

## Canada's Need For Thrift

These may be abnormal times and thus suggest extra cause for thrift. A return to what in comparison may be termed a normal period, however, seems to prove that there was then nearly as much reason for the same policy. In the Report of the Commission on the Cost of Living in Canada it is shown that the prices of food in this country rose from 100 in 1900 to 145 in 1913, and of food and coal combined from 100 to 139.6. In the United Kingdom the rise in the same period was from 100 to 113.8 for food and from 100 to 109.2 for coal. This being on the whole a colder climate and coal not being so accessible, it would hardly be expected that the combined increase would be proportionately less than for the single necessity food, yet it seems to be the case. The one deduction appears possible, that greater thrift, comparatively speaking, is exercised in the use of fuel than in the consumption of food.

Why should the increase of the cost of food in Canada have been greater in the fourteen years than in Britain? That is a question worthy of answer and of thought. We are not only self-contained in most articles of food but in the more common run have a surplus for export. Britain, on the other hand, is an importer of at least fourteen of the sixteen articles reckoned with in the computation, namely, beef, mutton, pork, bacon, eggs, butter, cheese, flour, oatmeal, rice, sugar, coffee, potatoes and tea, the exceptions being hoed and milk. In our case the only exceptions to home production of articles of consumption, that at least, there is real cause for being, are rice, sugar, coffee and tea. Again is asked—Why, then, the increased difference in our disfavor of the relative cost of living?

There can be but one answer to the query here propounded—that we are less thrifty, more self-indulgent, more extravagant and more wasteful than our close relations of the British Isles. In addition the investigations of the Cost of Living Commission would seem to indicate that Canada is rapidly becoming the most expensive to live in of all the affiliated countries of the empire. In such circumstances it is apparent that it is up to our people to go in for introspection and to consider in what way the situation can be remedied and improved. We have not the large poverty-stricken class to lessen the percentage that Great Britain unhappily possesses, but home production and home industry should outweigh that possible reason for some of the difference. There are and must be other causes for the difference, and those here set forth appear to be the main ones. If every Canadian would consider that every dollar, every cent, saved and judiciously invested, and that every ounce of food produced, meant so much added to the country's capital and wealth, it is not difficult to believe that there would soon be a decrease in the proportional increase of the cost of the necessities of life along with a speedy diminution in household expenses.

## Arabia Revolts

Another quarter in which the

German schemers would seem to have been greatly worsted in Arabia. They failed with the Arabs in Egypt, but had some success in instigating the pious tribes of the African desert west of Egypt to start a holy war against the assailant of the head of the Moslem religion. They told those fierce but simple people that the German Kaiser had become a Moslem and was, along with the Turkish Sultan, fighting for the faith. They had like success on a small scale in the Sinai peninsula, also in southern Arabia, where some futile raids were made on the British dependency of Aden. They may have inspired the harassing of the British Mesopotamia expedition by Persian Arabs. But none of these free-booting forays amounted to anything but pinpricks. The big thing which they have apparently succeeded in doing has been to bring the Turkish government, reduced by golden dreams and blandishments, into such straits that the Grand Shereef of Mecca, who has always accounted himself, and been looked on by the Arabs, as the true head of Islam, has seen his opportunity to declare his independence. With him are the leading sheiks of the Arabian Peninsula. The Shereef is not only an Arab, which the Turks are not, but is the recognized descendant of the prophet Mohammed. Britain, the largest Mohammedan power in the world, will acknowledge and uphold this revolt, and will practically become, what Germany by annexing Turkey hoped to be, the lord paramount of Islam. It may safely be assumed that Turkey, which thought, with Germany's aid, to regain Egypt and to restore the glories of the Sublime Porte, will among other losses, be permanently shorn of this by far the most precious jewel in her turban, the possession of which was the talisman by which she assumed the headship of Islam.

## The War.

(Montreal Weekly Witness.)

To-day ends the third week of the great Russian offensive at the southern end of her European line. During the first week of that offensive the Russians made a hundred and eight thousand prisoners and smashed their way through the Austrian line just south of Kolki. During the second week they increased their captures to a total of a hundred and seventy thousand prisoners and made a break at the extreme southern end of the Austrian line by the capture of Czernowitz and the crossing of the Pruth. During the third week they have made no great captures of prisoners, but have extended their gain of territory by overrunning the whole province of Bukowina and forcing the southern Austrian army back on the Carpathians. Bukowina was not surrendered by the Austrians without many struggles; they strongly contested the crossings of the rivers Sereth and Saczawa, but were unable to hold even such advantageous positions as these. The number of casualties on both sides must have been considerable, but nothing to what they were, during the week, further north on the Lutzk salient. Here it is the Germans whom the Russians are facing and those are doing everything they can to deliver a counter blow that will drive the Russians back to their old line, or that will at least make them bring up reinforcements from the south, so weakening their contemplated drive westward from Bukowina. On Saturday the Russians officially reported that they had taken Kutzy. This gave them a crossing over the river which divides Bukowina on the north from Galicia; but on Sunday the Germans reported that they recaptured Kutzy, so that the boundary river still remains the defence line of the Austrians in this region.

A little further to the north, between the Pruth and the Dniester, the Russians are making progress very slowly. Now that they have completed their

Bukowina offensive they will be able to spare more men for the northern work, unless it is their plan to try to force the passes of the Carpathians. To sum up, their third week's work has been a splendid success, and must cause the opponents much distress in that they have forced them to lengthen their defence line by fully a hundred miles. That means that the Austrian and German armies, already much damaged in this region by losses in prisoners and casualties that must total between a third and a half a million, have to call for reinforcements from the French front, from the Italian front and from the northern front in Russia to take the place of these half million, and for still more reinforcements to hold the new hundred miles of line. A report comes from Holland that Germany attributes the defeat of the Central Powers in this region to the overwhelming odds against them, and avers that Germany places the Russian strength to-day at eleven million well equipped men. If that calculation should reach the German people it must give them a cold shiver.

## Fleet of Germany Is A Sorry Wreck

London, June 23.—Archibald Hurd, the London Daily Telegraph naval expert, writes as follows:

Three weeks have passed since the battle of Skagerrack, and it is possible, in the light of an immense mass of information from British and neutral sources, to form what will prove a verdict of the historians on one of the most splendid incidents in our naval annals.

The German High Seas Fleet, weaker by five capital ships, is so lame that it cannot move and so blind that it could not move if it dared to do so. That is a matter on which there can be no doubt.

When the war opened, Germany possessed the following ships of the cruiser class (built and building) less than fifteen years old, those lost in the course of the war being given:

Battle cruisers—Original number eight, since lost six, comprising the Lutzow, Goeben, Seydlitz, [a complete wreck], Blücher, Hindenburg and another of a similar type, which, it is believed, is the Von Der Tann.

Large cruisers—Original number seven, since lost five, comprising the Yorck, Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Friedrich Karl and the Prince Adalbert. The two remaining vessels are the Roon (launched in 1903, therefore thirteen years old), and the Prince Heinrich (1900). The Furst Bismarck (1895) is of no military value and can be ignored, owing to her slow speed and weak guns. She is believed now to be serving as a training ship.

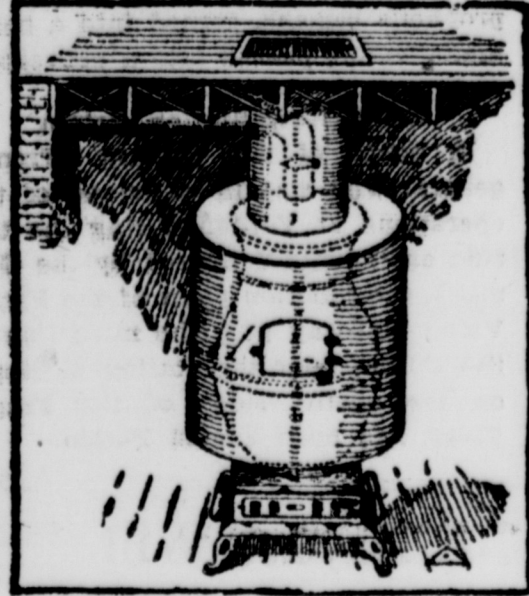
Light cruisers—Original number thirty, since lost twenty, comprising the Karlsruhe, Magdeburg, Köln, Mainz, Emden, Dresden, Nürnberg, Königsberg, Leipzig, Bremen, Undine, Rostock, Wiesbaden, Breslau, Frauenlob, Elbing, Ariadne and three others the names of which have not yet been revealed.

Out of the forty-five effective cruisers of all classes which Germany had built and was building when the war opened she therefore possesses today only four teen, and of these a large proportion was so seriously injured in the battle of Skagerrack as to be at present ineffective. Those fourteen cruisers have to suffice for duty as scouts for battle squadrons, parent ships for torpedo flotillas, and for patrol work in the Baltic.

## HOMEMADE FURNACE.

Constructed From an Old Stove and a Galvanized Tank.

This furnace was constructed from an ordinary pot stove and an old six gallon galvanized oil tank turned upside down over the stove, says Popular Mechanics. Holes were cut in the bottom of the tank for the stove and the hot air pipe. The tank was supported about one foot from the floor



OLD STOVE IN TANK.

so as to let the cold air in from the cellar to take the place of the hot air as it passed through the air pipe into the room above. A hole was cut in the side of the tank opposite the stove door and another door attached to provide an opening for feeding fuel into the stove.

This stove was made to heat a store and was used with entire satisfaction. Very little coal was used during the winter, and plenty of heat was produced at all times.

## How Cement Preserves Iron.

The cause of the disappearance of rust from iron bars, etc., used in the erection of re-enforced concrete structures has been traced by Rohland, in Stahl und Eisen, to the presence of acid carbonates and sulphates in the cement, these salts dissolving the iron oxide and leaving the metal bright. The cement in setting absorbs carbonic acid from the air, thus forming the necessary acid carbonates, and experience has shown that the derusting process is effected while the concrete is setting and commencing to harden. This discovery affords an additional guarantee for the safety of re-enforced concrete structures, inasmuch as the metal is protected from rusting by the alkaline reaction of the cement during the setting process, and as rust on the bars is removed by the action of the acid carbonates at an early stage in the construction of the structures.

## HAWAII'S VOLCANIC INFERNO

A Peep into Kilauea's Lake of Brimstone and Fire.

Kilauea, in Hawaii, is a round, extinct crater about three miles across and 700 or 800 feet deep. It has been the scene of terrific explosions in past ages, but it has now dwindled to the small active crater of Halemauau, which is sunk near the middle of it like a huge pot, 200 or more feet deep and 1,000 feet across.

In the mid-afternoon a party of eight of ten of us on horseback set out to visit the volcano. The trail led down the broken and shelving side of the crater, amid trees and bushes, till it struck the floor of lava at the bottom. Our course took us out over the cracked and contorted lava beds, where no green thing was growing. The forms of the lava flow suggested mailed and writhing dragons, with horrid, gaping mouths and vicious claws. The lava crunched beneath the horses' feet like shelly and brittle ice. At one point we passed over a wide, jagged crack on a bridge. As we neared the crater the rocks grew warm and sulphur and other fumes streaked the air.

When half a mile from the crater we dismounted and, leaving our horses in charge of the guide, proceeded on foot over the cracked and heated lava rocks toward the brink of this veritable devil's caldron. The sulphur fumes are so suffocating that it can be approached only on the windward side. The first glance into that fearful pit is all that your imagination can picture it. You look upon the traditional lake of brimstone and fire, and if devils



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...to appear skipping over the surface with pitchforks, among their victims as the cook turned the frying cruet in the sputtering fat, it would not much surprise you. This liquid is rather thick and viscid, but it is boiling furiously. Great masses of it are thrown up forty or fifty feet and fall with a crash like that of the surf upon the shore.

The mass of boiling lava is said to be about one and one-half acres in extent. Its surface is covered with large masses of floating crust, black and smooth, like leather or roofing paper, and between these masses, or islands, the molten lava shows in broad, vivid lines. It is never quiet.

Looking upon this scene with the thought of the traditional lake of fire and brimstone of our forefathers in mind, you would say that these black, filthy looking masses floating about on the surface were the accumulation of all the bad stuff that had been fried out of the poor sinners since hell was invented. How much wickedness and uncharity and evil thought it would represent! If the poor victims were clarified and made purer by the process, then it would seem worth while. —John Burroughs in Century.

## Helping the Books.

Persons about to install new libraries or those who find their books in bad condition will be glad of the advice offered on this subject by a writer in Les Annales (Paris). Glass cases should always be avoided except for a few precious volumes which are specially looked after and frequently dusted since the confined atmosphere and lack of air circulation in such book-cases are favorable to the development of germs, insects and mold. "Secondly," adds the Scientific American, "the simple precaution should be taken of placing on the shelves behind the books strips of cloth or flannel moistened with benzine, phenol, tobacco juice or turpentine. These strips give excellent results if renewed from time to time."

## One of the Stipulations.

A vegetarian engaged a German cook lady not long ago. His wife liked the appearance of the applicant. Her references were good and the wages she demanded not exorbitant.

"I'd like to have you come," said the lady of the house, "but perhaps you won't want to live with us. We are vegetarians and never have any meat in the house. Would you be satisfied with a vegetable diet?"

The fraulein scratched her head. "Well," she said dubiously, "I've been a vegetable?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## Word Blindness.

Verbal antipathies are common. Most of us hate the feel, so to speak, of certain words—"rituals," for instance. Is verbal astigmatism prevalent, too, we wonder? We never know the difference between "subjective" and "objective," and we have a high respect for writers who use those words intelligently. "Ingenious" and "disingenious" always puzzle us too.—Franklin Adams in Metropolitan.

## Dust Extractor For Coal Mines.

A new coal dust extractor, consisting of a combination of pressure air jets worked by electricity, directed upon the surface to be cleaned in order to raise the dust and simultaneous withdrawal of the dust by suction, has been given a successful demonstration by a Scottish electrical engineer, following a series of experiments conducted during the past winter. The apparatus is designed to be operated either by electric motor or by compressed air. It is said it will soon be introduced in some of the coal mines of the Dunfermline district.—Consular Report.

## New Waterproofing Material.

Seeking a waterproofing suitable for military cloaks as well as tents, French army officials have decided that acetate of aluminum is better than rubber, balled linseed oil, insoluble gutta, shellac or any other of the many materials to be had. M. Ballard added forty parts of water to one part of commercial acetate of aluminum solution, and fabrics are soaked in the mixture for twenty-four hours, then dried in air. It is claimed that the cloth is not only made waterproof, but is left supple and sufficiently porous for air to pass through it.

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