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The Right Way To Start.

Hon. Arthur Meighen, in his Lanark addresses, stated his desire to have Sir Henry Thornton quit making speeches in the old country, and get down to business in Canada.

Sir Henry is in Canada, and one of the first things he did was to make a speech in Montreal, and it is doubtful whether he asked the permission of the Hon. Arthur to say what he did.

It was well, though, that he should select Montreal as the place to make his speech, and it was well that he should make just the sort of speech that he did.

The text of the Thornton address was: "There shall be no political interference in the administration and working of the Canadian National Railways."

When a man speaks from that angle, the people of Canada are prepared to listen to what he has to say, and further than that they are prepared to stand behind him in the carrying out of his purpose, so long as his methods are fair and his efforts sincere.

Sir Joseph Flavelle, who was formerly connected with the management of the Grand Trunk, spoke plainly, and as he has seen much of public life in Canada, he has grounds to be regarded as a competent critic. His plea was that the road must be kept free from the ambitions of designing politicians, and the one great agency to secure and maintain this freedom was robust public opinion that would stand between the politicians and the management of the road, and keep high the big sign, "Hands Off." He stated bluntly that he had as yet seen no keen desire on the part of some politicians and ministers to carry out this policy.

There is a school of sound economics that can be applied to almost any branch of industry. The national lines in Canada must establish their position in this country as a commercial necessity, and further than that, as a commercial possibility.

The premier of the Dominion has given his word to Sir Henry Thornton that he can go ahead and apply business principles to the National system. The financial necessities of the situation made it imperative that such a promise be made and kept. Canada has a right to expect much of Sir Henry Thornton. He has a free hand, he has the promise of the government that the politician shall not stand at his elbow or look over his shoulder.

London's 1923 Finances

How will the 1923 city council of London interpret the vote on the city hall bylaw? Ratepayers said they did not approve of going ahead with the erection of a city hall on the site of the present municipal building. Does that mean, then, that they favor going ahead with the building of a city hall on the Federal Square site? Or does it indicate a desire on the part of ratepayers that nothing should be done at present toward erecting a city hall? Judging by the fate of all money bylaws on Monday last the latter conclusion appears the more reasonable.

It is costing London about \$20,000 a year to keep Federal Square standing idle. It takes about \$12,000 or \$13,000 to provide interest and sinking fund, and the loss in taxes from the buildings that were removed would make up the remainder of \$20,000.

There will no doubt be much said on the policy of running the city within its income. This brings up the much-used and little understood phrase of "pay as you go." Where is the line to be drawn between expenditures that increase debt and those that do, but are recovered from property benefited. For example, a pavement is constructed and the amount is taxed against the property benefited and debentures issued for a ten-year period. This may show an increase in debenture debt, but not an increase in the general tax rate. Such work will probably always be regarded as legitimate grounds for debenture financing. In only a very few cases would it be possible to pay it at once. The erection of a city hall would bring up a different matter. It would be for the use of citizens in years to come, and the cost would be spread over a fairly long term of years. This would show an increase

in debenture debt and an increase in taxation as well. The pavements and the city hall would both be civic expenditures, but could not both be treated in the same way. It is also worthy of note that the only debenture maturing in 1923 is one of \$7,500 issued in 1903 on account of fire hall equipment. Sinking fund that will have to be provided in 1923 for all debentures outstanding amounts to \$261,000.

When it comes to keeping down the tax rate it is worth noting that much of it is made up of salaries. This year a poorly-conceived and poorly-executed plan was attempted to keep down the tax rate by cutting salaries. An attempt was made to operate on the board of education pay roll or to get the board to do so. The city council has no jurisdiction over the board of education. About the only way they could have a show of authority would be to refuse to issue debentures for a school, in which case the board of education could take it to the people to vote on. After all the hubbub over it was found that the garbage collectors had been trimmed to the extent of \$2.50 per week. The council had put down a few test holes in the pockets of the poorest paid class in the civic employ, and they had found that the drilling was not popular. This move did not reduce the tax rate, as the garbage charge is a special levy against the property served. The 1923 city council should put the garbage men back at their former rate unless there is going to be a reduction all down the line.

A New View of Laurier.

John W. Dafeo, editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, has compiled his historical fact with personal observation and acquaintance in his book, "Laurier—A Study in Canadian Politics." His contribution is something more than history, because it gives the impression of intimacy that historians, consciously or otherwise, seem to avoid.

Mr. Dafeo uses as his real starting point the manner in which Laurier, after being in the House, and known only at the time as an admirer of Blake, suddenly found himself, as the result of his vigorous and stirring protests against the execution of Louis Riel, a man famous and marked for leadership. It is perhaps too great a stretch of imagination to state that one Laurier phrase gave him the impetus a man needs to stand out as a leader, and that that phrase was: "Had I been born on the banks of the Saskatchewan I myself would have shouldered a musket." That phrase made him a marked man, and it was a tribute to his physical and moral bravery that he should, shortly after, have carried the same sentiment into the heart of Ontario, where the execution of Riel was regarded as a just and right course.

Mr. Dafeo recounts the mixed feelings with which the succession of Laurier to Blake was regarded. Ontario was suspicious by reason of his religion and race, and even among those who were ready to receive him was the fear that he "could not deliver the rough stuff" and therefore was a minus quantity in one of the great attributes of political leadership. They had not then learned and perhaps Laurier had not then demonstrated to the full that "the flashing rapier in the hands of a skilled wordsman makes a completer and far less messy job than the bludgeon."

When the Conservative government wrecked his high hopes in 1896 and went down on the Manitoba school question, Mr. Dafeo is inclined to split honors between the personality and fervor of Laurier and the political shrewdness of Israel Tarte. The latter he describes as a man unfitted for office because power went to his head like strong wine, "but he was a man whose mind conceived and whose will executed the Napoleonic stroke of tactics which crumpled up the Conservative army in 1896 and put it in the hole which had been dug for the Liberals."

Mr. Dafeo commits himself to the doctrine that no political party can remain virile and sweet all the time. Politicians are despots—they like power; they revel in its exercise. They do not like opposition nor are they glad and willing to be guided by other than their party policies. The case of the Laurier government is taken as an example. For a full ten years after taking office it carried on a program well rounded out in every way; then it began to suffer from the momentum of its own activity. The vote in 1911 that swept the party from power is interpreted not so much as a death stroke delivered from without as an indication of hardening of the arteries within the government itself. That belief will call forth various answers, but the admission nearest the truth, if one wanted to coincide at all, would be that the attempt to secure a reciprocal arrangement was belated to such an extent that it had lost the vigor of youthful enthusiasm.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was variously regarded in Britain. There has always been the suspicion that London made many attempts to undo the mischief of Disraeli's speech, when he described the colonies as "wretched millstones hung about our neck." Letters written by Sir Wilfrid to friends paid tribute to the astute manner in which the Englishman went about his politics, and expressed doubt that the average colonial statesman could keep his head in an atmosphere where the battery of titledom began early in the day and continued far into the night. Laurier, at the time of the diamond jubilee, may have been car-



"I wouldn't waste the money on it."

ried away with the sight of the oratorical opportunities of the occasion when he declared for an imperial parliament in which would sit representatives from overseas. But when he next met Chamberlain at the conference of premiers he was the shrewd Canadian statesman, and the folks at home were grouped in their rightful place in the center of his mental horizon. For a period of almost fifteen years he said "No" to the proposals looking toward the wrapping up of Canada in the folds of imperialism, basing his "No" on the ground that the national spirit in Canada had not yet developed to the point of indicating in which way it would go.

Mr. Dafeo, though he differed with Sir Wilfrid in 1917, is fair and frank in his treatment of those historic days. He appreciates to the full how impossible it would have been for Laurier to have accepted the offer of Borden for joint action in keeping Canada's fighting force up to strength, including as it would the acceptance of a policy with the formation of which Laurier had nothing to do.

In his concluding chapter Dafeo holds that the events of 1917 marked the end of great parties in Canada and established the fact that a man could vote against his party and still be of that political belief. The writer ends with a vivid reference to the boy who "had come a long way from the humble beginnings in St. Lin 77 years before . . . and whose end was fitting in its swiftness and dignity. No lingering, painful illness, but a swift stroke and a happy release."

John Dafeo has written a worthwhile book; it is not a political textbook, but between the lines it bears the marks of a man who is essentially Liberal in thought and creed, no matter in what outward form these ideals may clothe themselves or find expression.

Note and Comment.

A circus lady who weighed nearly 400 pounds escaped from a burning tent near St. Louis. The fat was almost in the fire that time.

Since H. G. Wells was defeated at the polls in England we've been expecting a request from him to change "Wells' Outline of History" to "Wells' Hard Lines of Politics."

With all our solving, studying, experimenting and observation, we haven't yet found out what to do with the man who really wants to go to work but cannot find anything to work at.

How well newspapers are made up to give sighs and thrills in proper measure. Just after reading four columns of speech-making at Montreal, the eye lights on the heading: "How a Fat Actress Became Lean."

This week's medal for optimism is planned on the Brantford Expositor for breathing the following prayer: "If the time ever arrives when Lloyd George and Asquith kiss and make up, we may expect to see E. C. Drury and J. J. Morrison reporting under one and the same blanket."

The printing industry in London is just a trifle chummy today, and it may well remain so for some days to come. Here we have the two aldermen who broke through into the charmed circle of 1,500 and more votes—Ed. Hayden, manager of the Hayden Press, formerly The Advertiser Job Printing Company, with 1,513 in Ward 4, and Frank McKay of The Advertiser staff, with 1,501, in Ward 3. So if you find the 1923 council rather partial to printers' ink, you'll know how it happened.

EVERDAY MOVIES.

TO THE EDITOR

LOOKS LIKE BIGAMY.
Editor Advertiser—

Dear Sir,—Will you kindly publish through your valuable legal column of your daily morning paper the following problems:

1. A is Canadian-born, married in the same Ontario city in which he was born, to B, a Canadian-born girl. A goes to the United States and while there A marries a Canadian girl, C, who also has been living in the States for a number of months. A and C stay in the States to live.
2. Can B meddle with A and C as long as they stay in the States?
3. Can C meddle with A if he returns and lives again with B, providing nothing for C in the way of future?
4. Can A return to Canada and procure a divorce from B after he has left Canada and married C in the States?
5. How long must A live in the States in order to marry, providing he did not go to the States for that purpose?
6. Has B any hold on C, should she return alone to Canada?

Ans.—She might prosecute for bigamy if the facts would justify it. Thanking you,
A SUBSCRIBER.

POETRY

TO LONDON'S GRAND OLD MAN.
"Active, intelligent, taking a keen interest in affairs, Mr. Gardiner, London's grand old man, still lives and enjoys life, at the age of 98."

—Advertiser for Dec. 5th.
Britisher; brother of the world, all Thou with thy thoughts of modernization. Great.

And glorious are all thy counsels; whilst The modern man, by substitutes for food And drink, falls flat and fades away nor leaves Behind a scrap of comfort for the race.

Who is pampered by the art of scientists, Live but a superficial life, like moths Attracted by the candle light, at last, By force of circumstance fall a prey To death who lurks close by to snuff them out.

JOHN ROWLAND, Stratford.

JEST

It Made a Difference.
Covington went to the hotel barber shop and stepped into a chair.

"Good morning, stranger," the barber greeted him.

"Good morning," Covington replied. "But, really, I am not quite a stranger. I thought you fellows made it a point to remember people."

"We do," the barber confessed in some mortification.

"Well, you shaved me in this very chair a little less than three weeks ago," Covington informed him.

"Indeed!" the barber exclaimed. "Well, I'll have to confess that I don't remember your face."

"I don't suppose I could expect you to," Covington admitted. "It has practically faded up now."

Our Own Country

THE C. P. R. FLEET.
Q.—What is the strength of the Canadian Pacific fleet?

A.—The Canadian Pacific fleet now numbers over 60 steamers on the Great Lakes and rivers of Canada, while the Canadian Pacific Ocean Steamship line has bases on the Atlantic and the Pacific, making, with the railway, an all-the-world-around route.

CANADA'S GREATEST FEAT OF ENGINEERING.

Q.—What is described as Canada's greatest feat of engineering?

A.—The late Lord Northcliffe described the Canadian Pacific Railway as Canada's greatest feat of engineering. "Disregarding mountains, rivers and hundred-mile-long chains of lakes and every conceivable engineering obstacle,

Your Health

Why Worry and Overwork May Help Cause Diabetes.
By Royal S. Copeland, M.D.,
Commissioner of Health, New York City.

RECENTLY the newspapers have been filled with reports of a new cure for diabetes. If they prove to be true, one of the discouraging ailments will have been removed. How can you know you have this disease?

If you are thirsty every ten minutes, have to get up several times every night, and are constantly losing flesh, you have a group of symptoms to be looked upon with suspicion.

These are signs of diabetes. Examination of the urine will reveal, not only a great increase in quantity, but also the presence of sugar. A substance that should not be found there.

Diabetes is one of the obscure conditions. Just what causes it, and where the original trouble is, are matters of dispute among doctors. All agree, however, that it is a disease requiring care, and which, if neglected, will result seriously.

This is one of the diseases likely to be overlooked. Sometimes I think we talk too much about our real or imaginary ailments. It must be admitted, however, that more widely spread knowledge of certain diseases would make for the good of mankind. It would drive to the doctor in time for cure many patients who now report too late.

In the matter of cancer, for instance, is it not disturbing to learn that this disease is said to be increasing at the rate of 2½ per cent per year? With wider knowledge of the symptoms of cancer, patients will be directed toward the doctor before the disease has become hopeless.

It is with diabetes. Early recognition will enable the victim to begin treatment at a favorable stage.

The normal quantity of urine for a healthy person is about one quart in 24 hours. In diabetes the amount passed will be two or three quarts, or even a gallon or more.

The excessive amount of fluid it will be understood why there is such a tremendous thirst. The amount of water consumed every day is proportionate to the amount discharged.

Ways to Cure.
Stomach symptoms are met. The most common is the increased appetite, and especially the craving for sugar and starches and fats. There may be marked dyspepsia and every symptom of indigestion.

The skin may show boils and pus-capped pimples. Almost invariably there is intense itching. The whole body or certain parts may itch terribly.

Headache, neuralgia, stupor, and, in advanced cases, profound unconsciousness are uncomfortable symptoms.

There may be cramps in the calves of the legs or elsewhere.

The eyes sometimes show trouble. Inflammation of the various parts, or cataract and blindness may be the result of diabetes.

More common than all the other symptoms, except the urinary changes, are the loss of strength and continued loss of flesh. The collar will be found many sizes too large for the narrowing neck, and accustomed exercise will prove too wearisome.

Worry and mental overwork are great factors in producing the condition. Diabetes is a disease watching every chance to attack the tired businessman. The victim must adapt his mental condition to his physical necessity and stop worrying. Mental poise must be cultivated. It helps the cure.

This condition is more serious in children or young persons than in those of middle-life. A person past fifty may have the symptoms for years and yet preserve fairly good health.

ANSWERS TO HEALTH QUESTIONS.

R. H. S. Q.—Will you kindly tell me whether it is injurious to eat eggs and chicken if a person is suffering from inflammation of the kidneys?

A.—A person suffering from kidney trouble should not eat eggs. The white meat of the chicken is not harmful.

The Evening Story

THANKS TO PERCY.
By H. Louis Raybold.

"Bully good idea! Bully good idea!" Smith Taylor, genial proprietor of the popular Crystal Inn, slapped his thigh resoundingly. "The one great lack of summer resorts is unattached—and attractive—young fellows. It will be money in my pocket to hire some chap for the season, just to play guest, and who'd be the wiser?" He scratched his fringe of hair and put pencil to paper, with the following prompt result:

"Wanted—personable young man for pleasant and remunerative occupation. Must play golf and tennis, and have snappy outfit of clothes. Apply," etc.

"Now, let's see if that doesn't fetch 'em!" he exclaimed triumphantly.

Fetch 'em it apparently did, for Taylor received many replies, which he carefully sifted until but one remained, and that the most satisfactory, except in one particular. Percy Jones! No, that name simply wouldn't do—didn't fit the part he had mapped out for the applicant.

"We'll fix that up, however," he decided easily, and wrote a long letter of explanation, terms of contract and so forth to the unfortunately-christened young man, omitting, however, all mention of his name. "No use prejudicing him," thought Taylor. "He may be partial to what he's been called all his life. Time enough when he gets here."

Transportation to Crystal Inn is long and involved, necessitating many different kinds of conveyances. As a result, guests arrive in bunches, and the few moments after the arrival of the tri-weekly steamer are invariably busy ones, particularly the day before the Fourth. Smith Taylor, with a thousand and one details to attend to, hampered by effusive greetings of old patrons, had but a moment to spare for the tall, broad-shouldered young man who swung down the gangplank and stood looking about for a moment in the midst of his bags.

"Clerk's got your room for you," cried Taylor, rushing up and grasping his hand. "Make yourself comfortable and, by the way," here he looked anxiously about, then, straining on tip-toe, spoke in the other's ear. "If it's all the same to you, I'm going to change your name. You're Van Suydam. Curtis Van Suydam. 'S it all right?"

He was away before receiving an answer, but the young fellow was regarding his bustling figure with tolerant amusement. Sure he'd be "an Suydam." What a name! Certainly this strange and unaccustomed venture was proving interesting right from the start.

That very evening Smith Taylor saw to it that, unobtrusively yet definitely, he met every one of the gay bevy of girls and attractive women who clustered on the shaded verandas or strolled the paths that bordered the lake. That is, all but one.

That particular girl, oddly enough, seemed to "Van Suydam" the most alluring of them all. Later he was to know her as Ellen Taylor, Smith Taylor's only, cherished daughter. And Taylor was not minded to waste the attentions of an expensive experiment on his own child.

Van Suydam's days became a round of pleasure. Much to his concealed amusement, Taylor tipped him off frequently as to which of the guests deserved especial consideration. "That Miss Alexander, now—she's a rich old girl, will stay on here for weeks if she likes it here. Humor her a bit, my boy, in the matter of tennis. Plays like a cow, of course, but— And that Watson girl—her people come every year."

Two things Van Suydam regretted. That he had so little time and energy to devote to what he considered his chief business in life, writing, and that by the very nature of things he saw so little of Ellen. She proved strangely elusive, and for that very reason, all the more provocative. He gathered, furthermore, that the one sure way to bring arown to Smith Taylor's brow was to let him find them together. On the other hand, Taylor said nothing about the matter and Van Suydam resolved presently to pursue Ellen more persistently.

Rivalry Van Suydam sought out Taylor in the office, seeking him rather than the clerk, as Taylor attended personally to the cashing of checks.

"What's my account, my boy, he asked pleasantly of Taylor, who was ripping open an envelope. "I like to settle up weekly."

"You do, eh?" Taylor paused in the act of drawing out a letter and regarded Van Suydam over his glasses. "Well—let's see. I agreed to pay you twenty dollars a week



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and board, wasn't that it?" "Pay me?" said Van Suydam. "What the deuce—"

At that moment Taylor, who had glanced at his letter, sprang up suddenly.

"Who the devil are you?" he shouted.

Van Suydam nearly blinked. "You mean, who am I, really? I'm Curtis Van Suydam, to please you, but, as a matter of fact, I'm Barry Evans, of Evanston, Illinois."

"Then what—listen here," Taylor read the letter aloud, then stared at Van Suydam, alias Evans.

"Dear Sir—Started for your place but came down with measles en route. Impossible to accept your offer. Yours truly, "Percy Jones."

Van Suydam shook his head. "Means nothing in my young life," he said. "Come up here to get first-hand experience of summer girls for a new novel promised my publishers in the fall. They consider me weak on delineation of flapper type. You see, I've always spent my vacations in the North Woods and dodged the sex completely. Didn't penetrate their scheme about change of name, but rather thought you recognized me and novelists were taboo at your establishment. Rather pleased, personally, at incognito."

Taylor was beginning to see light. "Thunderation!" he cried. "Well, I built in 1907."

THE DAVID THOMPSON MEMORIAL.

Q.—What and where is the David Thompson Memorial?

A.—The David Thompson Memorial, recently unveiled on the shores of Lake Windermere, British Columbia, is the largest log building in Canada, erected by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company in memory of David Thompson, famous as Canada's greatest geographer and surveyor, on the site of a small trading fort he built in 1807.

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