

About Things in General

And Public Men in Particular.

By SCRUTATOR.

"I will just here remark that, 'mongst civilized nations, there's none that displays more exemplary patience under all sorts of boring, at all sorts of hours, from all sorts of desperate persons, than ours. Not to speak of our leaders, our quoser legislature, and other such trials for a sensitive nature."

WHEN SIR EDWARD DALTON SHEA WAS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

At the time to which I now refer Sir Edward Dalton Shea, father of the present Acting Premier, was President of the Legislative Council. He was then well on for ninety years of age. I liked the old gentleman much more than I expected to do before I became intimately acquainted with him. Autumn "glides ere it withers," and it is sometimes the same with old age. They had in the Council just then a keen Mephistophelic sort of person who believed in nothing—who, like Pistol, had used the world as his oyster and extracted pearls out of it until he had made his life flow easily. He had been successful in business; he had done, and would continue to do, effectively and well whatever he undertook; but his theory of existence was that in such a world as this the only wisdom was to get as much enjoyment out of it as could be had. All else was illusion. He was excellent company, intellectually one of the best they had in the Upper House—not more clever in some respects, though, than most of his fellow-members; but a belief in something—some object outside oneself, for which one can care and exert oneself—brings a grace into the character which is not to be had without it. Simplicity is more attractive than brilliancy, and my friend had a humor of his own which was often diverting. He was a prominent lawyer and could tell many interesting stories about the bench and bar as well as about his experiences generally in professional and social life.

THE RAGE FOR CITY LIFE AND WEALTH.

Is it not possible that the fierceness of the rage for city life, and wealth to enjoy it, will one day abate, and the people begin to look about them for the sweetness and serenity which human nature longs for in its highest moments, and which are best found under a pure sky, amid the quietness of nature? When the fisherman and farmer in the villages along our coast begin to study more how to improve and make comfortable village life, when good, daily meals, the telephone, the manual training school, shall have carried into our outports and extern settlements the blessings of the new civilization, it may be that the incentive to live in the city or to emigrate will be largely removed. If the dwellers in our smaller towns and settlements want to counteract the existing tendencies, they must be alert to seize and appropriate the agencies which are now transforming modern life. The tendency of the people in the later stages of civilization to gather into towns is an old story. Horace had seen in Rome what we are now witnessing in Newfoundland—the fields deserted, the people crowding into the city or leaving the country altogether. He noted the growing degeneracy. He foretold the inevitable consequences.

"They did not spring from sties like these,
The noble youth who dyed the seas
With Carthaginian gore;
Who great Antichus overcame,
And Hannibal of yore;
But they of rustic warriors might

The mainly offspring learned to smite
The soil with Sabine spade,
And faggots they had to cut to bear
Home from the forest whence'er
An austere mother bade."

THE MOTHER-COUNTRY AND THE DOMINIONS.

Judging from the tone of the English press of late, there seems to be a deplorable lack of interest manifested by the Mother Country in the affairs of her offsprings beyond the seas, especially in those who inhabit the smaller colonies. This, all true and loyal colonists very much regret. It is a matter of serious import to Newfoundland, for instance, that the public mind in England should continue to understand somewhat of Newfoundland feeling and Newfoundland interests. The great Empire built up by our fathers can only be held together by mutual confidence, by kindly feeling, by national pride, and by common interest. Misunderstandings must be avoided. Newfoundland in the past has suffered great and irreparable injury by the want of knowledge among English statesmen and people of the condition of affairs in this island. Other dominions have had similar experiences. And as the colonies have been hitherto dealt with—made use of in the interest of the Mother Country as long as they would submit; and then called "wasteful," and advised to take themselves away—they are in no mood for a union which may bring them again under the authority of Downing Street. But affronts have not estranged them. They have been in no haste to meet the offer of independence. They claim still their share in the inheritance of the nation from which they have sprung. British we are and British we wish to remain, and impossible as it is to weld together two pieces of steel while below the welding temperature, let the desire for a union of equality rise in England and rise in the colonies to sufficient heat, the impossibility will become a possibility, and of political possibilities the easiest. Up to the present the attachment of the colonies to the Parent State has been proof against the hints and exhortations from certain quarters to take themselves away. If the Imperial authorities value the attachment of the dominions, they will continue to furnish them with the finest men they can provide as proconsuls. There will be no difficulty when the situation of governor of a colony is recognized as of the importance which really attaches to it.

POLITICS AND OUR OLD DIPLOMATS.

I still remember how pleasant it used to be to talk political matters over with such old diplomats as Sir Frederick Carter and Sir William Whiteway, who, like Ulysses, "had been in many cities and knew the thoughts of many men." These experienced old stagers could see further and wider than ordinary parliamentary politicians, for it is the very nature of "party" that party leaders should never see things as they really are, but only as they affect for the moment the interests of one section of the community. They are as men who, having two eyes given them by nature, deliberately extinguish one. There is the point of view from the "right" and the point of view from the "left," and from each, from the nature and necessity of the case, only half the truth can be seen. A wise man keeps both his eyes, belongs to no party, and can see things as they are. There were others with whom it was still more pleasurable to talk on

things in general; and prominent among the latter were the late Governor Davidson and his amiable and richly-endowed consort. They were immensely popular during their reign in Newfoundland. Lady Davidson was greatly admired and respected in the colony on account of her stately manners and genial disposition towards rich and poor alike. True, she possessed a certain degree of reserve, but those who could see through it into the nature which lay below, would delight in being admitted into intimacy with her. But vice-queens (and the Governor is a quasi-sovereign) cannot have intimacies in the general acceptance of the term. They are expected to be universally gracious—and universal graciousness is perhaps only possible to the supremely great and fortunate. To her guests at Government House Lady Davidson was a charming hostess.

"Wisely and well has Providence assigned To each his part—some forward, some behind; And they, too, serve who temper and restrain The overwarm heart that sets on fire the brain. Spare timid doubters; set like flint your face Against the self-sold knaves of gain and avarice: Pity the weak; but with unsparring hand Cast out the 'graters' who infest the land. From bar, press, pulpit, cast them everywhere. By dint of fasting, if you fail by prayer. And in their place bring men of antique mould. Like the grave fathers of your Age of Gold. Statesmen like those who sought the primal fount Of righteous law, the Sermon on the Mount."

Nfld. Highlanders Dance. C.C. C. Hall, Prince's Orchestra. Wednesday, October 31st, Halloween specials. Caterers: Ladies Auxiliary. Tickets from W.O.'s. N.C. O's and Officers of Brigade. Oct 13, 1923.

THE USEFUL-AUNT.



VALT MARCH

As I take my daily ramble countless women are in sight; I behold them loaf and gambol, in their gorgeous robes bedight; countless dames are gallivanting on their errands fierce and vain, but my aunt is busy planting rhubarb bushes in the rain. Idle women, idly blowing foam for which their husbands scratch; dizzy females shop ward going, with a piece of yarn to match; silly women bearing poodles worthless as a tinker's whoop; but my aunt is making noodles for a bowl of wholesome soup. Oh, I watch the women drilling to some social jam-boree, and I see them make a killing at a Pink or Yellow Tea; and I turn with admiration to my aunt, who's making pies, and she says, with animation, "Industry is always wise." I behold the women yawning in the boudoir and the den, hilly-chested and doggoning, bored to death and back again; they are doing nothing useful, but my aunt is planting juicy rhubarb bushes in the rain. Oh, my aunt is never weeping, never weary of the grind, and her household cares are keeping rust and mildew from her mind. She is blithe and glad and chipper, she is healthy, keen and spry, and she soaks me with the dipper when I swipe a chunk of pie.

Seven Kiddies Are Crushed to Death

Express Train Demolishes Crowded School Bus—Several Injured. Atwater, Ohio, Oct. 11.—(United Press)—Seven children were killed and three badly hurt and several less seriously injured here to-day when a horse-drawn bus containing 18 school children was demolished by the "Cleveland" the fastest train on the Pennsylvania railroad between New York and Cleveland. The accident occurred at Lambert's Crossing, a short distance from here. The engineer of the train saw the vehicle too late to jam on the brakes, and a second later there was a terrific crash. The locomotive plowed through the wreckage scattering it along the right of way for several hundred feet. As soon as the train came to a stop members of the train crew and passengers picked up the little victims, placing their maimed and battered bodies at the track-side, others rushed to the nearest farmhouse to send in telephone calls for help. The bus was used by the county to convey children to and from schools. A few minutes after the crash the dead, dying and injured were placed on the train and rushed in to Ravensna, where doctors and nurses were waiting at the station. The little children who survived the accident were so dazed that their stories were incoherent. The different versions of the accident revealed a second of terror, a second when the front wheels of the bus were on the rails and the children heard the roar of the on-coming train. There was no time to escape. Be-

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ROUND SEVEN OF "THE NEW LEATHER PUSHERS" / Here's where we see the Real Fight.

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All Wool.

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50 inches wide.

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NAVY CURL CLOTH

Two shades, Light and Dark. 56 inches wide.

Splendid for Girls' School Coats.

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NAVY CURL CLOTH

56 inches wide. Light shade.

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BLACK NAP

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Black Curl Cloth, 56 in. wide, Good Heavy Cloth, Splendid Article for a good Warm Coat, 95c.

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