

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Little Stories by Land and Sea, concerning the folk who move hither and thither across the face of a Big Land.

THE RING AND THE BOOT.

THEY still have a few lingering touches of the old way and colour in the West. Even Edmonton, the fur town, and Calgary, the cow town, have not got quite beyond it, though each is doing its best. A wedding the other day in one of the towns tributary to Calgary, demonstrated that the curse of civilisation is not yet too heavy on the land. The event concerned a Calgary real estate man and a young lady of High River. The ceremony was performed in the English church of that charming little wooden town in the cow lands now given over to winter wheat. A large crowd was present; even the aisles being full. One of the Calgary papers had a real live correspondent on the scene, and he had this to say of the wedding, which did not proceed in quite the conventional way:

"When the moment arrived for the bridegroom to produce the ring, Mr. Drever was observed to fumble nervously in his pockets. He went through his clothes carefully, but no ring. A slight titter arose amongst the congregation, and the brother of the bride moved up alongside the bridegroom in a somewhat threatening manner, evidently thinking that Mr. Drever was on the point of backing out on a technicality. Such, however, was not the case. The ring had merely slipped through a hole in his pants pocket and dropped down into his boot. Sitting down on the altar steps with a very red face, the unfortunate man pulled off his boot and shook out the ring. In performing this operation he disclosed a hole in the heel of his sock about the size of a dollar or a dollar and a half.

"High time you were getting married, young man," remarked the clergyman, as he resumed the service."

* * *

TWO RINGS AND NO LICENSE.

IN Edmonton a few years ago took place a wedding rather more remarkable than this. The daughter of a retired Hudson's Bay factor living in Edmonton was to be married to a trader from the far north. This wedding also was held in a church and was as high a function as society and organ music could make it. The Lochinvar, however, had come from a very remote land up near Fort Norman in the Great Bear land, where marriages are very informal. In the first place he quite overlooked the fact that it was necessary to have a license. Arrived at the church with the guests assembled and the organ silent and the principals and seconds all duly in place, he was awkwardly asked for his license, only to find that he had to go out and get one. So the service was held up until he was able to hustle out down town and find the jeweller from whom he had bought the wedding ring—a formality which he thoroughly understood. But when the ceremony got under way again and it came to the part where the ring is the thing, the bridegroom discovered to his cold amazement that he was unable in any of his pockets to find the thing. He searched them all—but there was not even a hole in any of them to show where the ring might have gone to. At last he located the ring; pulled it out with a flourish and put it on the bride's finger—*horrible visu!* it was a pewter ring used for trading to the Indians. When the ceremony was over and he got out into the blessed fresh air, he located the real ring stuck on a blade of his knife.

* * *

THE NATIONAL HYMN PROBLEM.

CONTROVERSY over a national anthem is growing of late. Three or four newspapers have got into the discussion. The Toronto *Telegram* has been assiduously knocking the words of "O Canada"—the bone of contention. The London *Advertiser* defends the French Canadian hymn, but not *holus bolus*—contending that if English words were written to the tune it might rival if not out "The Maple Leaf" in Ontario. The Windsor *Record* tries to prove that the *Advertiser* talks guff. It contends that "O Canada" is musically too complicated and that "The Maple Leaf" is simple and therefore universal. The *Tiser* gets back learnedly at the *Record* somewhat as follows:

"Transition is the word commonly used, not modulation. The beautiful and easily-sung Russian, Austrian and French national anthems are far more than "O Canada" extraneous in their melody, and consequently come under the *Record's* condemnation even more severely than Lavallee's work, for the 'removes' it refers to are extraneous modulations, or, in other words, modulation to keys remote from the given key, the very thing which the *Record* holds to be unmusical."

Meanwhile the whole question has been ably discussed at a recent meeting of the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto. At a meeting held in February, Dr. J. Humfrey Anger analysed both "O Canada" and "The Maple Leaf" from a harmonic point of view. He showed clearly that the stimulus of "The Maple Leaf" is jejune and primitive,

while that of "O Canada" is standard in form and capable of the broadest yet simplest harmonic treatment.

* * *

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HISTORY.

SINGULAR how almost everything has its prophet.

Many will recall the famous Joseph Cook, whose Monday lectures in Boston excited such a furore among plain people and who a few years before his death lectured in Toronto. Mr. Cook was a man of remarkable insight and he had paid much more attention to Canada than most of the orators who came over here under Major Pond. It was twenty-five years ago when this big Boston divine visited Winnipeg and made a prophecy that caused even the cunning 'Peggors to think he was a shade rosy in his views. Speaking before one of his Boston audiences he said:

"It has been my fortune lately, in Manitoba and in British Columbia, to meet with experiences which have given me a new conception of the dignity of the Canadian Dominion. Conversing with a professor of a university in the beautiful and energetic city of Winnipeg, while a map of North America was opened before us, I put my compasses down, one foot on St. Paul, and left the other swinging about the chart. 'Now,' said I to my informant, 'how far north must I carry this loose foot of the compass to reach the furthestest border of your good wheat lands?' 'You must carry it north,' said he, 'to the Peace River in Athabasca. On the banks of that stream the buffalo and their young may be seen feeding on grass on the 10th of May.' I opened the compasses until they reached the Peace River, some 1,500 miles northwest of St. Paul. I then swung the compasses around, and their northernmost point, when carried east, stood in the Atlantic Ocean, and when carried to the south it stood in the Gulf. Incredible as the assertion may appear, there is more arable land northwest of St. Paul than east of it."

* * *

CANADA'S ONLY MUSIC HALL.

THE only music hall in Canada worthy of the name has lately become a bone of contention. The trustees of Massey Hall in Toronto are asking for exemption from taxes. They claim that the hall has a debt of six thousand dollars; that it is not a money maker and never was; but that if there were no taxes to pay, it would be possible to improve the hall and possibly instal a grand organ. All this is aside from the fact that in the original agreement with Mr. Hart A. Massey the hall was to be free of taxes; but that a legislative lobby killed the exemption—and the City Council of that period let the matter drop; which was at best a poor thing to do. No one doubts the value of Massey Hall to the cause of music in Canada. To Hart Massey alone it is due that Toronto has a large public hall capable of being used for concerts, plays, political and religious meetings and conventions; a hall that seats nearly three thousand five hundred people; that is equipped with all the necessities and a few of the luxuries of convenience. To Massey is owing the fact that Toronto has a hall better than Buffalo, Detroit, or Cleveland or Montreal. In fact there is no city in America outside of New York, Chicago, Boston, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati perhaps that has a hall better than Massey Hall. The famous Orchestra Hall in Chicago is less large and more beautiful; also more up to date, being built only seven or eight years ago. Carnegie Hall in New York seats seven hundred fewer people but has a larger cubic capacity, besides having five floors. Boston Symphony Hall is smaller but has better acoustic properties. Built in 1894, Massey Hall is not so modern as halls which have been built within the last decade, during which acoustics have been specially studied. But as halls go it is a long way the best in Canada and among the very best in America. It was in the fall of 1894, a few months after Massey Hall was opened by Torrington's Festival Chorus, that the evangelist Moody held a series of meetings in that place. Mr. Massey one evening occupied his box. At the close of the sermon Mr. Moody turned to the Massey box and publicly thanked Mr. Massey for his gift of a hall in which nearly four thousand people could listen to a sermon. Now there is vague rumour of Massey Hall being sold. This, however, will scarcely be done. The enlightened public of Toronto are proud of Massey Hall and would be strongly in favour of exempting it from taxation.

* * *

DALHOUSIE NEEDS MORE ROOM.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE is another of the eastern concerns that are growing—even while it is the fashion to say publicly that the east is pastorally marking time and watching the west make history. Halifax is proud of Dalhousie, which is the largest educational institution in Nova Scotia. Dalhousie is responsible for the expenditure of at least a hundred thousand dollars a year in Halifax. The College needs more room. It will be



This MAVRO Collar and IMPERIAL Shirt have Fashion's approval for Evening Dress

MEN who esteem real quality and modish—but decorous—style find full satisfaction in the shirts and collars trademarked "W.G. & R." and made at Berlin. They fit well; they look well; they wear well; they will meet your exactions and longer withstand the laundries. Compare by wear. The value's there.

There is a *W.G. & R.* collar and shirt for every taste, season and occasion. Enquire at your favorite shop.

W.G. & R.

Chief Office for Canada: TORONTO

ALFRED WRIGHT, Manager



IRISH & MAULSON
Toronto General Agents

WILSON'S Invalids' Port

(A la Quina du Pérou)

combines in an agreeable and nutritious Oporto wine the unique Medicinal properties of specially-selected Cinchona Bark.

It is the only preparation on this market that has received as many written endorsements of Canadian Practising Physicians who testify to its worth.

Employed as a neuro-muscular stimulant serviceable in Anæmia, Coughs, Colds, Debility, Vocal Weakness, La Grippe, Fevers, Bronchitis, Nervous Troubles, Muscular Weakness, Diseases of Old Age, Overwork, Neurasthenia, Impotence, Depression, Heart Troubles, Mental Overstrain, etc.

Ask YOUR Doctor.

BIG BOTTLE

Sold at all Pharmacies. Everywhere.

