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TRAGEDIES OF THE SLUMS AND OF RURAL ENGLAND

Some Old Country Problems as Seen by a Thoughtful and Observing Canadian.

It cannot be expected that one should speak with ultimate authority about things in Britain after five or six weeks' pilgrimage; yet even that is an advantage over the American who saw London "in a day." I can only offer an opinion and speak of what I saw. Nevertheless my opportunity of seeing and hearing things from many different points of view was good. In the party with which I travelled there were about two hundred fellow-Canadians who, like Ulysses, were travelling with "hungry hearts" and were casting and peering about with keen eyes for comparisons. What one did not see the others did, and there was much time spent comparing notes. We passed, for example, from Glasgow, our landing place to Edinburgh, to Sterling, Dumfries, Melrose, Carlisle, the Lake Country, Oxford, Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon, Oath, London, where we entered for nearly two weeks, thence to Portsmouth, Southampton, Channel Islands, thence back to Weymouth, Taunton, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Chester and Liverpool. Visits were made at different times to points of interest nearby some of these places, such for instance as Windsor, Eton, Nuneaton, the home of the Harcourts, Aldershot, Glasbury, Wells, Abington, Hatfield House, Epping Forest, etc., etc.

In connection with this itinerary we met all classes of people and England has many classes; we had excellent opportunities of interviewing all the "estates of the realm"; politicians, aristocrats, soldiers, sailors, farmers, merchants, civil service officers, hotel proprietors, attendants, cabbies and what not. The people of the British Isles talk conversation with visitors, especially if they are "Colonials." There is something flattering about answering the questions of a comparative stranger. It gives the man or woman of the homeland a feeling of superiority. Then again the average homelander holds opinions. No country under the sun has a better reputation for "opinions" than John Bull's land. Hasn't it been so for centuries? What was all the fuss about at the time of Jack Cade's rebellion on Blackheath Common, or at the time of the Civil War? So we had no difficulty at any point of engaging in the most interesting kind of conversation about affairs at home and abroad.

The Englishman displays his opinions something as a merchant would show his wares. He does it, too, with the consciousness that he has the best goods or "opinions" in the world! The beauty of it is that the Englishman is no less anxious to hear you express your view of things, British or mundane. He will ask you sooner or later "What impresses you most?" "What do you think of London?" and such like questions. Now, with regard to the former question my letters in general will suffice for an answer on the Canadian side, with regard to the latter question, it would be impossible to frame an adequate answer. London impresses me as a clean city to begin with. Considering the vast population, the cleanliness of the streets and the orderly way in which traffic moves back and forth is phenomenal. I rode one

self in their place. They have had to struggle to keep out of the maelstrom. That struggle under more just conditions would prove their greatest asset and would place them higher on the ladder of prosperity, it may be, than those who lox with disdain on them now. I would wager on an immigrant from a "slum" or a "ragged school" making a success quicker than I would on a runout scion of some aristocratic family.

Perhaps I have digressed more than I should just here, but the subject was attractive. The homelander has been sending out great numbers of immigrants during the last decade, but after my few weeks looking about I should say she could well afford to spare a million more forthwith. I think the million themselves would be better off, also the colony to which they went, and the homeland. Of course, for the most part they would be tillers of the soil. In a new land like Canada or Australia they would become buyers and producers, and carrying with them the rich heritage of an Anglo-Saxon civilization they would leaven the new civilization with their constructive ideals of government, and make the wastes a garden. The homeland would be relieved of a surplus population, have more trade and a better living to share among its peoples. Further than that, the bounds of Empire would be widened and strengthened. Does this look like a bold or rash statement? Let us look. One of the most notable things in my itinerary was the number of men employed at little jobs, such as for instance as hawk picture post cards on the streets, selling papers. In one of England's most ancient and classical cities, you could scarcely cross the street with a hand satchel, but what some full-grown, poorly dressed man would pop out from somewhere, hurry to your side and with a salute say beseechingly, "Carry your satchel, Sir!" At Portsmouth, where 15,000 men are now employed in the Navy dockyards, I was told by an official that the average sailor's wages was about thirty shillings per week. I am sure that when good meat is about a shilling a pound and a man has a family to support and rent to pay.

In the best farming districts of Somersetshire, Devon and Cornwall the wage of the farm laborer is twelve shillings per week not including board. The Wiltshire County Council recently voted down a proposition to pay a minimum of eight shillings per week to look out for the welfare of the poor. The writer under the very shadow of a wealthy royal castle that their wage was twenty-eight shillings a week with the possibility of a rise to thirty-two, I believe. England's rural parts are pleasant to look upon, but, also they spell in many cases, a tragedy. So long as men accept the present order—Lords, squires, parsons, tenantry—the essential nature of things, things will go quietly and peacefully for a while longer. But for the most part the land we see is not cultivated by its owner. It has a tenant in charge and judging by the attractive appearance of the land he must be doing good work. As a matter of fact he has to do well. Only the best he can do will give him an existence at all. Apart from that, the English farmer is not progressive. The government provided "analyses" for expert advice and help, but the percentage who apply for such advice is woefully small. The old way is good enough for him. Only the keen competition of the world's markets will suffice to force a new method. There is little hope of the average farmer or farm laborer in England rising to a place of independence. Little wonder that many of them have ceased to hope for anything better.

An elect lady of Oxford expressed in her conversation warm disapproval of Lloyd George's land taxing scheme which laid a greater portion of the monetary burden of the nation on the large land owners. "Why," she said by way of argument (as if it were one that would close the case) "the tenants themselves object to it. They have been so long under the government of the landlords they fear independence." My reply to this was perhaps a little blunt. I said: "That was the argument for slavery, and was a good reason for doing away with it." England is far from being democratic yet, but that is the way things are tending. If some leave the country for Israel, faire opposition has it just what they might expect. If some stay and quarrel with the powers that be we need not be surprised. That is going on now. If some accept the situation as a matter of Providence or caste we need not be surprised. Such systems always have produced the three classes. We need not speak of others who try to drown their sorrows in drink.

Just in closing, what a boon to both homeland and colony that there has been a free outlet for the people. Energy must have room for expansion or there will be constructive and revolutionary. As it is the outlook is full of hope, though the hour when all will share with equal justice and generosity in the commonwealth may be yet long delayed.

R. O. ARMSTRONG.

Open Season for Moose

(Morning Chronicle)

The open season for moose began on September 16, and the festive sportsman is at liberty to get back to the woods, and after the killing of Nova Scotia's game moose. The season lasts until November 15th and until that date sports can hunt moose, but each must be satisfied with one kill per season. In fact he may not even again hunt moose after having already killed one in that season. But though it is open to all now to get after the big game, many city sportsmen will not get into the timber until there is frost in the air and snow has fallen. According to reports from outside of the city moose promise to be plentiful this season. The game laws as applying to moose are practically the same as last year, except that with the skull, antlers with head and neck skin attached, the skins of the legs from knees to hoofs must only be brought out of the woods for exhibition by a justice of the peace or warden, as required by the act, and not the whole legs, bone and all. Cow moose or calves may not be hunted or killed this year. The total moose killings last season as reported to Chief Game Commissioner Knight was 687, as against 617 during the season of 1911. Halifax led all counties in the number killed within its boundaries, the figures for 1912 in comparison for 1911 being as follows:—

	1911	1912
Annapolis County	77	70
Colchester County	25	15
Cumberland County	31	44
Digby County	33	43
Guysboro County	45	57
Halifax County	152	134
Hants County	26	49
Kings County	7	13
Lunenburg County	33	43
Pictou County	33	43
Queens County	27	37
Shelburne County	27	37
Yarmouth County	34	44
	617	687

Caribou may not be killed or hunted before next season in Pictou County other than by the warden and deer likewise may not be hunted before October of next year.

The open season for shooting rabbits begins October 1st and lasts until March 1st, but snaring of other mammals is allowed until December 1st and March 1st. According to reports, rabbits promise to be fairly plentiful, notwithstanding the forest fires.

The season for foxhunting, wilson snipe, blue-winged duck and woodcock opened Sept. 1st and closes March 1st. Reports so far indicate black duck unusually plentiful, but woodcock very scarce. The partridge season opens Oct. 1st and lasts but a month. Partridge are reported fairly plentiful now.

Angling for the season will close on October 1st, the season for fishing trout and land-locked salmon, which opened April 1st, closing then. Some anglers feel the open season for trout might be closed a month earlier, with beneficial results.

A Suggestion For Those in Doubt

Now, if we were asked to suggest a suitable investment selection we would say: "Buy Nova Scotia Underwear Preferred"—unless you showed a preference for bonds, in which case we could recommend some very good ones from our list.

But you will find upon examination that Nova Scotia Underwear Preferred Stock is decidedly desirable. For the first six months of this year the issuing Company earned a large surplus over the amount necessary for preferred dividends and with the many orders on hand this is likely to continue for the balance of the year.

The dividends are 7 p.c. and cumulative. Today the stock can be bought outright or on our Partial Payment Plan at 98 p.c. to give the handsome yield of 7 p.c. May we send you further details?

J. C. Mackintosh & Co.

Established 1873

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R. O. ARMSTRONG.

The Apple Maggot or Railroad Worm

A short time ago I issued a note of warning against this pest, but at that time the department here did not know of any infestation in the Annapolis fruit belt. Information had come to us of a reported outbreak around Jordantown but we could not locate it. All our men began inspection work west of Annapolis; a careful lookout for this pest was maintained. In order to determine the presence of this pest every orchard had to be closely inspected and hundreds of apples had to be cut open in the search. Mr. A. Kelsall's party was delegated to search the district west from Bear River and further east should the pest be found. Assisted by Mr. H. G. Payne, the territory between Bear River on the east and as far west as any infestation could be found was closely inspected. As a result of this inspection Mr. Kelsall reports finding apple maggot generally distributed in the district from Bear River to about three miles west of Digby on the main Yarmouth road. The centre of the infestation is around Acaciaville where several badly infested orchards were found. Unfortunately, the maggot has been discovered quite abundantly in wild apple as well. The pest was found most prevalent in Bush Sweets, Gravensteins and Astrachans as well as the softer kinds of wild apples. A small infestation was found about a mile east of the Bear River Bridge but none for several miles further east.

It would seem that the present outbreak is practically confined to the district from Bear River west to about three miles beyond Digby on the Yarmouth road. In order that the distribution of this pest be restricted as much as possible I am placing Mr. Kelsall in the infested district to give all necessary help and warn fruit growers of the necessity of active control measures. All dropped fruit should be gathered every four or five days and fed or buried, not buried. Fruit growers should also closely inspect all wild apple trees and see that any infested fruit is destroyed. When in doubt write the department here, and every effort will be made to aid in the work.

If the fruit growers in the infested district will see to it that all wind falls are destroyed by cooking or feeding within a few days after they have fallen it will mean a great reduction in the pest for the coming year. Next year all these orchards as well as wild apple trees should be carefully sprayed with lead arsenate just after the blossoms fall and then about two weeks later. These are the two regular codling moth sprays and in large commercial orchards in badly infested districts have proven successful in controlling this pest. However, full directions will be issued in the spring dealing with the necessary control measures.

At this time it may also be well to warn all buyers to avoid shipping fruit from the infested to uninfested districts for packing purposes. For in this way culls are so often thrown away and if the maggots are present in the fruit as they frequently are new outbreaks are bound to occur.

ROBT. MATHESON,
Provincial Entomologist.

Truro, N. S.

CELEBRATES HER
NINETYTH BIRTHDAY.

Mrs. Catherine Armstrong, one of the oldest residents of North Sydney, celebrated her 90th birthday on Friday last, having been born in Bridgetown, N. S., on Sept. 12, 1823. Her husband, the late James Armstrong, who was a widely known and highly esteemed citizen of our town, died some twelve years ago at the age of eighty-four years. Her surviving children are Mrs. S. C. Erskine, of Rosedale, Mass., Rev. W. F. Armstrong D. D., of Rangoon, India; Hon. Dr. J. N. Armstrong, of this town, and T. J. Armstrong, Esq., a leading business man of Portland, Oregon, and President and owner of the Noon Bag Co., one of the largest manufacturing establishments of that city.

On the occasion of her 90th birthday Mrs. Armstrong was the recipient of congratulatory messages and remembrances from her children and other members of the family, and numerous friends. Enjoying good health and remarkable in many ways for a person of her advanced age, the North Sydney Herald trusts Mrs. Armstrong may still see and experience many years of life and happiness. Mrs. Armstrong resides here with her son—North Sydney Herald.

LAWRENCETOWN SCHOOL EXHIBITION

Great Interest Shown by the Scholars in this Splendid Method of Instruction

The annual exhibition of the Lawrence Public School was held on Friday last and has been pronounced by all as the most successful one yet. These exhibitions have been held now for several years and deserve more than a local attention as a successful attempt and way to interest our school children in their work and in the country about them.

The exhibits quite filled the large school rooms, and would have done credit to a much larger country fair. But far more important than the size of the exhibits and the interest manifested by the children in this method of instruction. The large number of competitors indicated a very general concern had seized the whole school for this variety of knowledge.

Besides prizes for vegetables grown by the children, prizes were also awarded for the best small garden cared for by a boy or girl. These had been visited several times during the summer by the judges and the award given at this time. The boys and girls were in separate sections, the girls not requiring to care for quite as large an area as the boys. Another section was for collection of insects and several very good boxes of these were shown neatly mounted.

Wild flowers and weeds formed another class and brought together numerous collections of well preserved wild flowers that had been carefully dried, pressed and mounted and named.

Manual training work done by pupils at home without a master was shown on one wall, and was a display of the ingenuity and dexterity of the boys that showed a great variety of useful articles from a rolling pin to a bob-sled.

The collection of native woods was shown on another table and upwards of forty varieties displayed in neatly cut and planed quarter sections six inches long.

To be sure that these were done by the small boy who showed more interest in nature studies than in his spelling book, one had but to glance at the names on some of them. Cedar was marked "Seeder," while the graceful sumack received a practical turn from this enthusiastic collection by being spelled "shoe mack."

The Domestic Science exhibit brought together many dainty garments with plain and fancy sewing and needle work, as well as plenty of bread, rolls and some cake, all done by the children.

Another class was made up of drawing and painting and another showing penmanship, in all of which there were numerous entries and close competition and all displaying much taste and art.

A prize for the best essay on "The Educational Value of School Premises," brought together a desk full of plans and details for school houses and grounds that would do credit to more mature architects, and

"the boy is father of the man" many of these plans may yet work out into improved school grounds and buildings in our County in the next generation.

On the whole the Exhibition reflects great credit on those who managed it. We notice in the officers and Committee of Management such well known educationalists and teachers as Dr. Hall, Principal Banks and his staff of teachers, R. J. Messenger, H. H. Whitman, the town clergy, in fact the whole community and the Monitor hopes to be able to report many more such Exhibitions at Lawrence town and in many other schools throughout the County from year to year.

Below we give the prize winners.

Garden Prize for Boys.
1st prize senior—Gordon Boland, Ernest Palfrey, Horace Layte.
2nd prize, senior—Clarence Daniels, Clyde Morse.
3rd prize senior—Abner Phinney, Leonard Mellick.
1st prize juniors—John Hall, John Howard.
2nd prize juniors—Norval Banks, Leander Longley.
3rd prize juniors—Donald MacPherson, Francis Daniels.

Garden Prizes for Girls.
1st prize senior—Josie Banks, Eileen Prince.
2nd prize senior—Marion Morgan.
3rd prize senior—Margaret Whitman, 1st prize juniors—Augusta Messenger, Flora Howard.

2nd prize juniors—Jean Messenger, 3rd prize juniors—Dorothy Howatt, Vegetables, Grains and Flowers
Beans and Plants—1st, Florence Layte; 2nd, Clarence Daniels.
Beets and six plants—1st, Ernest Palfrey; 2nd, Clarence Daniels.
Cabbage (2 heads) 1st, Alton Brown.

Carrots (6) 1st, Horace Layte; 2nd, Ernest Palfrey.
Celery (3 heads) 1st, no name.
Cauliflower, (2 heads) 1st, Ernest Palfrey.
Citron, (3) 1st, Francis Daniels.
Corn (6 ears) 1st, Hector Whitman.
Cucumber (6) 1st, Donald MacPherson; 2nd, Francis Daniels.
Squash (1) 1st, John Hall; 2nd, Pumpkins (1) 1st, Dwight Foster; 2nd, Hector Whitman.
Francis Daniels.

Potatoes (6) 1st, Gordon Boland; 2nd, Ben Prince.
Onion (6) 1st, Eileen Prince; 2nd, John Hall.
Parsnips (6) 1st, Clyde Brown; 2nd, Donald MacPherson.
Tomatoes (3 ripe) 1st, Clyde Brown; 2nd, Eileen Prince.
Turnips (3) 1st, Eileen Prince.
Cucumbers (4) 1st, Donald MacPherson; 2nd, Alton Brown.
Oats (1 sheaf) 1st, Dwight Foster.
Pansies (6 blooms) 1st, Augusta Messenger; 2nd, Margaret Whitman.
Sweet Peas (6) 1st, Lillian Palfrey; 2nd, Augusta Messenger.
Nasturtiums (6) 1st, Eileen Prince; 2nd, Dorothy Howard.

Six blooms of other garden flowers
1st, Marion Morgan; 2nd, Eileen Prince.
1st prize seniors—Abner Phinney; 2nd, Donald Messenger.
Wild Plants and Weeds.
1st prize seniors—Jean Palfrey; 2nd, Lena Foster; 3rd, Florence Miller.

(Concluded on page 8.)

Royal Bank of Canada

INCORPORATED 1869.

CAPITAL . . . \$11,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS . . . \$12,500,000
AGGREGATE ASSETS . . . \$175,000,000

70 BRANCHES IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Deposits of \$1.00 and upwards received and interest allowed at highest current rates.

A. F. LITTLE MANAGER, Bridgetown
F. G. PALFREY MANAGER, Lawrence town
E. B. McDANIEL MANAGER, Annapolis Royal.

Why Red Rose is a
"Distinctive" Tea
Because it is largely composed
of the fine teas of Northern
India, which are generous in
strength and richness. These, blended
with the flavory teas of Ceylon, pro-
duce the qualities for which Red Rose
is famed.

N.B.—Coffee users will find
Red Rose Coffee as gener-
ously good as Red Rose Tea.



August, 1913.