

SOAP MAGNATE VS.
EXPERT IN OILS

Question as to Whether Purchaser of Picture Becomes Owner or Merely Trustee.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

To what extent does the purchaser of a work of art become its absolute owner? What is a work of art? A British jury is about to answer both these questions, and we suppose it will be out not more than three or four years. They have been raised by a quarrel between Lord Leverhulme, author of Lifebuoy Soap and other popular works, and Augustus John, an English painter, who apparently is highly regarded in England, but whose fame has become world-wide only since Lord Leverhulme mutilated a picture painted by John. The picture was a portrait of Lord Leverhulme, seated in a chair, and the reproduction we have seen show his hair looking something like fudge, which may or may not have some connection with the merits of his soap for shampooing purposes. When the distinguished sitter was being painted he complained that the canvas of the artist was too small. Yet it was not long after the canvas had been delivered that he cut out the head and part of the shoulders, thus reducing the original picture by about one-fourth, and the remnant, consisting of arms, hands, chest and other parts and organs were shipped back to the painter.

Naturally he was enraged, supposing that the masterpiece had been destroyed or that Leverhulme for some reason was dissatisfied with it. He demanded an explanation, and learned that it was due to the mistake of a housekeeper that the rim or rind of the painting had been sent to him. Lord Leverhulme had no intention whatever of affronting the artist. On the contrary he had so valued that part of the painting which concerned his own face that he desired to protect

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it against all hazards. He wanted to put it in his safe. But the safe was too small to contain the whole panorama and he had been obliged to cut out the face alone. The face was then put in his safe and there remained. Though there has been a heated correspondence on the matter we do not observe that the artist asked why, instead of making a smaller picture, Lord Leverhulme had not made a larger one. Nor do we quite understand that a safe is considered a suitable frame for a picture that is, as the painter alleges, a work of art.

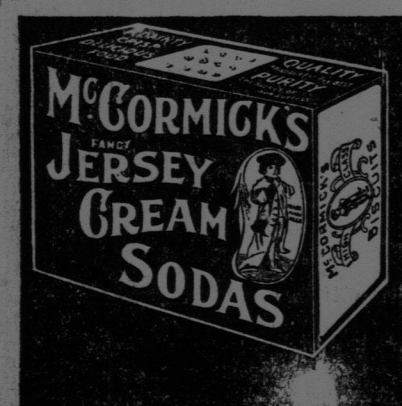
The dispute narrows down to this assertion on the part of Lord Leverhulme—that a man may do what he likes with his own. The artist maintains that a purchaser of a work of art is really only its trustee—that he has no right to mutilate a great painting because he has happened to come into possession of it. Artists are unanimously with Augustus John. People who buy paintings, on the other hand contend that when they pay for the artist for his work his interest in it is that they have a right to do with it what they please. Are they not to be permitted to choose whatever frame they like for a portrait? Can they not hang it in their homes? Are they to be dictated to as to what sort of background it shall have? The artistic consequence of a picture might be seriously affected by an improper

THE DRY SPOTS IN SCOTLAND

(Associated Press Correspondence.)

Edinburgh, Nov. 29.—Scotland has at least five dry spots; Killybeg, Sanguhar, Kirkintilloch, Auchtermarder and Rutherglen, as the result of the "local veto" liquor poll taken this month under the Temperance Act. Two towns, Newport and Langholm, voted for a limitation in the saloon traffic and the thirty-seven other Scottish localities voted for "no change." Everywhere the polling caused great excitement, and there was a lively poster campaign. Robert Burns' dictum: "Freedom and whisky gang together" was the slogan of the anti-prohibitionist forces. In Aberdeen "dry" placards appeared bearing the words "Hell is the well of whisky." To this "wet" supporters retorted with a placard "O death, where is thy sting?" In Glasgow twenty-four wards voted "no change," nine for limitation and four for abolition of saloon licenses. As a result, Glasgow's 1,604 saloons will be reduced by ninety-nine and there was much drinking of health to William E. (Pussyfoot) Johnson, the American campaigner, with empty glasses turned down.

"We are not disheartened," said Colonel Kyle, who led the prohibitionist attack. "It is good work to have abolished ninety-nine saloon licenses in Glasgow, and when we attack again, it will be different." The people most perturbed are the church leaders. In the light of the results they are asking if the churches have the influence in national life which they usually claim. It will be three years before another poll can be taken. Although Glasgow, where the battle raged most fiercely, remains wet, prohibitionists derive encouragement from the large number of individual votes in that city on their side: 142,248 as against 128,260 for "no change," and the London Evening News judges that next time these figures may change places.



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justice to John. The artist's point of view is expressed by Albert Groll, American artist, who said in the New York Post that what Lord Leverhulme had discarded might perhaps have been invaluable. He said that he had been trying experiments in tempera, and added: "I have got something in this medium that I never got before. You can't tell when you are going to do that. How do we know that Augustus John didn't get something in the Leverhulme portrait that he never got before? If he did, the world was entitled to it." Another American artist says that if Leverhulme was dissatisfied with the picture he ought to have gone to the artist to have any corrections made. If a man is not pleased with the length of his coat-tails, he does not take a pair of scissors and shorten them. He refers the matter to the tailor.

CHARGED WITH MURDER

Son Accused of Hestening Wealthy Father's Death. Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 30.—Preliminary examination of Victor Check and his wife, Belle Check, of Topeka, Kansas, charged with murder in connection with the death of Victor Check's father, Thomas J. Check, here on the night of November 13, was begun in a justice of the peace court here. Belle was expressed by court officials based on the number of witnesses summoned, that the hearing would last about two weeks. Dr. L. Dameron, the first witness, testified he was summoned to the Check apartments and found the elder Check lying on a bed dead. He said there was an abrasion on one hand. He said the younger Check told him he had died while in an automobile. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Check are alleged, in the murder charge to have subjected Check, who was reputed wealthy, to "brutal and inhuman treatment," calculated to hasten his death.

SUGAR MAY DROP TO 9 CENTS AT RETAIL IN THE STATES

Federal Company Lowers the Wholesale Price to 8 3/4— Exceptional "Old Crop."

(New York Evening Post.) When the "new crop" sugar begins to pour into American markets within the next few weeks from Louisiana, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and elsewhere, American wholesale and retail sugar interests will be carrying over the largest stocks of "old crop" sugar in the history of the sugar refining business in the United States, predicted an official of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, in explaining the reduction in price of refined sugar to 8 3/4 cents a pound. This is the lowest wholesale quotation made by any sugar refining company in recent months. Other firms are listing refined sugar at from 9 to 9 1/2 cents a pound. Further reductions are prophesied because of the enormous

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THREE THOUSAND ENROLL FOR FREE NIGHT CLASSES

(Montreal Herald.) The free-hand drawing and trade classes conducted by the Council of Arts and Manufacturers in Montreal and other cities of the province accomplished since the opening is a credit to both the pupils and the teachers. In Montreal, the classes are conducted with high satisfaction and a visit to the classroom is most interesting. Pupils can be seen studying: soft-groove, modelling, free-hand drawing, plumbing, lithography, sign painting, lettering, carpentry joinery, stair building, mechanical drawing. Special classes are held in sewing, cutting and millinery for ladies specially.

FOR BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCTS GREAT SALES EMPORIUM IN LONDON

There has just been launched in London, England, by a few public spirited men, an enterprise of great importance to every part of the British Empire. The conception is, briefly, a co-partnership between colonial manufacturers and producers in an organization for the sale of their goods direct to the householders in the United Kingdom. An imposing pile of buildings is going

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