

Pest of Too Many Laws

That reckless driving on railway crossings is causing a loss of time and quite unnecessary loss of money has passed a resolution to effect that the Government, Provincial and Federal, one or both, should best themselves and enact legislation which will make it compulsory for motor and other drivers, driving their vehicles to a complete stop as a safe distance from a crossing and ascertain that all is clear before proceeding.

While naturally we have every sympathy with the purpose of the legislation it is none the less of a piece with a lot of other well intentioned useless legislation that is now crowding our statute books. We have through the years adopted the pernicious United States custom (they do it in Great Britain) of running to the legislators with this or that bit of special pleading, asking for laws to meet the case, without any clear idea what the ultimate effect is going to

In the case in point the result would naturally be nil. If people are such fools, as to drive over a railway crossing without taking obvious precautions, and we pass a law or amend the statute to cover the case, how are we to enforce it? It would merely mean another law that is passed and forgotten almost before the ink is dry. If people are willing to risk their lives by carelessly crossing a railway track are they the sort that would pay any attention to a law framed for their protection?

We have on the statute books in all provinces a multitude of laws, ill-considered, half baked and mostly useless. Fortunately they perish naturally from lack of use. For instance in some provinces there is a law against drinking on Sunday. Who ever paid attention to it, even in Ontario? The states of the American Union are full of laws to which no one pays the least heed. In one Western State there is a law against women wearing thirty-five using cosmetics. In another all hotel sheets must be at least seven feet long. In New England the statute books were full of "blue laws" having to do with one's personal conduct, such for instance as that which forbade women dressing their hair in a manner which would attract attention, or to wear ribbons or silks.

Upward of three hundred years before Christ, Aristotle, one of the master intellects of all time, in discouraging upon laws had this to say: "A law has no power to command obedience except that of habit, which can only be given by time, so that a readiness to change from old to new, enfeebles the power of the law."

And that is as true to-day as when Plato's pupil wrote it.

The fur collar is either very small and chic, or large and voluminous.

The Perfect Hostess

Someone once said that "the perfect hostess never fusses over her guests." You will admit the truth of this saying if you have ever spent a weekend with a woman who, from Friday night to Monday morning, never ceases to worry. It is all very well to know that your hostess realizes that you like two pillows, long walks, a "nightcap" of Borvill, and that you cannot play Mah Jong or eat baked custard, but when she gently fidgets about these things from morning till night, you want to leave her house screaming!

The perfect hostess makes every effort to attend to all the sundry details of your visit. She does her best to make you feel at home, and she leaves you to do your part. She provides you with a corner in her house that you can really feel is your very own; your bedroom is just as attractive and charming as her good taste and means can make it. Every guest at times wants a "home from home"—somewhere she can go during the odd minutes when she feels that she is not exactly wanted downstairs. In the best regulated homes these moments occur. The most perfect guest and hostess are better for little holidays from each other now and then! Hence the importance of the bedroom.

Let it be simply furnished, and still more simply decorated. "One picture on each wall, not many things at all." Provide the room with a comfy chair, well-cushioned, and a small collection of interesting books (mix them: let Bacon's Essays rub shoulders with "The Sheik"—you never know what is going to appeal to your guest as the best bed-book). See that the room contains a table that is really solid and firm enough to write at—nothing is more exasperating than the average bedroom writing-table!

Don't over-dress. Clothes matter enormously to the average woman. If your guest sees that her frocks and hats are not quite up to the standard of those you are wearing, she must of necessity feel at a disadvantage. To outshine a guest is the worst possible taste.

Be simple. Be natural, some girls are impressed by the knowledge that you study one of the obscure arts or "ologies," or that you frequently dine with "dear Lady So-and-So," but they would like you far better if you mentioned the fact and left it at that! Be

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prepared to listen as well as to talk; you will be popular if you can listen intelligently to all kinds of confidence. Be kind: this is the first and last rule in the craft of entertaining. Once you have mastered this fact you will be far on the highway to becoming a perfect hostess.

GREATNESS AT REST.



The great man, crowned with fame and glory, retires at evening to his den, and reads a cheap detective story of crooks who should be in the pen, a tale of ghastly deeds and gory, of pools of blood and murdered men. He locks the door before beginning, lest some Butinski should appear, and catch him in the act of sinning, and spread the tidings far and near; a measly fame he might be winning if people knew his taste, it's clear. He draws the shades lest some warfarer should glance, in through the window pane, and see him reading tales of terror of grisly deeds in Portland, Maine; of sleuths who trail without an error the slayer and avenge the slain. And people see him, grave and stately, too cold for trifling talk or jests, and they admire him truly, greatly, as one who meets the sternest tests. "He's doubtless reading Bishop Whately," they say, "at evening, when he rests. On speaks of thought his mind is roaming, when to his study he retires, or he's communing, in the gloaming, with bards who struck immortal lyres; the words of sages he is combing for words that glow with inward fires." And in his den the great man's reading "The Sloe-eyed Sleuth of Slinker's Slough," of popping guns and corpses bleeding, of bonehead cops who spoil their clew, and mighty little he is hearing the deathless bards and all that crew.

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