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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1929

THE TECHNICAL GRANT

The local Liberal organ, in an editorial on "The Technical Grant," makes no attempt to defend the action of the Federal Government in withdrawing this grant, but confines itself to a denial of any credit to the Stewart Government in securing any benefit to the Province in utilizing the grant for technical education.

concerned, there is still available \$133,000 to this Province; but this amount must be drawn within the next five years. The cost of using it on the terms in which it was secured, namely a fifty-fifty basis, together with the restrictions placed upon its use in the matter of agricultural training, will make it difficult, if not impossible, to take it all up within the prescribed time.

As stated in The Guardian, it was through the initiative of the Stewart Government that the technical grant was made an available asset to the Province. The short courses in motor mechanics, domestic science, woodworking, blacksmithing and other lines, which were carried on by the Stewart Government with the assistance of the technical grant, replaced the more expensive courses given in the Technical School, which, under the Bell Government, were carried on partly with the assistance of the technical grant and partly with the agricultural grant.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is asking Parliament at Ottawa, at this session, for a series of charters, covering railway lines in Northern Saskatchewan, and there are indications that at the next session they will apply for railway charters in Northern British Columbia, to the north of the Canadian National Railway's lines (Grand Trunk Pacific).

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Notes By The Way

The forty-minute limit to speeches is stated to be a time-saver, but has been productive of more than the usual number of speakers. The member who formerly made but one speech during the session, and that of considerable length, to let constituents know that he is on the job, now speaks three or more times, to work off the different matters touched upon in the long speech which for force of habit had been prepared and which could not be delivered within the time limit.

A dull speaker soon empties the House of Commons of half its members, a fact of which he seems oblivious. When he has prosed along for half an hour it seems to him that he has been on his feet but a very short time. Perhaps when he rose to speak he craved the indulgence of the House while he addressed it for a few minutes, and was greatly surprised when his time limit had expired.

In the earlier Parliaments of the Dominion, mixed among the many statesmen of that time, there were always a few BORES who were recognized as such, and who sometimes emptied the House down to a bare quorum or less. Possibly in these talkative and less patient times there may still be one or two of the same stripe who get elected to the House on Parliament Hill.

Hon. C. A. Dunning, Minister of Railways on Friday last, announced the intention of the Canadian National Railways to purchase railways in Quebec and New Brunswick at approximately the following prices:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Price. Quebec, Montreal and South-ern \$6,000,000. Gaspé Peninsula 3,500,000. Saint John Valley 6,000,000. Kent Northern 60,000.

Fifteen and a half million dollars is a large sum to invest in four branch railways, which have not hitherto paid operating expenses. Of course they may do better under more efficient management after further large expenditures for betterments and some needed extensions. It will be a great relief to New Brunswick to be freed from the burden of ownership of the unfinished Saint John and Quebec Railway (commonly called the Valley Railway), which has hitherto cost the province \$250,000 to \$275,000 yearly over what it earned.

To the purchase of non-paying railway mileage in New Brunswick is to be added a like transaction in British Columbia running into many millions, and this with new mileage to be constructed by the C. N. R. in all the provinces, totalling over 700 miles makes a formidable series of federal commitments that can only be defended by the doubtful assumption that the present prosperity of the Dominion will continue for years to come. Hope as we may, a continuous repetition of the bountiful harvests which the Dominion has enjoyed during the past three years can hardly be expected, and much depends on that. Experience has proved that prosperous times are often quickly succeeded by hard times, and it is then that the pinch of the present colossal commitments of the Federal Government will be realized.

We need the competition that can only come to Prince Edward Island by direct connection with the Canadian Pacific transportation system, as Mr. J. O. Hyndman so ably pointed out in his address before the Calcedonian Club. The monopoly of transportation in this Province hitherto held by the Government Railways, must be broken. It has not been and never will be, satisfactory. Competition is needed by the C. N. R. itself, which renders a far better service in every respect in those provinces where it has competition than it does here.

Mr. J. E. Sinclair, when Parliament was debating a resolution to restore the highways grant, made a strong appeal for railway lines. This might have had some effect if it had been pertinent to the issue. It is hoped that when the appropriations for railway extension come up, Mr. Sinclair will not start talking roads. The Federal Government, says the Toronto Globe, seems to take the view that technical education, technically speaking, is of no concern to

The Growing Of Rubber

(Condensed from The Scientific American.)

Condensed from The Scientific American.—D. T. MacDougal

Companions of Cortez told on their return to Spain, of a game of tennis popular among the people of southern Mexico. It was said that "Their balls are made of the juice of a vine that climbs over the trees. They cook the juice of these plants until it hardens, after which one shapes the mass as he pleases. These balls are so elastic that when they touch the ground, even though lightly thrown, they spring into the air with the most incredible leaps."

This, with other information as to water-proofing fibre, constitutes the earliest knowledge of the use of rubber. Not until the last half of the 19th century did it begin to be employed for raincoats, shoes, hose-pipes, and other articles. No extended demand, however, was made for it until inflammable gasoline, coming as a by-product of oil-refining, was squirted into smoothly bored steel cylinders and ignited rhythmically and the internal combustion engine was born. Horses were unhooked from hundreds of thousands of vehicles, gasoline engines were hidden under the drivers' seats and the commonplace world quickened its pace from five to 25 miles per hour. This increased speed called for the cushioning against jolts and jars to the human anatomy. Cores or rings of air enclosed in circular rubber tubes were attached to the rims of wheels to mitigate bumps and abolish noise: The epoch of rubber was initiated.

So common has the pneumatic tube become that the number kept inflated in the United States is as great as the pairs of shoes worn by the populace; the count of horse-shoes could be included without disturbing the equation. This implies about six pounds of rubber for every person in America, and the total American consumption requires 66 per cent of the world's production.

The domestication of a wild plant within so brief a period, so that it may be grown as a field crop, is without parallel in the history of agriculture. That the best possible procedure in all phases of the industry has been found is highly improbable; for comparative example, we are still improving the yield and methods of milling wheat after having this plant under cultivation for five to ten thousand years.

The essential feature of a field crop is that its seeds should be made to germinate so nearly simultaneously, and the plantlets to grow so uniformly, that millions may mature their grain, fibre or other products at the same time. If some heads of wheat in a field ripened in June, others in July, and others stayed "in the milk" until August the difficulties of the farmer would be much greater than those of which he now complains.

The production of a crop of guayule on the plantation in California where it is now being done involves the following program: Seeds from desirable varieties having been gathered by specially devised harvesting machines from standing shrubs, which are not injured by the process, they are subjected to a special treatment so that 98 out of every 100 germinate. This is literally first aid, since in nature many of the seeds may not sprout for weeks. This would result in a lot of plants of widely different ages and development.

Every one of the young plants is to be regarded as a factory unit driven by its own solar engine which in three or four years will build up its own roots, shoots and leaves until it attains an average weight when dried of one and three quarters pounds, of which 12 to 14 per cent may be pure rubber. The seeds are first sown in a nursery, and are handled but twice on their way from the seed-beds to the fields. The remainder of the transplanting process is mechanized. Such a procedure is in accord with the principle now coming into recognition: the greatest production per acre with the least expenditure of man power. In producing tree rubber in the Far East the work of one man for a year results in the production of 1600 pounds of rubber. One man on a guayule plantation produced 25,000 pounds of rubber a year.

The planted fields of guayule must be kept free from weeds for the three or four years during which a profitable increase in size goes on. After the fourth year the crop can be left standing for as long as four years longer, though the content of rubber does not increase greatly. This is a valuable quality for the cultivator in that, if the market is overcrowded when his crop comes to maturity, he can defer the harvesting till it is needed. In this respect guayule cultivation resembles a forestry project of short cycle.

The next step in the domestication of guayule will doubtless be the discrimination among varieties to find the ones most suitable for the cold-

solved by statistics of production and population. Yet, despite America's need for rubber, there is no area in the United States where rubber trees can be profitably grown.

The main supply of rubber comes from hevea trees of the tropics. Thousands of other species, hundreds of which are native to North America, show some caoutchouc or rubber in their milky juices, and might be drawn upon profitably if the price of raw rubber rose to ten dollars a pound. But any attempt to produce rubber at such a cost would be justifiable only in a grave national emergency. The only rubber of real importance is that which uses land more profitably than it is being used at present, and brings a fair compensation to grower and manufacturer.

The first successful attempt to grow rubber in the United States on a self-sustaining basis without government subsidy is the project of the Intercontinental Rubber Company. This company has been engaged in the extraction of gum from dried shrubs of the guayule plant collected chiefly from its extensive holdings in northern Mexico for 22 years. The guayule is second only to hevea in contributing to the world's supply of rubber. When the wild plants which were being used began to show signs of dwindling in quantity, experimentation was undertaken to bring the wild plant into cultivation. Fourteen years of experimentation and work have given the company small lots of seeds of less than a dozen varieties of the shrub which show a higher percentage of rubber than the wild plants, and some pretty definite knowledge of a practicable method of growing crops of the improved varieties.

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Concerning Self-Acquaintance

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

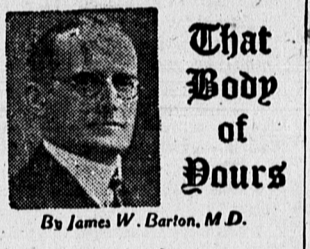
Nowhere does the Christian Church more clearly manifest the value of her ministrations than when, as in Lenten season, special stress is laid upon the duty of self-examination. And rightly so. This is the beginning of grace, namely, the spiritual discipline which impels human souls to take stock of the motives and affections that play within the inner life. "The proper study of mankind is man." In that sentence Alexander Pope touched the core of religious teaching. Personality is the supreme factor of all things. It is sometimes said that we do not deal with the realities of life, but only with such images as are cast into our minds. Ours is a reflexive universe. The outer world reports itself to the inner world we each know, and alone becomes intelligible to us in and through the thought faculty which exalts man above the beast of the field. But also, it may be noted, this outer world responds to our own concepts and moods, a truth that Coleridge put in two lines— "O Lady! We receive but what we give, And in our life alone doth nature give."

Man possesses a unique creative faculty whereby the natural order about him becomes reshaped within his own consciousness, and by its action is carried into loftier meanings. The ideas of unity, of progression, of beauty, of moral purpose, of duty, and of means fitted to nobler ends, are human resolutions carrying up the natural sphere into the moral realm wherein lie the highest interests of life. At the bottom of all this creative work lies the personality, which, if noble, finds nobleness in others, and, if ignoble, spreads its evil influence throughout all our traffic and plans and relations. It would be difficult to find a more cogent argument for the duty of self-examination. Jesus Himself frequently dismissed the excited crowds at the point where emotions had been stirred to the highest pitch, and exhorted His disciples to "come apart" into the desert place. He realized that it was not amid the loud hub-bub and strained feeling, wrought into frantic heats, that the soul is prepared for its high adventures. It was invariably a personal and inward test the Master brought to bear upon His followers. Every great deed of Jesus, every discourse He spoke, every critical moment of His career, compelled His followers to take another glance into the depth of their own hearts. All His parables had this searching quality. The widest reach of Christ's teaching comes back to this individual center. "The Kingdom of Heaven is within you." There is much significance in the

scriptural phrase which tells how, immediately following the mightiest miracle God ever wrought upon earth, each disciple went to his home. The silence that followed the Resurrection event was a prelude to the revival at Pentecost.

Self-scrutiny is not an easy work. Many people regard it as disagreeable and irksome. They flinch at the mention of it, and are much more concerned with overlooking the characters of their neighbors than making any attempts at a fair inventory of their own. Or again, they are quite satisfied to compare their conduct and behavior with the average accepted standards of society, and provided that they do not shock the susceptibilities of their fellows, approve their audit with usually a balance in their own favor. Biography deals with what happens to the personage delineated rather than the quality of his selfhood, and autobiography oftentimes conceals rather than reveals the essence of character. Even in the self-portraits that are sometimes done into print and published for all men to read, there is something bizarre and fantastic, a suggestion of posing or of self-advertisement, perchance the mere desire to excite interest and to get within the limelight perforce of grotesque gesturing; in short, personal conceit has much greater place in such so-called "confessions" than any desire to assist others along the road towards a nobler life. But surely this only shows how deeply self-ignorance can penetrate our lives, and that nothing is more common than the misconception of the motives, aspirations and ambitions that lurk within the dark recesses of the human personality. "All a man's ways are clean in his own sight." Everything depends upon the standard of judgment we adopt for our measure. Ivan the Terrible voted himself a saint. Public opinion is no safe guide in spiritual matters. The worst and the best of men have been flung into jail. St. Paul himself was as sure of his virtuous character and religious zeal when a mad persecutor of the Christian Church as, afterwards, he knew his life as a Pharisaic leader had been a tragic blunder. Self-contemplation can only come into its true purpose when we are brought into contact with some ideal that proceeds from a loftier authority than our own uneducated conscience. Only the vision Divine which, by its searching light, shames our low concepts, and, with a better self-acquaintance, also quickens in us the desire to "rise on our dead selves towards higher things" can make for a true spiritual education. And in finding such revealing light, we find our better selfhood.

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By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Yours

STOMACH AND INTESTINAL ULCER

You have been suffering for some time with what you and your friends call indigestion. Finally you find things following a sort of schedule. You eat a meal, everything feels all right for about two hours, and then you begin to have pain in the stomach, usually a little to the right of the middle line of the body. This pain continues until you eat some food, then it ceases, you are free from pain for two hours, and the pain returns.

You find that baking soda or other alkalis stops the pain, and accordingly take some baking soda or use some soda mints when pain arrives. You consult your doctor and he diagnoses the trouble as an ulcer of the stomach or first part of intestine. He has you take a barium meal at the hospital and the ulcer is located. Now there are two ways of treating this condition, by medicine, or by surgery.

Where the ulcer is blocking the passage of food from the stomach into the small intestine, an operation must be performed, but in the majority of cases of ulcer of stomach or small intestine, it is usually worth while to use medical treatment, which consists simply of the use of alkalis to offset the acid juice—hydrochloric acid—which is thought to be the cause of the pain of ulcer. Now as the stomach needs this hydrochloric acid juice to digest the food, you can readily see that alkalis like baking soda, or magnesium or lime salts, must interfere or stop the action of this juice. However Nature, as ever, keeps ahead of our needs, and so the pancreatic juice which is poured on the food as it leaves the stomach, does the work that the stomach was unable to do. However the first thought is to find out what is causing the ulcer and often it is poison from bad teeth and tonsils, or some nose condition. And then alkaline preparation of baking soda, magnesium, or bismuth are given after every meal. So don't suffer with indigestion of any kind. Find out what is wrong, ulcer, or simple inflammation, and follow the treatment faithfully. Keep it up for some weeks after you feel that you are absolutely well.

THE POET'S CORNER

THE OLD HOUSES OF FLANDERS

The old houses of Flanders, They watch by the high cathedrals; They overtop the high town-halls; They have eyes, mournful, tolerant, and sardonic, for the ways of men In the high, white, tiled gables. The rain and the night have settled down on Flanders; It is all wet darkness; you can see nothing.

Then those old eyes, mournful, tolerant, and sardonic, Look at great, sudden, red lights Look upon the shades of the cathedrals; And the golden rods of the illuminated rain. For a second, . . . And those eyes Very old eyes that have watched the ways of men for generations, Close for ever. The high, white shoulders of the gables Slouch together for a consultation, Slant drunkenly over in the lee of the flaming cathedrals. They are no more, the old houses of Flanders. —Ford Madox Hueffer.



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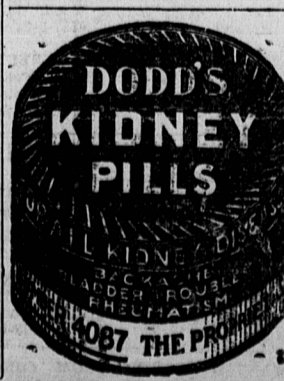
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THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK LEIGH

CANADA'S FIRST IRON FORGES

Q. Where were Canada's first iron forges situated? A. The first iron forges in Canada were set up on the St. Maurice river in 1730 by a Frenchman, de Franchville. It became the foremost industry under the French regime and the forges continued to be operated until 1880. Canada's iron industry has since expanded to great dimensions, as iron deposits have been discovered, while the future of the industry will no doubt lead to much greater development.



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