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H. MORTON, J. O. HERRITY, Business Manager, Editor-in-Chief. TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1921.

ON READING THE DICTIONARY

FEW of those who admired the remarkable knowledge of the English language that was possessed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, evidenced continually in his choice of just the right word, had any idea of the means that he adopted of enriching his vocabulary in the language that was to him an adopted one. It will be recalled that the foundation was laid in his boyhood, when his father sent him to live for a time in the home of a Scotch Protestant family, where, no doubt, there were other things than the English language impressed upon the youthful mind. It will be recalled, too, that, as a young man, he lost no opportunity of taking part in debates and literary discussions in the numerous societies of that type that then existed in Montreal. But there was one special means of acquiring an enlarged vocabulary that Sir Wilfrid kept up almost to the day of his death—that was the reading of the dictionary.

When sittings of the House were becoming dull the Liberal leader would call a page and send to the library for the dictionary. Then, with the bulky volume open on his desk before him, he would read column after column, apparently with the greatest interest, and certainly, as all could testify, with decided profit. In this method of securing a wider vocabulary Sir Wilfrid has not been alone. Lord Rosebery is an authority for the statement that the eminent Chatham boasted that he had gone through Bailey's dictionary twice, this probably being the folio edition of 1738. Ruskin told the late Sir James Murray that he read the first part of the Oxford English Dictionary through from beginning to end. Robert Louis Stevenson also has a good word for the reading of the dictionary, since it enables writers to "weave into the tissue of their language fresh and forgotten strands," and H. T. Buckle, who wrote the history of civilization, returning a dictionary that had been submitted to him, and that it was one of the few dictionaries that he had "read through with enjoyment."

Some of the great masters of English have adopted less strenuous methods of widening their store of words. Browning, we are told on the authority of Mrs. Sutherland Orr, was a constant student of Johnson, and Stevenson has left us the record of how he read in all sorts of quaint and old-fashioned places to find the words that fitted so well to his ideas. We have all heard, of course, of the matter-of-fact matron who complained that in reading the dictionary she found the story too disconnected but there are few who would not enjoy an occasional browse through a good dictionary. From the pages there pop up old words, quaint words, forgotten words, words with meanings that we had not known before, and there are few of us that would not be better for having a few more words at hand even if for no other purpose than to comment on the weather.

ANOTHER WAR PROBLEM

THERE is resentment in France over the discovery that the country whose war sufferings were the greatest is to get not one jot or tittle of the first billion marks gold paid by Germany as part of the war indemnity. The experts have decided that as France holds the Saar iron region for fifteen years that stands against a French share on the army

of occupation account, which has the first claim on the war indemnity. Italy and Belgium have been paid by deliveries in kind, leaving Great Britain alone to be settled with. She is awarded 600,000,000 gold marks and the balance goes to Belgium on account of her claim on the first 2,500,000 marks paid. France resents the ruling, contending it is absurd that the value of coal not yet mined should be taken into consideration when the value of German ships turned over was not deducted from Great Britain's share of the occupation account. There is a further cause of resentment in the disclosure that Britain's army of occupation bill is only 100,000,000 marks less than that of France, although the French army is ten times as large.

MORE PRINTING FATALITIES

ON one day this week the announcement was made that McClure's Magazine had gone into the hands of receivers; and on the next that the Detroit Daily Times had also gone into receivership. If this thing keeps up much longer the over-reaching manufacturers of newsprint who put prices skyward and without justice or reason, thereby forcing many newspapers and magazines to the wall, will have only themselves to sell to. Vaulting ambition is not the only thing that over-reaches itself. Greed is another.

A COUNTRY OF OPPORTUNITY

TO those pessimists who are worried about the future of Canada the reports that none of the members of the Farmers' Government on the prairie was born in Alberta offers food for reflection. Many people have forgotten that the development of the Canadian west has been one of the great romances of history. Only a short time ago there was no province of Alberta; only a territory, with a few scattered cattle ranches—and cattle kings who looked upon the coming of the grain grower and farmer with sharp disapproval—to say the least. Today Alberta is an important and prosperous province, and it now boasts what appears to be the first farmers' government in the world—for Abraham was more of a cattle man than a farmer, and the Drury Government of Ontario depends for its existence upon the Labor party. And at the head of the farmer's government is one Herbert Greenfield—an appropriate name for a farmer's premier—a man who came to Canada from the old country and at the age of 22 became a hired man on a farm in Manitoba. Evidently Canada is still the land of opportunity. Mr. Greenfield had the wit, and perhaps the luck to marry his boss' daughter—as many a good man before him has done. However, he did not sponage on his father-in-law, for presently he went to northern Alberta took up a homestead and became a successful farmer—as farming goes in the west. Also he became prominent in municipal politics and in the United Farmers' Association of Alberta, of which he is vice-president.

ACCEPTING CONTRACTS

THE courts at Galt are being asked to unseat an alderman for accepting a contract from the school board. If every alderman and school trustee who has accepted contracts, is liable to be unseated on that charge, there would be only a sprinkling left in Ontario, says the Midland Free Press. What the Free Press says is true, but the practice of aldermen and school trustees accepting contracts from the corporation which they serve should not be encouraged.

SOME SCHOOLS MAY NOT OPEN

OTTAWA, Aug. 23.—It is stated on good authority that the Ottawa Separate School Board is in such desperate financial straits that there is a possibility of some of the schools not being opened at the end of the present vacations. The Kitchener Carbonating Co. have secured the Harristown Furniture Company premises for manufacturing purposes.

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

Excerpts from the press of Canada, Great Britain and from the leading papers elsewhere for "Ontario" Readers.

GOLF AS A DISEASE

Golf has all along been regarded merely as a sport, and its pathological aspects have not as yet received attention. Has the time now arrived in the popular development of the game when it should invite the scrutiny of the alienist? Is a condition of dementia indicated when bankers and lawyers lay out putting greens in the drawing-rooms? Are there symptoms of obsession in the rush from office to the links, the subordination of all week end and most mid-week interests to the practice and glorification of the game? And as respects the conversational phase of addiction, the abnormal loquacity of the addict, are there no evidences in this of the dangerous "fixed idea"? If golf has degenerated from a sport to a disease something should be done without delay to diagnose and treat the malady, to restore its victims to a state of sanity and prevent the spread of the mental contagion.—New York World.

A SIDELIGHT ON CARUSO

The musical confraternity had gathered. Said one, "Any news from Caruso?" "Yes," said another. "The report is that he is rapidly gaining and is recovering a great deal of his vigor, but private advisers express the fear that he may never again sing as he did."

"By the bye," said another, "did you hear of the fees he had to pay the doctors before he left? They amounted in all to over \$100,000. The bill of one medicine showed that there had been no less than eight separate operations—enough to kill a horse. It is a miracle how Enrico Caruso survived it."

"Did you know?" interposed a woman, "that the only doctor who had attended him and sent him no bill was his personal physician, Dr. Horowitz, who, you remember, insisted to the last that it was not pleurisy? When Caruso found that Horowitz had not sent him any bill he immediately ordered his secretary to go out and buy a diamond ring for \$2,000, which he sent with his kindest regards to Dr. Horowitz."—Musical America.

A GRAFT TARIFF

Rather than be bled for the hundred million dollars of hide tariff graft the American people could far better afford to submit to an outright head tax of \$5,000,000 to go directly into the United States treasury and of \$50,000,000 to go directly into the pockets of the farmers. Then the treasury would be twice as well off as it could possibly be from the tariff on hides. The participating farmers would be three times as well off as they could possibly be from the tariff on hides if they all got the full share they never would get. And the American public would be \$45,000,000 a year to the good—as compared to the cost to it of the monstrous tariff on hides. But, in any event, the thing to do with this unshirred fraud of a duty on hides (for the benefit of the farmer) is to nail it in its track as a butcher in the slaughter pen would tell a steer with a poleaxe.—New York Herald.

BELIEVE IN THE LEAGUE

The league has its enemies. They will inevitably endeavor to create antagonism where no antagonism exists and talk of the evolution of a new "association of nations" to the confusion of the existing league. Such endeavors can have no hope of success if the millions of citizens in different countries who have a firm belief in the league and its leaders will realize their duty. The governments cannot, without public opinion to hold them to their pledges, be relied on in this matter. They are, after all, composed of politicians who have grown up and grown old in the very diplomatic traditions the league was created to supersede. The people have declared for the new path, and it is for them to insist that it be followed.—London Daily News.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

(From the Peterboro' Examiner.) Many months ago the Examiner ventured to criticize some features of the vocational training scheme inaugurated for the benefit of Canadian returned soldiers, particularly that men were being given a course in trades for which they were not fitted and that some of those who applied for and were granted vocational training were concerned only

STATUE OF KING EDWARD UNVEILED IN LONDON.



An equestrian statue to the late King Edward VII which was unveiled in Waterloo Place, London, recently.

THE LOON.

The low winds murmur about the eaves, And rustle the standing corn; There's a glint of dew on the clover leaves, For day is but newly born.—List! List! From the silver mist Enshrouding the blue lagoon, There's an echo that floats in weird, wild notes—The shrill, strange laugh of the loon. A magic spell falls over my heart; On wings of the morn I rise, As lightly as swallows that flash and dart Through rose and daffodil skies, Away! Away! Where pine trees sway, And whisper their sagas old, I abide and rest by an island nest 'Mid lily cups white and gold. The watted incense of fragrant pine, Of lily and withering rose, I breathe, and their secret of joy is mine, Their magic my spirit knows—Peace, peace, and a glad release From burdens that harry and press. There is time to play and keep hollyday, And lean to the wind's caress. The young loons rock on the rippling tide, Oh! I'll be a young loon too, And we'll go vagabonding side by side On the breast of the waters blue, We'll sail and sail in the scented gale That blows from the hills afar—For the wise wind knows where sweet ferns grow, And the ripest strawberries are. The sun laughs down from the limpid sky, The buttercups laugh in the grass The wavelets laugh and the loons, and I, And the breezes laugh as they pass Oh! oh! Hear the echoes go A-ringing down the glen, When they faint and die on the rim of the sky, We'll laugh and awake them again. The loon is gone to his cool, green lair; The dew is gone from the flowers; And mirth dies down to a quiet smile That lingers to glid the hours. Come back, come back on your airy track If ever my heart is sad! When you call me away to keep holiday, I shall learn again to be glad. —Lillian Loyerdige

CANADIAN LITERATURE

(Toronto Mail and Empire.) A Canadian writer, Robert Stead, the author of "The Cowpuncher," and "Dennison Grant," laments the lack of a strong Canadian spirit in our literature. He says, from experience, that the Canadian author has little chance of having a book accepted by an American publisher unless it is favorable to Americans in all incidents reflecting on them. "Dennison Grant," was turned down everywhere in the United States because in one chapter it portrayed an Englishman thrashing an American in a fight. Yet though the United States insists in having all its literature pander to its pride, or at least portraying Americans as the winning, successful, dominant people, Canadians, read American magazines by the carload, and buy almost as many American books.

This question of a stronger national spirit in Canadian literature has been discussed for years. But the market in Canada for literary productions is comparatively small and public appreciation is not abundant. The tremendous capacity of the United States, with a market of a hundred millions, continuously pours its products on us. The larger field and greater variety give these an attraction denied to our much more limited and localized production. Nearly all Canadian stories seem to be based on forest life, the wild and frozen north, Indians, hunting, or Western prairie life. These are picturesque settings, no doubt, but to Canadian readers they are familiar. United States stories more often than not are based on cosmopolitan subjects, high finance, politics, big business, social life. American magazine editors have complained of the lack of good "small town" stories. Canadian readers are often disposed to get away from "backwoodsism," and into the "great white way" for interest. The small town and village look to the big city for special interests—its life seems to itself to be prosaic and commonplace. The big city is tired of itself also, at times, and sees much of interest in the small town and the characters that stand out so conspicuously in it. Far fields look green to any eyes, and it requires some backbone and stamina to be resolute in appreciation and support of good service and progress that are almost a part of one's everyday existence.

POLITICS AND SPORT

(Edmonton Journal.) The Winnipeg Free Press, in the extracts from its files of 30 years ago, which it published one day last week, recorded that "Attorney-General Clifford Sifton was elected in North Brandon" and that "Hanlan and O'Connor defeated Gaudaur and McKay for the double scull championship of the world. The appearance together of these two items suggests that the fame of the athlete is much more fleeting than that of the politician. Mr. Sifton, as Sir Clifford, is still an active force in Canada, though he no longer holds public office, while the names of Ned Hanlan and William O'Connor probably signify nothing to a great many persons who consider themselves veteran readers of the sporting page.

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Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto AUG. 27 - Inclusive - SEPT. 10 To be opened by Lord Byng of Vimy, Canada's new Governor-General Color of the Orient Gaiety of a Mardi Gras Complete exposition of Canada's resources, skill of men, wealth of material.

KING BESTOWS HONOR ON FORMER PRINCE Marquis of Milford Haven, Once First Lord of Admiralty, Promoted Full Admiral LONDON, Aug. 23.—King George has bestowed a unique honor on his cousin, the Marquis of Milford Haven, formerly Prince Louis of Battenberg, by promoting him to be the Admiral of the Fleet on the retired list. There is no previous case of such an advancement to an office of the highest rank in the navy after the officer's retirement. The Marquis, who was First Sea Lord of the Admiralty in 1914, when the world was begun, resigned after the fleet had been mobilized and distributed for its war service under his direction. The Marquis of Milford Haven was born at Graz, Austria, in 1854, the son of Prince Alexander of Hesse and the late Princess Alice, Maid Mary of Great Britain and Ireland, daughter of the late Queen Victoria. He was naturalized a British subject, and entered the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1868. In 1917 he relinquished his titles of "Serene Highness" and "Prince," and was created a Peer by King George.

ONTARIO FAIR FAIRS. Bancroft Sept. 29-30 Barrie Sept. 19-21 BELLEVILLE Sept. 5-7 Bowmanville Sept. 21-22 Brighton Sept. 16-17 Campbellford Sept. 20-21 Castleton Sept. 22-23 Castreville Sept. 16-17 Cobourg Aug. 16-20 Coe Hill Sept. 27-28 Colborne Sept. 27-28 Demorestville Sept. 27-28 Duncannon Oct. 8 Durham Sept. 29-30 Frankford Sept. 15-16 Keene Oct. 4-5 Kempsville Sept. 5-6 Kingston Sept. 20-26 Lakeside Sept. 20-21 Lindsay Sept. 21-24 Madoc Oct. 4-5 Markham Oct. 6-8 Marmora Sept. 25-27 Maynooth Sept. 27-28 Midland Sept. 29-Oct. 1 Tweed October 6th, 7th Toronto Aug. 27-Sept. 10 Warkworth Oct. 6-7 Wolfe Island Sept. 27-28 Wooler Sept. 29 Milbrook Oct. 6-7 Napanee Sept. 13-15 Norwood Oct. 11-13 Odessa Oct. 7

DYER SYN RESULT

Former Belleville sociates Out 1 Fortu TRIP IS DE

Vast Distances a sibilities of No are Empl Mr. W. S. Dyer, painted to Fort Nor thousand mile trip W. G. Ogilvie and is the head of the v cate. This journey tern district of North-Western Ter to stake out the sy 15 square miles Holdings on the Ma Flushed Wit

This intrepid litt have returned fr months' trip of ra lake travel, with n roughing it, flushi hilaration of succes with them samples found in fields. Th crude oil contain ment 35 per cent. of per cent. content in ed very good. The contains 40 per ce oil, and the remain lubricating purpos

The Jon Leaving Toronto year, Dyer, Hender travelled by C.P.R. hence by way of I Rivers, Great Slave Mackenzie River to a comfortable little cylinder disappearing to boat, peculiarly w waters, and built b Propeller Motor ronfo. The whole any disturbing inci perhaps, once when big black bear, pone nose into the Toron while on the Macke met sudden death f All three men are from their staunch venturesome animal down in his tracks, the result of a singl let, the party had supper.

Treachorous Mr. Dyer describ Lake as a huge body with Lake Huron, treacherous inland den storms sweep do if any, warning, and inviting surface into caldron of angry, w lows. Being warn party made all hasti miles' breadth of G which distance they 28 hours, arriving the Mackenzie River escape a veritable st

Another 60 From this point t is just 400 miles, w ed in seven days. M the Mackenzie as a sinuous river, runn tresque banks clo spruce and stately p and there 'bright st vealing a luxuriant grasses of varied co rich growth. And t in the perspective, mountain peaks and elevations. Hence, sented the traveller trancingly beautiful, sive and sublimely weather was norma and cool nights.

The joy of this r some extent marred over a distance of t "But our greatest fighting away the p laughed Mr. Dyer. " for 15 days. They' my! We had to u use oil of citronel willow bush is very part of the country, struggle through it. Then the high win many trees and we setting over these. about half a mile an The Mackenzie R on each side by the Franklin Mountains facing a high altitu just below Fort Nor

Fur Trading The few settleme the subjects of th scarcely-settled dist promise—a country by whites, and many t ber of Indians. Th mostly, if not exc The largest of thes Fort Resolution, c