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The Quiet Observer

CHEAPENING EDUCATION.

A very pretty flight is being carried on in Toronto between the politicians and the educationists. It is unfortunate that in our up-to-date and practical Canada so many men regard education as a means of money thrown away. As a consequence they regard the school rate as a means of popularity, so that by reducing it they might win votes. Every penny put into education is an investment more remunerative than any other. It is the intelligent people of the country who have to pay the taxes, and the more there are of them the slighter will be the burden. The uneducated contribute nothing to the taxes, but are a source of expense to every community. Toronto has the cheapest cost per pupil of any city of its size on the continent, but Mayor Church is anxious to curtail expenditure and desires to possess authority over the school board in order to be able to cut the school rate. This policy appeals to the ignorant but not to those who understand. It has been contended that the school estimates have about doubled, but they have not increased so much proportionately as the general taxes, and the Education Act requires an expenditure equal to much greater than the Toronto Board has expended during the war there had been a suspension of school construction, and with overcrowding and the constantly increasing population the problem of accommodation is a serious one. Without proper education and the influence of an enlightened school system a city of the size of Toronto becomes a menace to the surrounding territory, a creator of slums and a too generous contributor to the criminal classes. It is better to contribute to the school tax.

ATTENTION TURNED TO LIVE STOCK.

After an excellent harvest the devotees of mixed farming in Ontario are congratulating themselves on the splendid condition in which live stock have gone into the barns. Silage and roots are abundant and though hay is scarce and in demand at high prices the fodder prospects are not bothering winter feeders. Dairy prospects seem to be equal to expectations, and the only new problem is in connection with the demand for a higher ratio of butter fat. Some farmers experimenting with balanced rations are using cotton seed and linseed with their silage and hay. Hogs are expected to be on the increase with the lower grain prices. The prospects for fall wheat so far have been very good. Just what the mild weather may do should a sudden change follow is never a certainty. Plowing has been going on into December.

BOTH SIDES DISSATISFIED.

One of the interesting things about the tariff commission is the contradictory testimony it obtains from unexpected quarters. East Elgin elected a free trade farmer but Alymer and other points in the constituency sent a delegation to say for a continuance of moderate protection, without which, it was said, the fruit canning and jam factories could not exist. As these are staple industries in the district the chairman of the Commission wondered why the people did not vote as they talked. A few days later Mr. W. P. Maclean, M.P., of the Toronto West, who has always been a protectionist, and whose father is credited with having been the author of the National Policy, assailed the Commission with fierce denunciations of the

paper-makers, who had, he asserted, broken faith with the government and with their customers, and enjoying the protection of the Canadian tariff, told Canadian customers that they did not want their business selling their product instead to United States purchasers. Mr. Maclean considered that the government should regulate their prices and suppress their watered stock. There have been retorts and counter-retorts in the Maclean debate, but the point with us is the disagreement among both Free Traders and Protectionists with the results of their own policies.

CONSERVATIVES FOLLOW PRECEDENT.

It is perhaps not to be wondered at that the Conservative party after the defeat of 1919 should have followed the example of the Liberal party after its defeat of 1905 and chose one of its old leaders to be its reorganizer. The experiment in the case of the Liberal party was not a successful one, and of Hon. Mr. Ferguson it cannot be denied that no other choice could be so welcome to Premier Drury. Mr. Ferguson impressed the convention by his aggressive speech in which he promised to spread the hides of his opponents on the fence before he got through with them. Cheerful talk of this kind sways a convention and there was a feeling among his chivalrous conferees that he had been hardly dealt with and should have a chance at the hides. The convention adopted a platform which is not so extensive as the Liberal, but concentrates on a few issues. Proportional representation was not approved, and the provincial issues reaffirmed were the Hydro policy, the St. Lawrence power project, development of Northern Ontario in roads and education, filling of vacancies by returned soldiers, enactment of progressive labor legislation, condemnation of the timber policy of the present government, objection to the Timber Commission enquiry. Much may be done in the two or three years before the next election to raise new issues.

POSTAL CHANGES.

Public ownership has demonstrated itself as a practical matter in the postal service more widely than in any other way, and the results have been more generally beneficial than almost any other co-operative activity of the race. In fact there is no other activity in which the nations unite with such hearty good-will and such conscious satisfaction. The quadrennial conference of the Postal Union has just closed in Spain, to be resumed in 1924 in Stockholm. The most important decision was that taken by the nations of the western hemisphere and Spain to make apart from the postal union, their territories one postal district so that domestic rates would prevail throughout the whole area of these nations. We must wait for the regulations to go into force, but it brings a little nearer the dream of universal penny postage. To Henniker Heaton and other postal reformers. Rates have been greatly increased since the war in many instances, England has doubled the rate to Canada. This is generally felt to be a mistake and the post office is the last branch of the public service to look for profits. If the service is to be carried on at cost people will be satisfied. Canada is aiming at this, and to this end an increase in the newspaper rate paid by the papers themselves goes in force at New Year.

WINTER FEEDING OF YOUNG CATTLE

BALANCED RATIONS ARE NEEDED IN ORDER THAT YOUNG STOCK MAY MAKE GAINS.

There is no time that gain can be made more profitably with young stock than the period from six months to two years of age. The tendency very often, however, is to let the stock "rough" it during this time particularly during the winter, not even giving a maintenance ration, and the young stock too often passes the winter without having made any appreciable gain, the farmer depending upon the pasturage during the summer to put the animal into saleable condition. The result of such a practice is that lighter steers are obtained, or heifers are delayed in maturity with corresponding loss to the farmer. In order to carry young stock to best advantage during the winter months, roots or succulent feeds of some kind should be provided. Such feeds will take the place of hay and grains, thereby lessening the cost of wintering, and at the same time make it possible for the animal to make the best use of such dry feeds because of aiding in the digestion of both the roughage and meal given. Young stock cannot make gain without protein feeds of some kind. This may be supplied by feeding plenty of clover hay. The importance of using good clover hay for young stock cannot be too strongly urged. The practice too often is to feed the young stock the poorest hay, whereas the opposite should be the rule if best results are to be obtained. Of the grains, wheat bran, crushed oats and oil meal are the best. These are mixed in the proportion of two parts each of the bran and oats to one part of the oil meal. It is risky to feed cottonseed to young stock particularly to those under one year of age. With roots, or ensilage together with clover hay, a good growing ration is possible without protein feeds. If roots or ensilage are available a monks.

THEY'RE FLYING LOWER THIS YEAR



FOOLISH FRANCESCA

By Olive Wadsley

She remembered her start on the platform at Charing Cross, and Reg. gaily telling her jokes while he looked all the while as if he were wanting to cry. And Leon, a splendid, famous, conquering person had been a beast about him, had accused her of being unfaithful to him. Justice to herself made Frankie's anger deeper. It was the meanness of it all which hurt so; she would have believed where she loved, whatever had happened, but Leon had failed her. The stove glowed through a mist of tears, tears, which did not fall. "Day-dreaming, Bebe?" Madame Kain's voice said.

Frankie had told her nothing and Danvers had been given a royal lunch and had then, armed with Mme. pain's card, gone out for an afternoon's amusement. Frankie knew that she told Carissima the truth it would upset her, and she did not mean to do that today, whatever happened. "About tonight," Mme. Kain said. "I, too, feel so excited. Himmel! Frankie, do not forget to make that pause in the second song. You take it too quick and your breath is short for the E. Pour l'armour de Dieu, remember."

"All right," Frankie said rather wearily. Yesterday, the event of the evening had seemed the one thing to live for, now its interest seemed to have faded somehow. "You haven't a headache?" Mme. Kain inquired anxiously. "Do not say that you have," she roared and came across to Frankie and laid her hand on Frankie's head. "Burning," she said dramatically. "Stage fright. Bebe, pull yourself together, you have the voice I tell you. All you have to do is to forget that you exist at all and just sing. An egg and a brandy you will take at once."

"Oh," Frankie said almost piteously. "Really I couldn't darling." "Circles beneath the eyes," Mme. Kain went on impetuously. "This is what comes of love-making, Leon should have waited. He was always wild, irresistible if he wanted anything." "Oh, that Russian temperament!" She went on describing its idiosyncrasies, and Leon's selfishness in having ever loved Frankie and loved her so, with almost vindictive force, quite forgetting she herself had prompted the interview of the evening before, and earnestly striving to influence Frankie.

She knelt down despite her best stays on the hearth-rug, and put one arm round Frankie. During the eight months they had lived together she had learned really to love the quiet little English girl, as she had called her at first. Herr Friedrich Kain—minus the Schubert—had died ten years before, and his widow had never married again. She had really loved her first husband and their greatest grief had been that they had no children. Frankie had received in some part, that maternal love which Mme. Kain had once longed to lavish.

She bent now over Frankie's dark head with its broad band of black velvet and lapsed into the German "Du." "What is it with thee, Bebe, tell the old Carissima? Is it that thou dost not love Leon? For marry him thou shalt not, if that is so. Tell thy old teacher." She drew Frankie's head gently against the soft laces of the negligee. Frankie put her arms round the bent neck and clung almost despairingly for an instant. She wanted comfort and sympathy dreadfully but she knew that if she told Mme. Kain the truth a scene would ensue, Leon would be fetched, there would be an endless explanation, and she had at last made up her own mind, and decided upon her plan of action, and that plan held no suggestion of explanation. "The I go to prepare the egg brandy," Mme. Kain said, rising briskly and going toward the door. It opened and Leon came in.

With a little cry of surprised embarrassment, Mme. Kain fled, Frankie and Leon were alone. She sat on the hearth-rug, looking at her steadily, praying inwardly that her heart was not really beating as loudly as it seemed to be doing to her. Leon put down his gloves on the table and came over to her. He looked at her, then knelt down beside her. He felt, for him, very nervous, and like a good many people strove to

ADVERSE BALANCE OF TRADE DISCLOSED

BUT TOTAL WILL SHOW RECORD FOR THE YEAR.

Unless unforeseen circumstances arise, Canada's total trade for the present year will show a record. But at the same time, and for the first occasion since the outbreak of war, there will be an adverse balance. Statistics given earlier and imports for the 12 months ending October 31 as compared with the corresponding 12 months of the previous year. For the twelve months ending October 31, 1919: Exports, merchandise... \$802,359,428 Imports (both domestic and foreign) merchandise... 1,262,051,958 Total trade... \$2,154,411,386 Twelve months ending October 31, 1920: Exports, merchandise... \$1,339,639,464 Imports (both domestic and foreign) merchandise... \$2,403,463,907 On these returns, the balance of trade works out as follows (the figures being the same): 1919 (favorable)... \$349,692,530 1920 (unfavorable)... 75,824,921 Imports and exports by countries present some remarkable comparisons. In spite of the depreciation of the Canadian dollar in New York and the consequent increase cost of American goods for the Canadian purchaser, imports from the United States are increasing. Exports from Canada to the United States, too, have increased but not at the same rate. Thus, comparing the two 12 months' periods, the adverse trade balance is higher. For the 12 months ending October 31, 1920, imports from the United States were \$224,000,000, exports to the United States \$230,000,000 or an unfavorable trade balance of \$6,000,000. For the corresponding 12 months of the previous year, imports from the United States were \$719,000,000, exports to the United States \$499,000,000, leaving an adverse balance of \$220,000,000.

Trade with the United Kingdom has recently had singular developments. Canada, in effect, responsible for very heavy post-war reductions in the volume of Canadian exports to Great Britain. The remarkable feature lies rather in the extraordinary increase in imports into Canada from the United Kingdom. Comparing, against the October to October period, imports from the United Kingdom have risen from \$1,900,000 in 1915 to \$226,000,000 in 1920. During the same period, Canadian exports to the United Kingdom have dropped from \$224,000,000 to \$364,000,000. The balance of trade is still favorable to Canada, but it is now \$229,000,000, whereas, twelve months ago, it was \$445,000,000.

During the same period, imports from France have increased from five millions to 22 millions; exports to France have decreased from 62 millions to 46 millions. Imports from the British West Indies have increased from 10 millions to 16 million; exports to the British West Indies from 10 to 12 millions. Trade with Belgium is picking up. Imports from Belgium have risen from \$71 thousand to three and three-quarter millions. Exports from Canada to Belgium have increased from eight to 41 millions.

Chicago has a motor hospital which visits remote districts to treat patients. The hospital is a motor ambulance, and it is believed the motor will only about 25 years later.

Green Tomatoes on Toast. Cut large, firm tomatoes in halves crosswise, put them in a buttered baking pan, sprinkle each with chopped green pepper, dot with bits of butter, and dust lightly with salt. Bake until tender and the juices are thick. Put two tablespoons of butter in the pan in which the tomatoes were baked; when brown stir in two tablespoons of flour, add slowly one cup of cream, stir and cook until thickened, season with pepper and salt and strain the sauce over the tomatoes.

Soft Gingerbread. Stir a teaspoonful of soda into a cupful of molasses until it foams, add one cup sour milk, one teaspoonful ginger, half a teaspoonful salt, and half a cup of butter or lard melted. Add four flour enough for quite a stiff batter, and bake.

Pickled Peaches or Pears. Boil together for ten minutes four pounds of sugar, one pint of vinegar, one tablespoonful each of allspice and cloves, with a stick cinnamon. At the end of ten minutes put in the peaches, pears, stones, and cut in halves. Cook as many in the above mixture as possible, and have liquid enough to fill up the jars. The spices in muslin.

Coffee Ice Cream. One pint strong black coffee, one pint cream, two eggs, half a pound of sugar, one teaspoonful vanilla. Beat the sugar in the yokes of the eggs until light, add the well-beaten whites, and pour into the coffee, holding hot. Stir over the fire for a minute, take from the fire, add the vanilla, and when cold, add the cream and freeze. Chilled crisp celery, served in a bed of cracked ice, makes an exquisite appetizer. But celery is more than a flimsy side dish, or accompanied by one or two substantial ingredients may form a complete meal suitable for luncheon or breakfast. Grating horse-radish is often an unpleasant taste. Why not put it through the meat chopper? You will get the same results with less work. To caramelize sweet potatoes. Boil them, then slice and dip first in molasses butter, then in granulated sugar and put the slices into a hot oven until a coating of brown caramel is formed. Potatoes cooked in dry heat, as baking, roasting and steaming in their jackets should be served as soon as they are done to prevent them from becoming soggy. If they must stand a while, prick the skins when the potatoes are done. Any potatoes cooked in their jackets will become dark and soggy if left standing in a closed covered tin, unless they are covered and have the yeast probably covered and potatoes may be kept warm without deterioration in flavor. English walnuts which have become rancid are not necessarily wasted. Proceed by pouring over them boiling water, and wash a quantity of soda, then wash in cold water and bring to the boil for a few hours.