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AIR CONDITIONING IS MANUFACTURED WEATHER

Is Now Past Experimental Stage — In Use In Trains, Stores, Hotels, Office Buildings and Homes

Mark Twain was wrong! The most widely-circulated observation of this American humorist was to the effect that people talk a lot about the weather but never do much about it; what the public did last year, on this continent alone, was to spend something like \$60,000,000 on air conditioning equipment which would ensure inside comfort on the hottest day featured in the headlines!

People are still talking about the weather but the aspects of this conversational topic are taking on a cheerier note. Distinctively a product of the 20th Century, manufactured weather and its comforts are being brought within the reach of all. Air conditioning will definitely be a part of the home of the future, we are assured by forward-looking people.

A little more than five years ago, the air conditioning industry had attained the velocity of a light summer breeze, today, from a business standpoint, it has reached whirlwind proportions and economists maintain that it will contribute to the national wealth in a degree comparable to the development of the automobile and the radio. These same economists estimate that approximately \$200,000,000 will be the sum total of air conditioning equipment installed in Canada and the United States during 1937.

Past the experimental stage, the new and exciting industry has been growing by leaps and bounds. Installations have been made in office buildings, theatres, department stores, hotels, hospitals, manufacturing plants, the great ocean liners, the crack trans-continental railway fliers, the mansion of the modest home.

Air conditioning is now playing a vital part in many industries. While the possibilities originally lay in the field of human comfort, this new brain-child of the 20th Century scientists and engineers has brought manifold benefits to scores of manufacturing and finishing plants, particularly in the food and textile fields. It has resulted in speedier and cheaper production operations; the lowered cost of these commodities has been passed on to the consumer.

It is interesting to note that the original industrial problem solved by modern air conditioning was encountered in the printing trade when it was found that paper was distorted by atmospheric humidity. It was later discovered that this could be offset by the use of an atomized spray of cold water which dehumidified the warm air in the vicinity of the printing-process machinery.

Earlier than this, of course, was the problem of protecting food supplies

from deteriorating. To, this house-wifely aim may be attributed the results attained in refrigeration and modern air conditioning.

In rural parts of Canada there still are found in use the specially constructed storehouses for the preservation of food and dairy products. Sometimes these are built across a stream or set into a shaded hillside. The structure above a well often houses milk and other perishable products. But it was the development of refrigerants and the control of heat and cold by chemical and mechanical means that was really the forerunner of what today is termed air conditioning.

Apart from the effect on the sensibilities, the average person still lacks an accurate conception of just what air conditioning is. In non-technical terms, the aim is to produce air of pre-determined temperature and moisture content and to keep it so despite external influences. This applies to year-round weather conditions. In summer, air conditioning equipment circulates cool and dried air; in winter, it circulates warm and moistened air. Modern air conditioning equipment also provides for the filtering of dust and germs which, of course, are even more dangerous indoors than out, from the health standpoint.

Paradoxically to the layman, the principle of refrigeration and air conditioning is that heat makes cold. The illustration of the wet bathing suit is a case in point. The warm breeze of summer often becomes unpleasantly cool once the swimmer has emerged from the water. The explanation is that evaporation is taking place, the water on the suit is returning to its vapour state, this requires heat, which is supplied by the body of the bathing suit wearer.

In the case of refrigerants, these gases absorb heat and remove it from a compartment, which may be either the food container of a refrigerator or the interior of an entire building. Since it is not desirable to have extremes of cold and heat, the manufactured weather inside is accurately controlled by thermostatic arrangements which stop and start the air conditioning equipment to insure comfort in all seasons of the year.

Thus, engineering and chemistry, hand in hand, have mastered the major problems and the present boom in air conditioning has been an outcome. Manufactured weather in the home is now expected to be the next general development; today, year-round air conditioning is being brought within the reach of the home-owner of moderate income.

A SERIOUS FISH STORY

Japan is adding to the romance of industry with skill, ingenuity and enterprise. The Japanese are pressing forward in the business of manufacture, and their 'short-cuts' into the markets of the Western world is a disturbing feature of the times. But here is a new exploit by Nippon that will set the Occidental world gasping—floating fish canneries in North American waters. Rumors of this activity have been coming out at intervals, but now there is evidence that the business is a large scale commercial racket. On the high seas, of course, outside the three-mile limit, where Japan has as much right as any other nation.

Operations on these ship canneries, with a force of deep-sea trawlers supplying them the raw material, means that great inroads are being made on the red salmon swarming in Northern waters. As the Ottawa Citizen puts it, relying on the undoubted right under international law to fish on the high seas, the Japanese threaten to take away the livelihood of Canadian and United States fishermen, and incidentally destroy an important source of North American food.

The whole business is as unfair as it is ingenious. United States and Canadian governments are eager to safeguard their fishing industries, and have established certain rules guaranteeing that a percentage of fish will remain for breeding purposes. Should Canadian and United States fishermen follow the example of the Japanese and set up canneries on the high seas the red salmon trade soon would disappear.

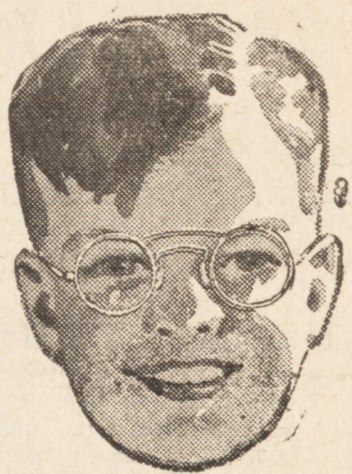
Naively enough, the Japanese government has claimed that its ships cruising in these Northern waters are engaged in research work, but revelation of their actual activities no doubt will lead to action by the other governments interested. The fishery industry has been the subject of many international arrangements, but it will be a strange development of the times if floating canneries become an issue between nations.

Standardization of equipment will ultimately, as in other manufacturing fields, further lower the cost of air conditioning in the dwelling of tomorrow. Just as refrigeration is today in household necessity, so air conditioning will be a requisite of the home of the future, bringing as it does fair weather indoors each day of the year.




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SINGLE-HANDED REFORM


Broken precedents are strewn all over the signal victory achieved by A. P. Herbert, M.P., in the final passage of his hotly contested bill to liberalize divorce in England and Wales. The measure puts an end to the flagrant hypocrisy of faked evidence to substantiate technically the charge of adultery, heretofore the sole ground for legal separation under British law.

Although the importance of this social reform outweighs all other considerations, a special interest attaches to the means by which successful assault upon outworn convention and the entrenchments of tradition was achieved.

To begin with Mr. Herbert ranked conspicuously as a humorist, and fun-makers fighting against injustice are obviously handicapped. But his propaganda novel, 'Holy Deadlock,' unmasking the folly of the old law, burned with earnest conviction. The champion of the cause then 'stood' for and was elected to Parliament, to the accompaniment of laughter in some quarters, and eventually upset moss-grown procedure by salvaging his measure from the scrap heap customarily reserved for legislation introduced by 'private members.' The

thing isn't usually done, and professional politicians deem it scarcely cricket.

But equally unprecedented was the fate of the measure in the Lords, where it was actually amended to provide an opening for divorce petitioners by permitting application for divorce within the three-year 'testing' period originally provided by Mr. Herbert to offset haste in domestic ruptures of young couples. The chain of events would be well-nigh incredible except for the propulsive force of public opinion, organized as result of the fiction writer's heroic efforts. Even Lords and Commons retain the ability to detect a popular earthquake.



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