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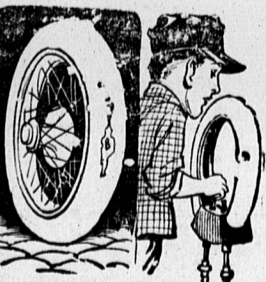
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Morning Daily (founded 1887) 25.00 per year delivered in advance 25.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada and 24.50 to U. S. A.

Mr. Charles Daines, President. J. R. Barnett, Editor and Publisher. H. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1922

PROSPECTS

Probably never before in the history of this country, or of the world in fact, have crop prospects been as anxiously watched as at present. The government of Canada and the United States have this spring made and compiled more minute crop reports than ever before. From the Atlantic to the Pacific the seeding operations, the acreage sown, the weather conditions as they affected the growing crops have been minutely chronicled and published for the guidance of the industrial and commercial world and the result has been extraordinarily satisfactory. Crop prospects are more promising than in any year in our history with the possible exception of 1915 which was a record year. Publication of this fact has infused new life into our industries and our commerce and a feeling of optimism pervades all our activities. It is felt that already the Canadian crop is not only assured but that in every line it will be the largest crop ever harvested in Canada. On this foundation everything else depends and nothing else can as clearly demonstrate the important, the vitally essential place agriculture occupies in the world. Had the early outlook this season indicated a poor crop prospect half or more than half of the wheels of industry in Canada would have stopped and hundreds of thousands of men would have been thrown out of employment; our merchants, struggling as they have been would have had their difficulties immeasurably intensified. With an assurance of a bountiful harvest everything has been changed, a feeling of optimism pervades every department; we note that building contracts awarded for May this year in fifty-six Canadian cities amount to \$34,000,000 as compared with \$28,000,000 in May last year. This is only one instance but it is a most significant one. Our merchants also feel the effect of the promised big crop and the prospects. As to prices there is as yet nothing to indicate what they shall be but the main thing is that there is every probability of a bountiful crop. With plenty in store there can be no want and even if prices fall short of the abnormal prices of some years ago, the aggregate will be sufficient to meet all demands and we shall advance another definite stage towards normal conditions.

RESPONSIBLE

We note that the Grand Jury has brought in a true bill in the case of the General Manager of the Merchants' Bank, charged with making a false return on the financial position of the Bank. As to his guilt or innocence we shall have to await the verdict of the court. The point is that a man entrusted with the administration of the business of others and proves false to that trust is, in the eyes of the law and of justice, a criminal. We are peculiarly sensitive regarding the safekeeping of other people's money. He has been trusted; men and women, relying upon his integrity, place their money and the safety of their business in his hands. Because of his carelessness or his dishonesty they are injured financially, perhaps ruined and it is only fair that he should be held responsible. There are parallel cases which the criminal code has not yet reached. The case of the Minister of the Crown who is entrusted with the nation's money and the nation's business is in no wise different. When he is false to the trust reposed in him, false to the pro-

misces made by him to those who trusted him he is equally responsible and is equally criminally liable. We have now in Canada a Ministry which has violated every principle of honesty; which secured control of the nation's finances and the nation's trade and commerce by promises which have been shamelessly broken. Wherein lies the difference between them and the Bank manager who betrays those who have trusted him? The real difference lies in the fact that the Bank manager is more easily reached while the responsible ministry is sheltered behind its own authority to make and unmake the law. Morally the false ministry is as guilty as the false Bank manager.

"LETTING GEORGE DO IT"

Good citizenship is generally supposed to be the exclusive care of the police and of the police court. If there is a burglary every night or two, if the bootleggers do a more than ordinarily thriving business and there is an abnormally large harvest from their sowing, we who are not police or police magistrates complacently lay the blame upon those who are and self-righteously bemoan the fact that there is so much wickedness in the world while we ourselves have clean hands.

The police and the police magistrate and the courts, working collectively or individually, will never make good citizens; we may as well accept that doctrine at the beginning. They may help the rest of us in building up a moral citizenship but without US they are practically powerless. Good citizenship is a habit, a habit formed in early life from good example, from careful training, from respect and reverence for law and order. While WE who pride ourselves upon our respectability as good citizens wink at law breaking and blame the police and the courts and the schools and the churches for all that goes wrong in the community, we shall never attain to ideal citizenship.

The old adage "If you want a thing well done do it yourself" is more than an ironical appeal to that egotism which believes that only those things which we do ourselves are right. It means among other things that we are part of the citizenry and that the making of good citizens is part of our duty as good citizens. What are the ninety and nine doing for the one among us who breaks the law? There is possibly not one law-breaker among the one hundred presumably good citizens, that is, the citizens who escape arrest, who even escape blame. If by precept and example the ninety-nine did their full duty the one would stand a better chance of escaping criminality. Blaming the police and the other factors whose special duty is to preserve law and order will get us nowhere. Ours is equally the responsibility, ours the duty of supporting these factors and working together and whole heartedly for the full observance of law, whether the law be to our liking or not.

OF INTEREST TO FISHERMEN

Serious losses occur in the green salted cured and dried codfish of the Atlantic Coast by pink or red discoloration, affecting its market value and reaching sometimes as high as forty per cent of the output, which is of special significance considering that the value of these products exceeded

IF SIR EDMUND HAD GONE TO DUNDAS?

Something About the Man Who is Widely Known to Canadians as a Banker.

There are few Canadians who have not heard of the many activities of Sir Edmund Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, a banker whose "avocations are legion" to quote the words of Hon. Dr. Cuddy. But we believe that there are many Canadians who like the writer have known little about the man and who will share with him his interest in the following intimate sketch which appears in the *Financier*, London. A Canadian professor relates that some few years ago, in the hills of Southern Palestine, he took refuge from a terrible dust storm in a castle built on a spur of the southern hills. There, in a fortress guarded by armed retainers and a Kurdish dog, he found a man of curiously wide knowledge and interesting conversation. During a long conversation the learned professor learned that for many years he had been studying the world's banking system, and had come to the conclusion that the Scotch and Canadian systems were the best in the world. "This surprised me very much," the professor says, naively. His host went on to say that when he had any money that he wished to invest with great care he put it into the stock of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. "This surprised me even more," the professor says. Had the estimable professor been a banker instead of a member of the scholastic fraternity he might not have been so surprised. The banking system of Canada is largely modelled on that of Scotland, and among the Canadian banks the Canadian Bank of Commerce is held in deservedly high regard as one of the leading institutions of its kind in the Dominion. Youth At the Prizew In bringing it to this position Sir Edmund Walker, C.V.O., president of the bank, has taken a pre-eminent part. Sir Edmund, who was

Notes By The Way

Superstition is defined as reverence for and belief in the supernatural or objects which are not worthy of worship. And yet most people in this country believe in the supernatural, in that which is beyond or exceeding the powers or laws of nature and it may be that the majority believe less than they should believe. Few persons if asked the question: "Are you superstitious?" will admit that they are so, and yet if the inquiry be pressed into detail they will readily confess that they do more or less believe in certain signs, omens, things that are lucky or unlucky, for which they can give no satisfactory authority or reason. Belief in dreams is so common that many very intelligent households have a "dream book" in their collection of literature, and the makers of almanacs in which to advertise patent nostrums cater to a widespread popular demand in supplying interpretations. There are few who would not rather spill the pepper than the salt at table although the former costs more than the latter. Not one in a million ever saw a ghost and yet thousands go through life in the fear

that they might see one when passing a graveyard or a lonely road at night, or even at home if alone in the house at midnight. And who would not rather break any other article of equal cost in the home than to smash a mirror? To very many Friday is an unlucky day on which to start on a journey or undertake any new enterprise, although it must be admitted that this delusion is less generally acted upon now than in a past generation. And yet there are many who had rather get their first glimpse of the new moon over their right shoulder than over their left. They do not pause to reflect that this superstition comes down to us from the dim and distant ages when the moon was worshipped under the name of Asherah, and men kissed their right hands in adoration thereto on each monthly return. The great Samuel Johnson believed in ghosts although he never saw one and also in second sight, although himself destitute of any power to foretell the future in that way. So common is the belief that the number 13 is unlucky that even in our times the great hotels avoid having any room of that number. The proprietors know that few if any of their guests, would not willingly occupy the unlucky room and it would be left vacant. This superstition dates back apparently to the memorable Last Supper of Apostolic days when Judas Iscariot was a traitorous and unworthy guest. That tragic incident can have no rational bearing upon the question of the number of persons who may properly dine together on ordinary occasions, but its effect has survived for centuries in a credulity not born of faith. As to dreams and visions that had a meaning we have the highest authority for believing. We have equal authority for the ancient statement that "a dream cometh from a multitude of business." (We may add that a dream comes frequently from disturbed digestion.) But thousands of sensible persons have lived to a good old age and never had a dream that had any real significance. The dream that contains a warning, embodies a hope or reveals the future is about as rare as are the proverbial angels' visits, "few and far between." We can hardly deny that such things as significant dreams and real ghosts have occurred or appeared, but the average person has but small chance of ever encountering the one or the other. There are many minor superstitions that are harmless, as that it is unlucky to leave the knife and fork crossed upon the plate at table. The individual who does this may be suspected of carelessness

(Continued on Page 5)

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