

THE JARVIS RECORD

Published every Thursday morning at 10 o'clock in The Record Building, Main Street, Jarvis, Ontario.

THE RECORD PRINTING COMPANY, LIMITED

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1923

Killing 'Em to Cure 'Em

A Chicago widow had a son who refused to work. He lived at home, stayed out all night with "the gang," slept days while his sisters worked for the food he ate.

His mother shot him "to keep him from becoming a criminal."

For a long time it looked as though he would die. But he got better, got a job and says he intends to behave. "I've learned my lesson."

In court the other day the case of the mother, charged with assault with intent to kill, was dismissed after the county prosecutor had pleaded with the presiding judge that "this distracted woman was so troubled by her son's behavior she scarcely knew what she was doing when she fired the shot."

A graceless boy, a grieving mother, a Spartan idea carried out with Spartan grimness almost resulted in an unnatural murder. A tricky fate turns the bullet and turns the tide of events. The boy has his eyes opened and the mother's despair changes to joy.

No sane person would advocate shooting as a means of salvation for erring boys. But if loving mothers of loafing gangsters would do a little less sobbing and a great deal more chiding the corner gangs would be noticeably depleted and youthful criminals less numerous.

Europe Changes

Better, says Tompson, better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay, and he meant that in the first there was rather more enlightenment and probability of change than in Cathay. But Cathay is changing nowadays and with it Europe, in greater degree than for some time past.

It requires some daring to refer to the changes that the Great War wrought in Europe, for the reader has good right to fear references to abstruse economic theories, sociological statistics, and above all to the fresh irritation of political sensitiveness. Yet Europe has changed, and we can understand how this happens if we remember that under no circumstances whatever could the old order have remained. There was a bloodletting and a most fearful one, but the blood thus afflicted was by no means healthy before it happened. As things were in June, 1914, they could not have gone on. There was much surface prosperity, the gilt braid was fresh and sparkling, unquestionably there was much urbanity and any amount of politeness, not so much that which is exploited by the tribunes of the people and the yellow press, but that decay which is bred of immovability and of which the outer form is the last to go.

Let us not deceive ourselves. Whether Socialist or Capitalist, the old order was in many respects vastly more agreeable than what we now call the new. Life was pleasanter. Life had more agreeable forms, life was easier, but this was so for some, not for all. All change is not improvement; reform has more envy and hate in it than the textbooks admit; many things today are not improved; many injustices flourish quite as before. Nevertheless we have advanced, and in so much have changed, because at least it is shown the work, in the greatest dimensions it has known, that might should not be allowed to make right. To say that this was a lesson is not to prove that it has been learned, but for the moment the voice of experience, the teacher, has been heard.

That America has much to do with the change, in some respects, there can be no doubt, but more can be said as to the degree of its influence.

The Old World is more unshaped than the New. It literally does not like to change much, because it has changed much in its storehouse of centuries and often, and because it has had experience a thousandfold that of the New. It is not nearly as cynical as we think it, but it has knowledge. For this reason it is undeniable that it is changing and equally that it may not have changed so much as this competent and friendly critic may think. The Old World has seen a great many theories dance on the stage and then hobble off. It knows the defects of what it has had, but does not feel sure of the excellences of what may be offered it by change, a fact emphasized again and again and somewhat ruefully by Mr. John Maynard Keynes in his writings. But this present eruption of distastefulships in Europe shows really a resentment of that change which has taken place. The dictative world put the clock back, and there is little doubt that it would tick well for a time, but after that we in as bad case as to its works, and certainly its face, as it was in the early part of June, 1914, when excellences were excellences and there was a decent covering of what one did not like.

Facts and Fancies

Obliging

"What did you say when Jack threatened to kiss you?"
"I told him I'd just like to see him."
"And then?"
"Well Jack always tries to do what I like."

The Dark Side

Professor Steinmetz says that the time is coming when there'll be only four hours' work a day. Calamity howler!

Divine Discontent

There's a difference between being dissatisfied and being unsatisfied; it is the unsatisfied ones who are oftenest the benefactors of the world.

For High Livers

Ad. in exchange—"Three roofs for light housekeeping. Everything modern."

Losing No Time

President of Ladies' Afternoon Whist Club—It has been moved and seconded that we refrain from talking during the game. What shall we do with the motion?

Voice from the rear table—I suggest that we discuss it while we play.

Chauffeur of the Range

E. D. C. writes: "Our cook, slightly behind time with the dinner, hovered over the pan of biscuits which refused to brown."

"I can't understand it," he remarked, "for I have the stove on fourth speed."

Sympathetic

"I once knew a man who went hungry in order to buy feed for his horse."

"I can understand his feelings. The other day I reduced my lunch to a single hot-dog sandwich in order to buy gasoline."

More Expert With the Colors

"Madge's portrait makes her prettier than she really looks."
"That's not surprising. The artist paints better than she does."

THE SMALL TOWN VS. THE BIG CITY

The small town has been the butt of the cheap humorist ever since the somewhat larger town came into existence.

A small town is any town smaller than the town in which the humorist resides. If he lives in a town of 1000 a town of 500 is a joke. If he lives in a town of 5000 any town of 1000 is a joke, and so on up.

City folks call small towns by witty names—tank towns, hick towns, towns in the stick, towns in the bush, towns on the bowl and pitcher circuit.

Small towns do not have scandals, jazz orchestras, gun men, floating indebtiness or traffic problems.

A man can park his car in front of his place of business and leave it there for a week if he desires.

On a hot day he can take off his coat and walk down the main street without losing public esteem.

In a small town, bliff doesn't get him anywhere. People like him for what he is—not what he pretends to be. He lives too close to his fellow-men to be other than his real self.

In a small town there are neighbors who whirl in and help in sickness; who like you just as well in your old clothes as in your new ones, who put on no airs and make no pretensions.

In a city, a young man may take his girl to the theatre, then to a jazz palace and then via taxi cab back home, all at a cost of \$25.

In a small town, a young man can take his girl to the movies, stop at the ice cream parlor, and be sitting in his girl's porch-swing by 10:30 p. m., have spent 70c and had all the fun the town afforded.

In a city, a man spends at least one-third of his time putting up a "front," in order to impress other people who are doing the same thing.

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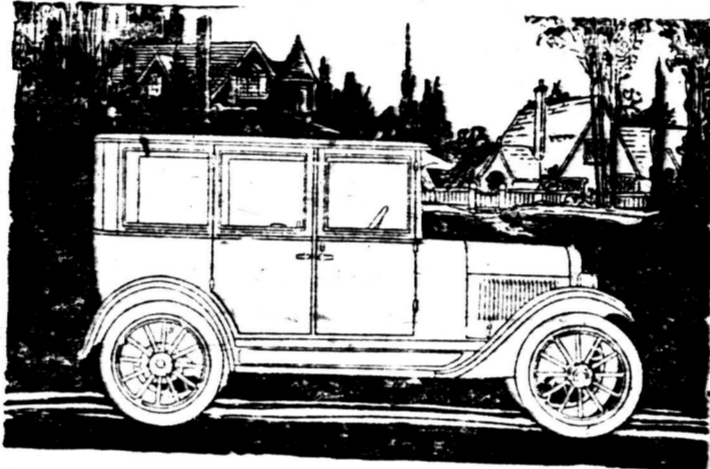
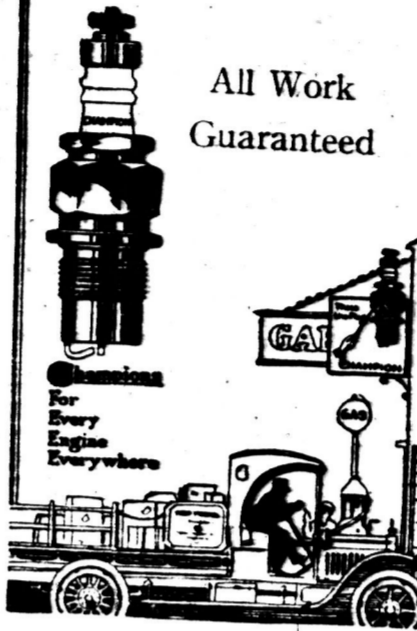
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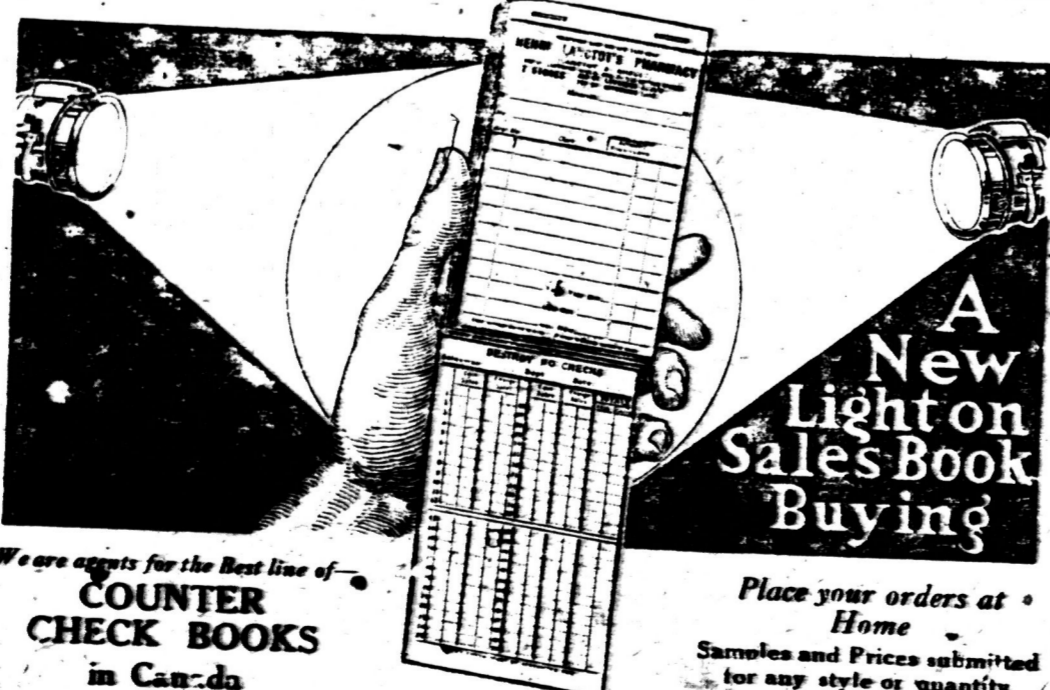
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