CURRENT COMMENT.

The Northern Timber Investigation.

A gallant attempt was made by a Toronto editor to get the cat out of the bag, to lift the lid, to get a smell of the rat, or to discover the Ethiopian in the wood-pile at the timber-probe, as the Ontario Commission entrusted with the investigation of the rumors about Northern Ontario timber transactions is styled in the newspaper headings. One of the defects of a law court is the fact that what everybody knows is not evidence. The only evidence accepted in a court of this sort is touching a man's character or reputation, good or bad, and then details are not permitted. But nothing else of general repute is accepted unless definitely sworn to. As the Toronto editor would not swear himself and could get no one else to swear to his facts, whether true or not, the Commission could take no note of them, and, in fact, rather sat on the editor for daring to suggest that what everybody knew might have some foundation in it. Half the Government was put on the stand and denied all knowledge of any deal between the Conservative party and the U. F. O. to suppress evidence, and no one will doubt them for a moment. But this still leaves the main question untouched. A Mr. Marks testified quite definitely to irregularities which he had reported to the former Premier, and letters that he had written and given copies of to the Liberal whip. The letters had disappeared from the files, and Sir William Hearst did not think he could be expected to remember everything that happened in three years. He admitted that the regulations had sometimes been strained, but never without good reason, and never for the sake of private gain. Hon. Howard Ferguson desired to reserve his statement and evidence until everything else was in. If nothing else is done by the Commission the enquiry will set a standard upon which the present Government can insist as a precedent for all future administrations. It may be taken for granted that the culprits of the past will escape, and that those responsible for laxities were suitably disciplined last October.

Cross Fertilization of Ideas.

There has been some peculiarly excellent public speaking in Canada this summer. A number of the wise men, who are usually silent, and who prefer doing things to talking, have been visiting Canada, and no doubt with a sympathetic desire to help the new world to make a better attempt at living than the old, have been offering some of the highest and most disinterested advice, the experience of old men grown perfect in the wisdom and ways of the world. Some of the Canadian cities, like Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, have been specially favored in hearing the distinguished visitors that pass through the country, but Canadians generally should share this advantage as far as possible in reading the reports of what these men say. They are saying things they would scarcely dare say at home, things that arise apparently out of the enthusiasm of the moment and the novelty of their experience, but things nevertheless they feel to be true, or they would not be said. A man is sometimes surprised into the logical recognition of his own thought processes and their results, and if he be honest enough to utter his own recognitions the world is the gainer. The recent speeches of members of the Imperial Press Association, like Robert Donald, Lord Burnham, and Ellis Thomas Powell, of Sir Auckland Geddes, both at Toronto and Ottawa, and other eminent people, are of vast importance in cross-fertilizing the thought of the country with healthy virile principles. A few notes have been struck which are "worthy of all acceptation." One speaker reverted to the thought, now frequently finding expression, that the future centre of the British Empire will be Canada. Another dwelt on our enormous natural resources, including one-sixth of the world's coal supply in Alberta, and an unrivalled appreciation of hydro power in Ontario. Another was struck with the extraordinary opportunities offered to the immigrant willing to work. Another was impressed with the opportunity for capital investment now completely barred by our exchange rate. Will the exchange pay us as well as capital attracted for investment?

The Etrurian Earthquake.

Earthquake shocks are among the most terrible of human experiences. The recent earthquake in Italy differs from nearly all its predecessors in that country in having occurred much to the north of the generally accepted seismic region. The southern part of the peninsula and Sicily are notoriously quakeful, but it is long since a serious disturbance has occurred near Florence. Human memories are short, however, and it is obvious that there must have been terrible earthquakes in ancient times to have destroyed the glories of the prehistoric Etruscan peoples, whose relics are still such a problem to the archaeologist. The recurrence of earthquakes in a particular district may be accepted as a warning of inevitable disaster in the long run. Time, as men measure it, means little in the phenomena of the earth. There is practically no difference in geological time between twenty years and a hundred years. But the difference means a great deal to a man or a nation. It is on this account that men forget the frequent warnings that recur through the centuries of the fate that will befall the district, the territory, the country, or even the continent, as in the case of Lemuria, doomed to destruction. Mankind is slow to take such hints, or doubtless there would be more active migration to the safe and stable regions of the earth.

The Terror That Walketh By Night.

Premier Lloyd George threw the Sinn Fein movement, as it has developed, into an indefensible position when he offered to release Lord Mayor MacSwiny on the guarantee that no more murders of policemen would be committed in Ireland. He said he had positive proof that MacSwiney's Brigade had been concerned in the murder of policemen. His predecessor, McCurtain, was murdered by the gunmen of this so-called Republican army, because he had refused to sign the death warrants of some of those condemned to this fate. So it is reported in Cork, and that MacSwiney himself had his orders to fast from the same Clan-na-Gael that has turned Ireland into a land of fear. It is quite untrue to say that all Roman Catholics sympathize with the murder campaign. Father Vaughan has expressed himself, and a similarly fearless priest at Dundalk has denounced these American murder gangs which are operating under the inspiration of Bolshevist gold. One of the real difficulties of the situation is the conspiracy, which makes any man's life unsafe who gives information about or in any way opposes this cowardly terror that walketh in darkness. Besides this, there are so many petty antagonisms associated with the Irish question that it is almost impossible to obtain a consensus of opinion about anything. When a settlement appears to be imminent some sentimentalist, often a woman, will dig up an old issue of centuries ago and inflame the situation all over again.

CANADIAN ARTICLES CHEAPER AND BETTER

Toilet Commodities Should Be Given Preference By Canadian Buyers.

The Canadian Reconstruction Association is informed by an experienced Toronto druggist, who is not personally interested, that many toilet commodities, such as face creams, powders, and toilet soaps, made by plants in Canada, are of quite as high quality and as satisfactory in use as similar imported products. Moreover, the Canadian-made goods are somewhat lower in price.

Competition of Canadian-made products and other conditions have compelled many foreign manufacturers of toilet articles to establish manufacturing branches in this country, but still very large quantities of such goods are imported. Under present conditions of exchange it is highly important that the Canadian public should give the preference to Canadian-made products, especially when the supposed superiority of the foreign-made goods is the result rather of extensive advertising than of intrinsic superiority.

VALUE OF PROSPEROUS TOWNS.

If Canada had five hundred thousand prosperous small towns, she would be immensely better off than if she had only half a dozen large cities. There are no slum sections in the towns. To their credit, it can be said that the townspeople look after their poor. Kill your towns by sending your money to mail order houses and you are thrusting your knife into the very heart of Canada. Build up your town by keeping your money in local circulation and you are building up production, and helping your manufacturing industries and making the people more contented and happy, and by spending your money in the home town you are creating better stores, a greater variety of stocks, better service to the community, and you are securing lower prices through having local competition. Buy in your own town and be a booster.

Norway has begun the collection of potash from the dust caused by the manufacture of Portland cement, using an electrical process.

With an electrical motor mounted directly on the saw shaft a work bench has been invented with which sawing can be done at any angle.

FOR MERCHANTS ONLY

MONEY Talks"—according to an old adage, indicating that our cash has human traits.

If it is so, we may have learned the reason for the straying habit of many dollars from this community—they've succumbed to the courtesy and friendliness of our neighbors, the big city merchants and mail order houses.

The city merchants and mail order folks are proving every day that it is profitable to invite OUR DOLLARS over. They do it through advertising.

But the merchants of this community can overcome that—they can establish a more lasting friendship with the community's money—in fact, make regular STAY-AT-HOME DOLLARS—every one.

FIRST—By INVITING the DOLLARS within shopping distance of this center to TRADE IN THIS COMMUNITY.

SECOND—By renewing that invitation through advertising, week after week, month after month, year after year. That's the way the city merchants and mail order folks do it.

THIRD—The invitation is to tell the dollars about the worth-while things that are in your store for them.

FOURTH—When the dollars come, remember they will only come back again when well treated.

And there is nothing more invigorating to the activities of any community than pepful HOME-SPENT DOLLARS.

THE BRAIN BOX.

CONDUCTED BY E. GUNN RAMSAY.

Registered According to the Copyright Act.

One vision comes alike at some time or other to every normal individual born into this world,—the desire to be indispensable.

However some may affect nonchalance and quote the old Miller of Dee, "I care for nobody no not I, since nobody cares for me," yet all, at some time know this secret ambition. Carried to excess, the thought expresses itself in egotism, too often an egotism which by swallowing up the more conscientious virtues defeats its own end and makes the subject not indispensable, but unbearable.

Obsessed with an idea of his or her own importance, keeping the personal I always in view, work that is calling for attention is passed over, opportunities lost and one day this kind of dreamer awakens from a fool's paradise to the reality that there are better men waiting to fill his shoes.

There is a sense in which no one in this world is indispensable.

Every hour of the day—nay less, every minute—men and women are dropping out of the race, death calls, illness removes, men are retired from active participation in the affairs of the world. Yet the world goes on.

The most important figures in history drop out without making much more than a temporary dislocation of the machinery of public affairs.

There is always some one found to carry on.

Yet in no two instances, is the work carried on in the same way. In no complete sense can one man duplicate the ideals and achievements of another.

There may be great similarity, a harmony of ideals, a following along the same course and all that the world at large sees is a continuity of the same object, but to those who read below and to the individuals and groups affected by the change of head, differences are apparent.

They may be for the better,—improvements. They may be for worse,—decadence.

Get this thought firmly into your mind. No one can fill your place in this world, the place for which you were created, and which by all the rights of nature and inborn fitness, you should occupy, so well as yourself.

In this sense you are indispensable. If it were not so, you would not be here.

You are here because you are needed in the plan.

How are you fitting in?

The depth of your indispensability, your usefulness, both to the world at large and in your every day work depends upon the amount of personal effort you put out.

It is the Personal touch that counts after all. It is the Personal value that far outweights all others.

Don't be a machine. Put something of your real self into your work, stamp every deed, every transaction with the personal effort to please, the personal effort to do it well and you will not only become an indispensable asset in your corner of the world, but you will fulfil a threefold mission.

Inspire a creative desire in others.

Carry out the purpose for which you were born.

Leave the world, and your job, a little better for your presence.

What the Heart Can Stand

By a Professor of Medicine.

While Sir James Mackenzie, the distinguished heart specialist, says that he has never yet seen any boy suffer harm from athletic exercises—the athletic heart is a figment of the imagination—he agrees that he considers it very unwise to allow boys to pursue effort beyond a certain stage of exhaustion.

It is not the heart that is in danger, but the immunity of the body to infection, and in particular to tuberculosis which results from over-fatigue and exhaustion.

We know now that practically every city boy is infected with the tubercle bacilli by the age of fifteen, and that the infection in childhood is in almost all cases a mild one, which under ordinary healthy conditions of life enhances the resistance of the body to the further invasion of the tubercle bacillus, just as vaccination protects against small pox, or an attack of measles protects against any other attack.

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The tubercle bacilli may remain alive in the infected lymphatic gland, or other tissue, surrounded, so to speak, by a wire entanglement of connective tissue, there imprisoned and kept in control.

But excessive fatigue and exhaustion may exhaust the gaolers—the warrior white corpuscles of the blood, or those immunising substances in the blood which the tissues of the body produce. Then the tubercle bacilli may break out of prison and produce consumption, or the body may fall a victim to a new infection received by the inhalation of the saliva spray coughed out by some consumptive, many of whom are walking about carrying infection and not knowing that they have the disease.

The medical examination of recruits during the war showed how many milk vendors, barbers, and schoolteachers were consumptive unknown to themselves.

Athletes have particularly, then, to avoid—not heart strain, but consumption.

They should take a lesson from the racing stables. There the horse is brought into perfection of training by good food, carefully measured in quantity, by cool, fresh air in the stable, and by wisely regulated exercise. Its training is such that you can scarcely pick up its skin between finger and thumb. At the end of an eight-furlong race a patch of foamy sweat on its quarters may be as big as a saucer, but not as big as a dinner plate.

One sees the extraordinarily careful discipline that brings to perfection the racehorse compared with the haphazard methods of life man follows in regard to his children and himself.

A horse is allowed to do an eight-furlong race in the day, but not two such races. On the other hand, we see growing boys exhausting themselves by running too many or too long races. Athletics should be carried to the extent of wholesome fatigue, which promotes strength and health—never to exhaustion.—London Daily Mail.

The most extensive deposit of hard coal ever known on the main island of Japan, extending 18 miles among a mountain range, has been discovered.

A new steam power automobile has a tubular boiler through which water is circulated by an electric pump, heated by a spray of kerosene or fuel oil.

Scientists are seeking means of overcoming meteorological obstacles which interfere with radio telegraphy in India at certain seasons of the year.

DON'T DISCARD OLD TIRES, IS EXPERT'S WORD

Rubber Company Official Says Many Can be Repaired.

"Don't throw that old tire away," is the injunction of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. "Few tires are completely worn out when thrown away. Most of them are capable of considerable extra mileage if given a little help. A rim-cut patch or an inside tire protector will often add hundreds of miles to the life of a tire.

"A rim-cut patch is designed for application on the inside of the tire with flaps fitting underneath the bead of the tire on both sides to hold the patch in place. It is flexible and enduring and once applied, is out of sight and mind. Tires which seem hopelessly rim-cut are given a new lease of life after being reinforced by a good rim-cut patch.

"And then there is the inside tire protector, which is designed to provide complete reinforcement for worn and weakened casings. Its use often adds several thousand miles to tire life that appears nearly ended. It is applied on the inside of the tire as its name suggests and provides at a very low cost many miles that otherwise would be lost.

"Anything that gives a tire longer life keeps real jingling dollars in the car owner's pocket and puts off the day when the purchase of a new tire would be necessary. We are not for economy that goes to the extent of scrimping, but we believe that if the millions of tires available in this country are run properly, the ends of conservation will be met.

"Tire accessories also make an ideal and profitable investment at any time but right now they are especially timely and economical. For instance, the tire saver kit is just what the name implies, for it contains just the accessories that permit a motorist to put into practice the principles of tire conservation.

"Take the pressure gauge, which is but one of the items in the kit. It enables the car owner to maintain proper air pressures and to know at all times just how much air his tires contain. Then there's tire putty which heals wounds and keeps out sand and dirt, which are active tire destroyers. And so on through the list. Help your tires and save money. 'A stitch in time saves nine.'"

TIGHT BELTS AND CORSETS.

Blamed for Many Ills of Human Race To-day.

That the universal American habit of suspending the trousers by means of a belt is doing much damage was asserted by Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, former president of the American Medical Association, at the university commencement in Cincinnati.

"The number of men, and young men, too, who are either semi-invalids or real invalids as a result of disturbances of the stomach and intestines is already alarming, and every physician knows that such cases are rapidly increasing," asserted Dr. Reed. "Not many years ago," he continued, "the same fact applied to women and was justly attributed to the constriction of the waist by the corset as then worn. But the attire of women in all particulars, especially in this particular, is now much more hygienic than that of men. The unconstricted waist to-day imparts to women not only a grace and suppleness but a degree of health that may be the envy of the so-called sterner sex. The trouble is with the tightly worn belt. The natural result of squeezing the abdomen at the waist line is to force the stomach, intestines, liver and other organs down out of place. When this is done, indigestion, constipation and biliousness result. In their train come headache, nervousness, mental depression and general inefficiency. In over 1,000 consecutive cases of epilepsy, careful x-ray examination has showed the existence of such displacements. It is not asserted that all belt wearers have these troubles or that belt wearing is the only cause of them, but it is claimed that the habit tends both to cause them when they do not exist and to aggravate them when they already exist."

An English inventor's cigarette case resembles an automatic pistol, ejecting a cigarette from the muzzle when the trigger is pulled.

Still a good timekeeper, what is believed to be the oldest clock in America, having been made in 1729, has been discovered in Atlanta.

Work is to be resumed in the old copper mines of Finland, which were discovered in 1757 and operated in a primitive manner for 130 years.

A full size, motor driven horse, mounted on four wheeels, with steering apparatus controlled by reins, has been patented by a Los Angeles man.

Young plants thrive better, according to a French botanist, if fed drops of water almost continuously than if watered copiously at intervals.

By slight rearrangements a woman's costume designed by a New York modiste can be worn as a negligee house dress, street suit or afternoon gown.

English interests have established an aviation school on an island near Rio de Janeiro to train pilots for Brazilian aerial mail and passenger service.

A box containing a system of mirrors has been patented to enable a person's foot to be examined for any irregularities while standing upon it.

EXPLORER RETURNS

Raold Amundsen, the famous Norwegian explorer, who had been unheard of for over two years and reported lost, has arrived at Nome, Alaska, with a few of his party. He has completed the first circumnavigation of the world between the northern coasts of Europe, Asia and America with many harrowing experiences.

NEARLY EVERY AUTOIST HAS EXTRA TIRES

Everyone Should Carry Spare Tires, Says B. F. Goodrich.

How many tires are required on an automobile?

A few years ago this question would have invoked retort: "Four, of course." But not so nowadays.

To-day motorists are thinking in terms of five tires as complete equipment for a car, according to the B. F. Goodrich Rubber Company. The day of "four-tire" equipment has passed for good. Motorists have learned that the purchase of "spares" is a sound investment which is sure to pay big dividends.

Notice the cars that pass on the roads these days. Practically every one has at least one spare strapped in the holder at the rear, ready to be slipped on a wheel without a moment's delay in case one of the working tires collapses.

This almost universal acceptance of the spare tire as a part of a car's necessary equipment is not due to belief that tires are not as good as they used to be. Motorists know that the tires they buy at present are superior in every way to the tires they used to buy. They are built from more carefully selected material by improved methods which give them many extra miles of life.

Purchase of spares is due to the growing observance of the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Motorists have learned that accidents may happen to the best of tires, and they want to be on the safe side.

If they have a spare tire handy they are spared lots of tiring work in repairing the old casing and tube, spared lots of cause for cussing, and spared lots of annoying delays. The old tire can be taken off and the spare put on in half the time it used to take to begin the repairing process.

In the long run, the motorist is saved money by buying spares, even if the original investment is considerable. With a good spare handy which he can put on without trouble the car owner is not likely to delay having tire injuries repaired, or to ruin a tire by running it back to town "flat." He puts on the spare, has the old tire repaired, and no serious damage is done.

Provision for carrying spare tires is now being made by the designers of practically all cars. The spare tire holder is being considered as necessary a part of the car as the headlights, fenders, upholstered seats or top. The spare tires are being recognized as an institution which cannot be dispensed with.

KEEPS COST DOWN.

Effect of Advertising Explained by Economic Expert.

At a recent gathering of business men interested in the subject of advertising, Jos. F. Johnson, D.C.S., Dean of the New York University School of Commerce, gave an address on the subject of "Advertising as an Economic Force."

"As an economic force," said D. Johnson, "advertising gives birth to new wants, and so creates an economic demand for more goods, thus tending to increase the demand for this labor. . . . No matter how wonderful your invention, or how fine the quality of your goods, people will not buy unless they know what you have. Therefore, you simply must advertise.

"It is entirely wrong to look upon the expense of advertising as one of the costs which add to the price. The truth is quite the contrary. Without advertising, large scale production is absolutely impossible and large scale production is the 'sine qua non' of low prices.

"Someone has established that the business men of the United States in normal times before the great war were spending one billion dollars a year in advertising. A mushroom economist would immediately jump to the conclusion that the poor ultimate consumer footed this enormous bill.

"If we could get all the facts, however, I have no doubt we could prove that this billion-dollar expenditure for advertising reduced prices to such an extent that at the end of the year the American people were more than a billion dollars better off than they would have been had some fake economic czar begun the new year with the edict against advertising."