look back upon the year with some satisfaction.

**Greatest Material Boon.**  
Bowmanville Statesman: There is going to be an increasing demand for Canadian farm products in the U. S. cities for two reasons—convenience or accessibility, and higher quality. What would be the result if we had reciprocity in products of the soil between these two contiguous countries?

**Passing of "Xmas."**  
Editor and Publisher, New York: That ugly profanation of the most brilliant word in the English language, which substitutes for the name of Christ an X, very largely disappeared from the press of the nation during the current holiday season. If "Xmas" has been killed for all time, there will be special cause for rejoicing this week. For a generation it has been an offence in the eyes of all men who are sensitive to the significance of the word and the occasion it defines.

We have seen "Xmas" used less often both in editorial text and advertising matter this year than during a lifetime. This must be a direct answer to the stirring appeals that have been made during the past five years, an awe devoutly hope that we are right in concluding that the criticism has yielded a general reform. Duty is stern and the days are fleeting, but the American people still have time to spell out the name of the natal day of Jesus Christ.

**St. Lawrence Power**

Toronto Globe.  
It will be with unqualified satisfaction that the advocates of the development of water power on the St. Lawrence River will welcome the Prime Minister of Ontario to their ranks. The clear, definite and enthusiastic way in which Premier Ferguson has committed himself to this great and necessary undertaking leaves nothing to be desired. From the statement in which he declares his attitude toward the project it is evident that he has not been influenced by any hasty view of the possibilities it presents, but grounds his support on careful study of it as a practicable scheme from which the Province will reap almost inestimable advantages. He points out specifically that the undertaking will be in no sense an experiment, that it is not a venture involving any risk, but that, "on the contrary, it will be the most carefully considered power proposition of our day, and one of the wisest and soundest investments the Province has yet made, turning to public advantage a great Provincial asset now running to waste."

With the power potentialities of the St. Lawrence assured throughout all seasons, and with the possibility of developing for Ontario one million horsepower, there should be no waste of time, other than that concerned with the arranging of preliminaries, in commencing a work of such importance to Ontario. Delay will only remove farther off the rich results to be obtained from the completed project. Premier Ferguson dwells with emphasis on some of the benefits to be secured by the utilisation of this power. The saving in coal alone would amount to \$60,000,000 annually; the stimulus to industrial production would be incalculable, and occupation would be provided for a million workers.

As Premier Ferguson states, the position of the Province in this matter will be strengthened by the formal approval of the plans for the undertaking "by the Dominion Government, and the frank acknowledgment of our right to the power of the St. Lawrence within the territory of this Province." That Federal recognition of these Provincial rights should any longer be withheld, in face of all the advantages to be reaped from the early development of the power so much needed, is unthinkable. It is not to be supposed that any Government would so stand in the way of the material advancement and prosperity of the public.

Miller's "Arcares" was written on request of Lady Derby of Harefield.



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**SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.**

I dimly guess from blessings known of greater out of sight.—Whittier.

It is to live twice when you can enjoy the recollection of your former life.—Martial.

'Tis life, of which our lives are scant, 'Tis life, not death, for which we want.  
—Browning.

As no man ever had a point of pride that was not injurious to him, so no man had ever a defect that was not somewhere made useful to him.—Emerson.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of flesh.—Ezekiel, 36:26.

They best Can greet the New Year's coming Who best have kept Faith with the old and freighted its swift hours With their great thoughts and godlike purposes.  
Translated nobly into noble deeds!  
—W. H. Burleigh.

We forfeit the chief source of dignity and sweetness of life, next to the direct communion with God, if we do not seek converse with the great minds that have left their vestiges on the world.—Martineau.

**Wit and Humor**

**Hardly Possible.**  
Post—"Are you the man who cut my hair last time?"  
Barber—"I don't think so, sir. I've only been here six months."

**Spoke Too Quick.**  
"Am I the only girl you have ever kissed?"  
"Rather—and you're the best of the lot."

**Didn't Lose It.**  
The other day I gave my wife just enough money to buy one dress, and she came home with two.  
"How did she manage it?"  
"Why, she bought one and the other she had on when she went out."

**Electric Shocks in Street.**  
A dog was electrocuted and horses and men received severe shocks at Torquay by coming in contact with a corporation electric lamp standard, the mechanism of which was out of order. Horses which came near the standard began to jump wildly, and fishermen's dogs, acted in the strangest fashion. Men also jumped in the air as though bewitched. While electric shocks were being gratuitously distributed a heavy truck, loaded on from a French ship, fell over the quayside on the deck of the vessel.

**Three Pearls on Half Shell.**  
A. J. Alpin while dining at the Putnam on the Connecticut shore, not long ago was served with a plate of oysters. Upon eating them he one by one found three pearls, all apparently almost perfect specimens and graduated in size.

Famous last words: "I believe that's his left headlight burning."

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