

CURRENT COMMENT

Ontario Hydro Information

It would appear that the electric "interests" are afraid that Premier Drury's new commission will not serve the purpose of blocking Hydro-Radial construction in Ontario. Accordingly, they have organized what is called the Ontario Hydro Information Association.

The Flaw in Labor Policy

Very contrary views are expressed by visitors to England of the state of affairs there. Some are inclined to regard the country as in a state perilously near to revolution. They point to the labor troubles, the scant production and other signs in confirmation.

Wilson Scores a Point

President Wilson has done much to restore his prestige in Europe by his note to the Italian ambassador on the Russo-Polish crisis. Whether luck or foresight served him, the smashing defeat of the Bolshevik armies before Warsaw gave point to his said, and as between the policies of Britain and France showed him as having a clearer vision and more correct understanding of the situation.

Faults in Railway Policy

Doubts are already arising in the minds of those who have been regarded as authorities by the railway corporations, over the raising of passenger fares and rates in general. The New York Journal of Commerce cannot bring itself to see the elevation of rates as a boon to the nation.

This town in 1945

WHAT about this town and country twenty-five years from now?

The answer is in your and my act of today. As we practice civic pride today, so will it be reflected in the GROWTH of our community a quarter of a century hence.

The practice of civic pride is more than the mere boasting of our community's present assets. It is mostly in the active support of the public and BUSINESS institutions now here—that they may develop and grow.

Popular subscriptions to any worthy cause—whether for charity or some big municipal improvement—is all mighty fine—never to be frowned upon.

But there is a more stable method. That method is in the simple little everyday act of buying ALL our goods at home—patronizing our home merchants.

A community thrives and grows as its business institutions grow. No business man with vision enough to build up a successful business, is so selfish but that he will throw his prosperity right back into the life and development of his community.

It may be in the erection of a big business structure—it may be in helping finance some new business enterprise which will afford labor for many more workmen—it may be in the enlargement and development of his own business—offering bigger trading selection—abreast the rest of the world.

If we send or take the money we earn here to some other center for trading, pleasure, or investment—we cannot expect our community to grow—we cannot expect our own earning power HERE to increase.

Let's all start training our cash into HOME-SPENT DOLLARS.

THE BRAIN BOX

By E. Gunn-Ramsay

Thoughts and Your Job

"Thoughts," says a small boy writing an essay, "are what comes out of your head to work with."

He has the idea of what they should be, or what they might be, even if crudely expressed. "What comes out of your head to work with"—but how many people put thought, real punchful thought into their work?

"As a man thinketh so will he be" is an old saying that holds much truth. What you vision inwardly, to yourself, about your life plans about your work, that you may grow into and build up if only you will "dream true."

Your thoughts are your ideals, as you think, so your mind is being shaped. Are you thinking progress, improvement, big things? or are you brooding over past defeats, losses, or things that have gone by?

Did you ever hear anyone say, "Oh, that chap is an idealist"? and think the expression implied that an idealist was no good in a business world?

"My work is so monotonous," says Brown, "one gets into a groove doing the same thing day after day. I wish I had a job like Smith or Jones."

What is Brown putting into his work? Let us suppose that you are Brown. What sort of a job have you? You say, "Oh, not so good as Smith or Jones."

Never mind comparisons with others. It is your job. For the time being let us look upon it that there is a job that only you can do. How are you doing it? What sort of a job have you? Is it just the same as that you took up two years ago, five years ago, or how long? Are you making the job or is the job making you?

One must be master, either you or the job. Did you ever think of it? and having thought, did you put the idea back with a punch into your work?

There is the place in business for the idealist. Make an ideal for yourself. Begin right in the work you have close at hand, and work up, out, and through it to the place that is waiting for you.

Never mind about Smith or Jones. Just think plain Brown for the present. You are Brown and Brown alone must do it. Do what?—Climb, achieve, grow, make his job bigger. Nothing can keep a good man down. Your job will be as big as your thoughts for it.

Harness your thought to your job. What have you given, what have you thought out and carried out in your work that has helped to make your job bigger, better? What improvements have you thought out? Did you act upon them? If not, why?

ABOUT CANADA

Chief Trader John Tod, fur trader of the early British Columbia days, had a novel remedy for smallpox—one over which he and hundreds of others laughed heartily in later days.

He was in charge of the post at Kamloops in 1846 when the warriors of the Shuswap tribe, coveting the hundreds of fine horses that were bred at the post, planned a raid on the animals.

Tod, through a friendly chief, was informed of what was likely to happen, but only after the Indians had assembled for the theft. He started at once on horseback for his camp, into which he dashed on the first horse, all foam covered, and throwing his pistols upon the ground so that the braves knew he was an unarmed man.

Then in his most impressive manner he told the warriors that smallpox was near at hand and that he alone had the remedy for it. The Indians were terror-stricken at the news, for smallpox was one of the few things they were afraid of.

The trick was successful. In a few minutes the three hundred men were his friends for "saving them" from the disease. Then he proceeded to vaccinate the entire party.

He had 700 doctored when his vaccine gave out. The instrument he used on the great occasion was his tobacco knife. He admitted afterward that when it came to the turn of certain braves whom he knew were notorious rascals he cut deeper than usual on such occasions.

And that he felt little pity when he saw them wince under his rude surgery. He did it so well that not a brave had a good right arm with which to fight for several days—and by the time they were better they had abandoned the horse stealing plan. In fact they were certain but for the intervention of Trader Tod they would have been swept off by the plague of the smallpox. Ever afterwards they were his friends.

What a Newspaper Accomplishes An appreciation of the newspaper and what its editor does for the community is well expressed in an article we have noticed in some of our exchanges credited to E. Governor Francis once said the following of newspapers: "Each year the local newspaper gives from \$500 to \$1,000 in free lines to the community in which it is located. No other agency can or will do this. The editor in proportion to his means, does more for his town than any other ten men and in all fairness he ought to be supported, not because you like him or admire his writings, but because the local paper is the best investment a community can make. It may not be brilliantly edited or crowded with thought, but financially it is more benefit to the community than the preacher or teacher. Understand me, I do not mean mentally, and yet on moral questions you will find most of the papers on the right side. To-day the editors of the local papers do the most for the least money of any people on earth."

Oil stains should be washed in cold water. Cotton was grown and manufactured in Spain in the tenth century. The tanning of ostrich skins is a growing industry in South Africa. Willow furniture which no longer comes white with a salt water scrub may be stained a beautiful bronze color with bitumen. Very clever imitations of pearls have been made by filling glass bulbs with a solution of fish scale sacre.

The present area of camphor afforestation on the island of Formosa is 20,650 acres, and some of the trees are from five hundred to a thousand years old.

ADVICE TO GIRLS

By Rosalind Registered According to the Copyright Act

Dear Rosalind:— I would like to tell you what I think of a letter in your column signed G. Strathmore.

I do wish you had answered his letter, so that I would know what you thought of it. However, I will tell you my opinion of it. In the first place I consider it horribly conceited of Mr. Strathmore, to think for one minute that he could tell a young lady who is quite unknown to him the art of becoming popular. I have heard two or three people asked the question, "How is it that you are so popular?" And each one has given the same answer, "I really don't know."

I have one girl friend who is very popular, because she is considered very witty, another one because she can play the piano well, and a third because she is really the best way to become popular, is not to try, but just to be as nice and kind as possible to everyone, and above all else, to be natural.

I wonder why Mr. Strathmore did not say right out, how he thought "Inquisitiveness" could be so popular, instead of asking her to write to him. I would certainly like to know, what he would tell her to do.

I can just about imagine what he would tell her, by his letter to you. He certainly must consider himself a very lovable chap, to have had so many affairs with so many different girls. I really do not consider it any credit to him. And I'm more sorry than I can say for the girls.

I hope I may never meet this man of the hundred or more affairs. Or I might be added to the long list. His letter was so much like a boy I met once, who was supposed to be a Titled Lord, that I thought it might be him. He used to talk about all the girls who were in love with him.

If there is any one thing I hate, it is a conceited man. And if our friend Mr. Strathmore is as conceited as his letter would lead me to think I sincerely hope I may never meet him. However, he may have written, his letter merely as a joke. But at any rate he should be ashamed of such a letter.

I hope I have not taken up too much of your valuable time. And will you please tell me if you do not agree with me about Mr. Strathmore's letter? I do hope you will see my letter and know what I think of him. And my friends think the same. FRENCHY.

Dear Frenchy, I'm not particularly keen about conceited people myself, and I agree with you, that the letter in question would lead me to think the writer belonged to that class. However, he stated his opinions and you have stated yours, which is what our column is for, so let's all be happy again. Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind I am a young lady in an office and would like your advice. Sometimes people, especially, come into the office, who the next time I see them recognize me. Now is it in proper form for me to speak to them or not? Should I speak first?—Interested reader.

It is always a ladies' privilege to speak first, and no man should speak until she does so. It rests with you alone whether you wish to recognize a business acquaintance or not, and it is not advisable to do so too freely. However, no one could take exception to a slight recognition when meeting in contact in the business world, though you are certainly not compelled to do so. Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind, We are three girls of 16 years, and we want your advice. The other night we were invited to a party and they played a kissing game. When it came our turn to kiss a certain boy we refused and they all got angry with us, so we left early. There were three boys who wouldn't play, so they took us they appreciated our not playing such a game. Please advise us, if we should try to make friends with the girl who gave the party or let her go.—Little Fluffs.

Good for you, girls! You may be little fluffs, but you have good sense, anyway, and don't worry about becoming friendly again with a girl who has kissing games at her parties. Those vulgar games went out of style years ago, and you took quite the right stand. Of course the boys agreed with you—any fair-minded boy would.—Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind:— I am a girl of 20, and was keeping company with a boy one year my senior. I received letters from him till last winter, when he ceased writing. I have never spoken to him since, nor has he spoken to me. I saw him only at church, as he lives out-of-town, but he always smiles when I meet him. I wrote the last letter to him, but he did not answer it.

Would you advise me to write a cheerful little note of inquiry? I would thank you very much for your advice. SNOWFLAKE.

Snowflake: It might not be a bad idea to write just a brief note to say: "I wonder whether you ever received the letter I received so long ago, and that would give him a chance to reply." That would give him a chance to write, if he wishes, and if he does not reply you will have to forget him, that's all.

Asbestos is feathery as eider-down and can be spun or woven. An ounce has been spun into a string more than 300 yards long.

ENGLAND HAS HER HOUSING TROUBLES

Big Premiums as Well as High Rents Asked for Possession of Apartments

By E. Gunn Ramsay. Canadians in large cities who are vexed with the problem of where to live may take comfort from the knowledge that the housing shortage in England is most acute.

The new Housing Act, however, which came into force on July 2nd, and which is retroactive in some clauses to March 25th, 1920, aims to put an end to the scandalous imposition of premium paying and "key money," which has been one of the worst features of the additional burdens laid on unfortunate citizens by the housing. This clause of the Act reads as follows:

"The taking of any final or premium or other consideration for the grant or renewal or continuance or a tenancy of any property to which the Act applies (other than a lease for 14 years or upwards) is prohibited and punishable by a fine not exceeding £100 and any payment so made after the 25th March, 1920, may be recovered by the tenant from the Landlord.

"In the case of an agreement made between March 25th, 1920, and 2nd July, 1920, in regard to a "1920 House," which provided for the payment of a premium in addition to the rent, it is open to either party to withdraw from the agreement which then becomes void.

"Further any tenant whose agreement has expired and who is staying on in a house under the protection of the Act, who tries to obtain "Key money" in consideration of his giving up the house, from any person but his Landlord, is liable on summary conviction to fine of £100."

"Vicinity of Baker St. Apartment containing 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms, kitchen, etc., lease about 3 years to run at £200 per annum, premium required 2,000 guineas including the furniture."

There are hundreds of instances where ex-service men and their families, rather than subscribe to such wholesale robbery upon the part of the landlord, are doubling up with friends in the smallest imaginable quarters.

One man is the tenant of stables and garage belonging to a large estate where in former days he was a well-to-do visitor. Today he is only too glad to accept the shelter of an ex-a garage space by the side of the chauffeur and the stable hand. Another man has constructed a fairly habitable cottage out of discarded galvanized roofing that was blown on a wind-drome. Wooden butts are becoming a familiar sight through the countryside and probably the best way of looking at the appalling situation that has been created is from the viewpoint that it has driven a good number from compulsion rather than choice, back in the direction of the open air life and the land.

Good as some clauses however in the act appear to be to the transient visitor, it has evidently, in common with most of its kind, difficulties and problems embodied in its wording which may yet entrap the unwary or leave a loophole for the rogue, as witnessed by a case which came up at the Westchester Police Court a few days after the passing of the Act.

A lady appeared to ask advice regarding possession of a house which should rent at £75 per year. She complained that the premium asked her was £1500 for a seven and a half years' lease.

You are entitled to a summons, the magistrate informed her, but he added, this will not get you a house. Moreover, you should consider before bringing a case to court whether you wish to be a public benefactress and spend the money.

The majority of people with whom one discusses the situation appear to view the Act much in the same light as the Westminster magistrate, but an explanatory memorandum of the Act has been promised by the Government, and this will doubtless help the local situation.

Unless you have a high fire screen arched over to meet the chimney, an asbestos rug to lay before the fire makes for a quiet mind.

Cabbage, cooked, is supposed to be more digestible when boiled without a cover. The element that makes it indigestible escapes in the steam.

Match scratches on painted woodwork may be removed by rubbing first with a slice of lemon, then with whitening, then with a soapy cloth.

The first bonnet worn in England was brought from Italy in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and its form was a compromise between the present round Italian peasant's hat and the French hood. The materials employed in constructing these ornaments were crimson satin, elaborately embroidered, cloth of gold, and similar rich materials. The Leghorn hat, perpendicular crown, and a wide brim standing out far around the face was the first legitimate bonnet worn, and this appeared long after Elizabeth's time. It was trimmed with artificial flowers and immense bows of ribbon. Our present neat and tasteful head covering is but a modification of this huge affair.