



AT THE SIGN OF THE MAPLE

AT THE WOODBINE.

EACH succeeding year adds an increased interest to the Woodbine races at Toronto and the season which is just closing has apparently established a record. Day by day people have surged by the thousands to Woodbine Park and without any visible sign of weariness.

As the first out-door fashionable event of the season every feature of it pulsates with vitality, and a general rejuvenation of spirit prevails. Nature, resplendant in the beauty and charm of renewed life, is reflected in the fine raiment that is everywhere in evidence, for if there is one event more than another that attracts society at large, and furnishes an incentive for the display of feminine attire with all its possibilities for graceful and artistic effect, it is the races.

To the mere on-looker the scene is one of great beauty and interest. The artificial structures flaunt in new coats of colour, and the banners of the Empire wave in the crisp breeze. Everywhere is spread a heavy carpet of vivid green which, outside of the rail, is encircled with a track resembling a band of turf-coloured velvet. In the distance the lake lies, dotted with sails and deepening towards the horizon into deep indigo blues, while above a canopy of azure stretches in illimitable grandeur. Vice-Royalty is there with its train of glittering attendants, and is welcomed with ceremonious dignity, smiles, flowers and music. Men of renown in all the callings of life are present, and society leaders and members add their quota of brilliancy to a background worthy of it. Art spared no pains to attain perfection this year, and nature co-operated and heightened the effect with sun and warmth and colour.

The weather has been so especially fine as to allow much freedom in the choice of dress, and although the tailor-made suit was never altogether forsaken, there were times, as on the opening day and the holiday, when the daintiest textures and most elaborate designs were to be seen.

"Twentieth century western civilisation has out-rivalled the Orient and the ancients," observed one gentleman whose attention had been directed to a dull rose-coloured satin gown that was trailing the grass, and hung about the figure in long plain classic lines, and over which fell a tunic of heavily embroidered net. On the well arranged coiffure rested a fine broad-brimmed hat with an exquisite bunch of osprey.

"It's plain, isn't it? I mean it isn't fussy and full."

It was not fussy, and the beautiful lines were not broken by a superfluous fullness.

A fine view was usually obtainable from the stand, especially when the air was cool enough to incite the people to action, and they moved about on the lawn in the sun, or gathered in groups. Then at times a special undercurrent of excitement swept among them, and often as a race proceeded enthusiasm increased till at last it broke into an uproar of applause for the winner. Betting is said to be a great aid to enthusiasm.

"But that concerns men chiefly—and of a certain temperament," someone interposed.

"Chiefly—yes. But I know a lady who made ninety dollars yesterday on —."

"Really? But isn't it very unusual—I mean to risk heavily?"

"Small successes are dangerous, you know, sometimes, and encourage one to greater risks."

"Yes—but —"

Just then the horses appeared on the track, and each one was immediately intent on picking out the probable winner of the next race.

* * *

THE "HOLBEIN."

WHETHER the much talked of Holbein picture of Christina of Denmark is to remain in the possession of the Duke of Norfolk, or be purchased by England, or cross the Atlantic to adorn the walls of some American art gallery, still remains a question. The Duke's reason for selling the picture is said to be the tax which has lately been imposed upon such luxuries, and which demanded too great a drain upon his income. Of course the picture is very famous, and has been in the family for centuries, but if on research it proves to be among the entailed belongings of the Arundels, according to the Act of 1627, then the Duke will be permitted

to dispose of only his life interest in the picture. But should it not be among the entailed articles, or should the Act have been repealed, neither of which is probable, then England will endeavour to retain the masterpiece, which has already been lent to the National Gallery for thirty years, and she has taken steps to raise a public subscription (headed by a Treasury contribution of £10,000) of about \$325,000 to cover the amount offered by an American.

Hans Holbein in the reign of Henry VIII was closely identified with the Earl of Arundel, who possessed many of his works. As court painter the artist became a great favourite, and the king used to send him upon very important missions. It was after the death of Jane Seymour that he was dispatched to Brussels to paint the portrait of the young widowed Duchess of Milan, who was suggested, for political reasons, for Henry's next queen.

In the space of three hours Holbein succeeded in getting the portrait, which reveals so much delicate, child-like grace and simple dignity that one cannot help feeling pleased that the little widow of sixteen years escaped the unenviable position of being queen to Henry VIII of England.

His Majesty was charmed with the picture and proposed at once, but Christina is said to have sent back word that she would gladly have accepted him had she possessed two heads. This reply, however, is fictitious, and as the political reasons were disposed of, the marriage never took place.

It was said of Holbein that "He is complete in intellect; what he sees he sees with his whole soul; what he paints he paints with his whole might," and with the swiftness and vigour of a master's hand who never doubts his own powers. Many of his works are owned in England, but more of them are scattered over the Continent, and as his influence on English art was so great as to practically raise to perfection the art of painting in England, where he spent so many industrious, successful and—yes, happy years—it seems a pity that this treasure should have to seek refuge in another land.

* * *

THE WINNIPEG W. C. T. U.

THE Winnipeg Branch of the W. C. T. U. is, according to the report, in a most prosperous condition and doing excellent work. At the twelfth annual meeting, which was held on May 19, there was a large and enthusiastic attendance, and the year's work was reviewed most concisely and satisfactorily. Mrs. G. R. Crowe was unanimously re-elected president, and in the course of a very interesting address Mrs. Crowe graciously acknowledged the honour conferred upon her and drew attention to the importance of the association work.

Among the numerous activities of the association the educational classes were reported to be an unqualified success and popular with the girls of all nationalities, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Russian, German, Icelandic, French and Canadian girls, during the winter, studied together languages, literature, art and music. The classes in physical culture and millinery also had a large attendance and the social side of the work was provided for by small clubs organised for the purpose.

The society has a membership of 1,114, and the treasurer's report showed a satisfactory balance on hand. The Travellers' Aid committee has been very active, and several pathetic cases were mentioned of help and comfort given to poor, bewildered travellers in a strange land. The next meeting will be held in the fine new building of the association on Ellice Avenue, and a tribute of gratitude was passed to the friends who had been instrumental in providing it.

* * *

McGILL'S CONTRACT WITH ROYAL COLLEGE OF LONDON DISCONTINUED.

THE officials of McGill University have announced that the local examinations for entrance, which are held each year throughout the Dominion in conjunction with the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music, London, England, are to be discontinued. Although the contract with the London Association has been given up, as it entailed a heavy burden upon the one visiting English examiner, McGill will henceforth conduct independent examinations of the same nature and in the same way, as it is believed they afford the best possible guarantee for the maintenance of the high standard of musical education, and have attracted many candidates from all parts of Canada.

The new syllabus giving full information as to the conditions of the examinations may be obtained at the office of the secretary of the McGill Conservatorium.

MRS. J. Gardiner Merritt, the sculptor, is very fond of illustrating the need of dress reform for women by the following experience:

"I heard a young man, a rather lazy young man, tell a pretty girl the other day that he envied woman her idleness, that he would like to have been born a woman.

"The girl, tossing her head and snorting, answered:

"You'd like to be a woman! Oh, yes! Just try it for a day! Fasten a blanket and counterpane 'round your legs; buckle a strap 'round your waist so tight you can't draw a full breath or eat a hearty meal; have your hair all loose and fluffy, so that it keeps tickling your ears and getting into your eyes; wear high-heeled shoes and gloves a size too small for you; cover your face with a veil full of spots, that make you squint; fix a huge hat on with pins, so that every time the wind blows it pulls your hair out by the roots; and then, without any pockets, and with a three-inch square of lace to blow your nose with, go for a walk and enjoy yourself. You would like it!"—Judge.



On the Members' Lawn at the Woodbine, where Nature and Dame Fashion have co-operated to make a perfect scene.