

THE JARVIS RECORD

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Industrial Accidents

Industry in Ontario today is facing a serious situation in the increasing number of accidents reported to the Workmen's Compensation Board. It appears that there were 50,411 accidents, of which 418 were fatal, reported to the Board in the year 1922, while for the twelve month period ending 30th September, 1923, there were 59,351 accidents reported by industry to the Compensation Board of this province and of these 375 were fatal. The decrease in fatalities is worth while noting but the increase of an average of practically one thousand each month is something in which the whole community is interested and something to which employer and employee alike should give careful thought.

It is a fact that accidents can be prevented and it is also a fact that there are too many accidents happening today. Management and men should jointly lend a hand in a campaign of carefulness and help to cut the heavy burden that accidents have laid upon industry in this country.

As Europe Calms Down

It is reassuring to learn from a speech made by Thomas W. Lamont that "conditions in Europe are not as bad as they have been painted."

Mr. Lamont denies that Europe is on the verge of a new war. Mr. Lamont is certain that, contrary to all appearances, Europe is peaceful at heart. "In fact," he says, "it is not lacking in instances of international forgiveness and grace."

If the spirit of charity is abroad in Europe, few signs of it are visible on this side of the water. The world will be satisfied with much less than international forgiveness and grace. It will be satisfied with common justice and a disposition on the part of nations to leave their neighbors alone. If this condition of mental equilibrium is restored in Europe, it will be a distinct progress over conditions last year, when Mr. Lamont's partner, J. P. Morgan, could not find sufficient stability in the Old World to warrant an American loan.

To expect a sudden outburst of charity among lately embattled nations is to ignore human nature. Time alone can restore a peaceable frame of mind. The close of the American Civil War did not bring instantaneous peace in the hearts of citizens. It took a number of years to live down animosities. The state of mind of Europe is a good deal the same. The war hatreds of the major belligerents are complicated by the jealousies of the newly emancipated smaller states. It should be remembered that the emancipation of nations in Europe, like the emancipation of a race in the South, opened a mine of pent up rancor. Sudden liberation is always intoxicating, and it will be some time before the new nations get used to their new place on the map.

An Optimist Speaks

The present, as "the age of jazz," has no end of Jeremiahs who have predicted all manner of dire things which would come out of it. Psychologists have diagnosed it as the product of too much femininity in the race. Sociologists have held up their hands in awe of it. It has been denounced as godless and leading straight to perdition.

At the international convention of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in Chicago last week it found a defender in the person of John H. Friswell of Philadelphia. "The present generation talks a lot," he said, "but they are not hearing it. They talk and they go ahead and live just about what youth has been doing for 2000 years. It is free, it is frank and out-spoken than we have ever had. It is a generation far more

independent in thought than its predecessor, more courageous, or better perhaps, more adventurous, less inclined to hypocrisy and by the same token more honest."

It is indeed a far cry from mid-Victorianism to flapperism, from the austere conventionalism of 1870 to present-day freedom. The war has done much to bring this about but it was on its way. Cubistic art, free verse, flappers, jazz music were dumped on the world without so much warning. Novelty was the idea, novelty and independence.

It was a natural expression, if not reasoned and judicious. Youth, however, does not wait to reason. This was fully understood by Professor Friswell just as he understood that a problem confronts the present in finding the proper channel to guide this ebullience of spirits. Instead of bewailing that the world has gone to the demitition bow-ways, to take the world as it is and put it on its right course is the duty that is required of all who are interested in the welfare of the nation, the race and mankind.

Civilization's Deadly Dangers

One of life's bitter ironies is found in the fact that, as the blessings of civilization are multiplied, so are multiplied the dangers which beset the people of civilized countries. It is fair question whether one of the "founding fathers," could he return to earth, would not declare that, compared to the perils of the twentieth century, the dangers which the early settlers encountered in the hostility of the savages and the vicissitudes of pioneer life have been exceeded in this later day. The President of the United States has just designated a week to be observed as Fire Prevention Week, in the hope that something may be accomplished in reducing the number of people who are annually burned to death in that country. Now from Buffalo comes summary of statistics concerning accidental deaths in that country during recent years. There is an appalling total, and little real expectation of speedy reduction. In the midst of civilization we are in sudden and violent death.

Addressing the National Safety Council at its meeting in Buffalo, Mr. Marcus A. Dow, its president, said that accidents in 1922 caused more than 75,000 deaths in the U. S. The total number of deaths in the American forces during the war with Germany was 119,437, as shown by official data as of March 3, 1922. This includes the casualties of the forces both at home and abroad. The number of American soldiers killed in action was 36,811. The number who died of wounds was 13,711. It appears, then that if Mr. Dow's total of accidental deaths in 1922 is correct, it exceeds the total of the deaths of American forces caused by actual fighting during the entire period of America's participation in the Great War. And if fatal accidents continue to increase as they have been increasing during the past ten years, the annual death total will soon exceed the total number of deaths from all causes in the American forces from the time they entered the war until its close. War takes its toll chiefly among

the young manhood of the country. The accidents that mark the progress of our civilization do worse. They slaughter the children. It is stated that of last year's 75,000 deaths by accident, more than 20,000 were the deaths of boys and girls less than 15 years old. It has come to pass that the public streets are death traps for the young. Hardly a day passes in a populous community without seeing the life crushed from one or more little forms. The part which the automobile plays in making this record is well known, but the automobile is not the only menace.

In view of the increasing number of deaths by accident from year to year, it might seem that there was little prospect of checking this cruel and costly waste of life. But there is hope of better things especially in view of what has been accomplished in industry. There agitation has resulted in making life safer instead of more dangerous. The end has been secured through co-operation and education as well as through the enactment of a body of law designed to protect life and limb from the hazards of modern industry. If it is possible to make safer the mills and factories, it would seem to be possible to reduce the perils of the street and the home. And it is to be noted that there is increasing attention paid to the subject. We are in the midst of that period of agitation which is needed in the first place to create public realization of the necessity of reform and which, that being accomplished, leads to the remedial measures that prove effective.

WHAT'S THE JOKE, HARRY?

Western Paper—"Wanted: Twenty-five car builders in Bellefontaine. See Harry Laugh."

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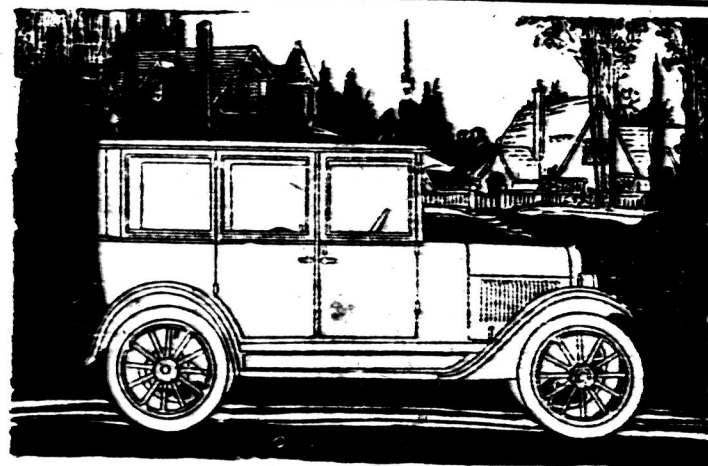
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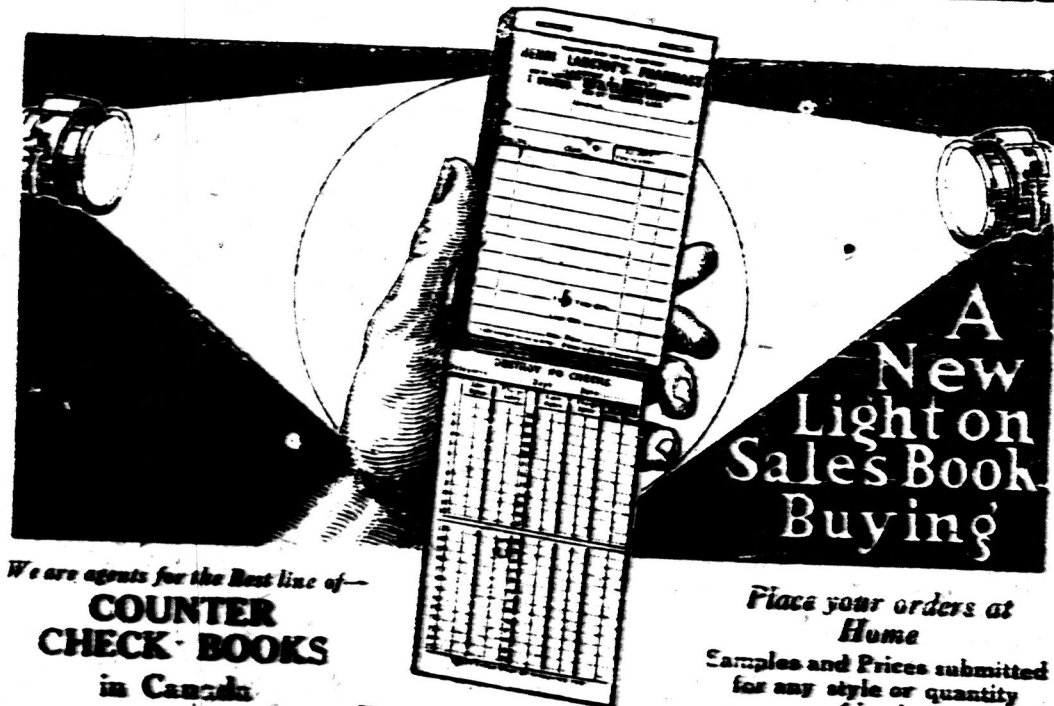
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