

## THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF POETRY

Arthur Stringer's Interesting  
Address at the Canadian  
Club Wednesday.

### A POINTER FOR MEN

Who Are Wrapped Up in Business—  
Partly Soothes and Helps the For-  
getting of Care.

An unusually large gathering was present at the luncheon given by the Canadian Club Wednesday to Arthur Stringer, one of London's sons who has won distinction in the realm of literature.

Mr. C. B. Edwards who presided at the luncheon, introduced Mr. Stringer in a few brief, but effective words, drawing attention to the fact that on Mr. Stringer's right hand sat Principal McQueen, under whose care Mr. Stringer had received his first training in the world of literature. In rising to reply Mr. Stringer spoke a few words of grateful tribute to Mr. McQueen.

Mr. Stringer's paper on "The Market Value of Poetry" was an unusually bright and clever effort, full of whimsical humor and telling illustrations. Mr. Stringer believes that poetry has a market value because it ministers to the craving of the human heart. The poet must acknowledge that the craving for poetry is identical to the craving for food. The only difference is in the way it reacts, for the one leads toward the gutter and the other uplifts. Poetry has a market value, because of this great and universal appeal, and it only remains for the poet to come in touch with the actualities, to realize that in these there is the germ of poetry to make it an ever-widening power.

#### The Address.

Gentlemen:—I regard it as not only a great pleasure, but also as a great privilege, to say the few words I have to say to face with so many old friends and before so distinguished a gathering in this, my native city. Nor is it altogether inappropriate, at such a time and in such a place, that these few words should deal with the market-value of the poet. I say this because it was in this city that the present speaker first identified himself with the Muse. That initial effort was a modest poem of some eight hundred lines on "The History of the World Up to the Trojan War." The spelling, I'm afraid, was not above criticism, and it was written in blank verse, for rhymes, in those days, were a good deal of a bother to me. Only one line of that poem, luckily, stays in my memory. It is from the passage where Hector and Achilles are eating Indian corn together after an artillery battle somewhere in the suburbs of Troy, and the former rather inebriatedly threatens the latter, in the words of the poem, that he'll make him "Hop-Scotch out of Troy as tame as a toad!"

I also remember that the elderly Church of England clergyman to whom I had the audacity submit these inspired lines gravely informed me that while they showed undoubted dramatic promise, they could not be criticised as either slavishly historical or pedantically classical in setting.

#### First Study of Poetry.

Yet after studying poetry for over thirty years—I do not exaggerate the length of time, gentlemen, for my first study of that art began at the age of 4, when a patient nursemaid imposed on me the learning by rote of those classic lines: "Four-and-twenty blackbirds baked in a pie"—I repeat that after studying poetry for over thirty years I know almost as little about it now as I did when I wept over the unjust fate of the frugal and industrious maid "who was in the garden hanging out the clothes, when out came a blackbird, and, as you all know, snapped off her nose." For poetry, like other great things, like all the old and deathless things, is about as hard to define as love, or religion, or life itself. We know that a pithy saying, once put to rhyme, never dies. We also know that rhythm appeals to the ear. But into the psychology of the one or the physiology of the other it would be both useless and inopportune for me to inquire, at such a time.

#### A Few Truths.

But there are a few plain truths about poetry that might be worth mentioning. While we all feel that we could really be poets, if we once thought it worth while to turn our minds to it, we all likewise entertain a sneaking belief that there's something just a little foolish about poetry. Poets themselves are an erratic lot. They've always had a good deal of the irresponsibility of the child about them. And the stuff the poet writes, most of us feel, is only something for green-sick young men in love, or for children and invalids and idle women. It varies the monotony of crocheting, and is less fatiguing, though more extravagantly a waste of time, than tatting and hem-stitching. At most, it is a sort of half-calf on the parlor corner table, a by-product of that refining fashion which now fills our homes with imitation mission-furniture as it once filled them with antimacassars and waxed with a jugling with words. It only tells things which could be said far easier and far plainer in prose. And quite a bit of it says things far too openly, and is not always gentlemanly.

#### Gets Into the Blood.

It's true that some of it, of the more natural and nipper kind, gets into the blood now and then and stirs us up, as some fine old battle hymn has been known to do, or as some odd church hymn can do, or as the words of Bobby Burns have done when passing men and women, sometimes separating for life, stand up together and tearfully sing "For Auld Lang Syne." But even that, we feel, is only the doling out of a sort of intellectual absinthe, a mental cognac that is all right in its place but has a very limited place. We have

(Continued on Page Nine.)

# We Must Make Room For Another Stock

(WATCH THIS PAPER NEXT WEEK FOR OUR BIG AD.)

## Men's and Boys' Clothing and Furnishings

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We have another stock coming in next week, so we must make room. We are compelled to clear our store as much as possible by the end of this week. You can buy at your own price. Come at once. We have a large lot of Men's Pants and Boys' Suits that will reach lowest possible price. Don't forget Friday and Saturday at

## THE BANKRUPT CLOTHING SALE, Near Talbot St. 100 DUNDAS STREET. Opp. City Hotel.

Watch This Paper for Our Grand Opening of the New Stock.

### HOT ON THE TRAIL OF TRAIN ROBBERS

Indian Trackers Used in Running Down Band Who Held Up C. P. R. Train.

Vancouver, July 1.—The pursuit of the robbers who held up the train at Ducks is being actively prosecuted by Indian trackers from Nicola and mounted police. The railway police of Kamloops have taken up the trail at Pennys, where the robbers were first sighted in the boat on their way down the Thompson River. It is assumed the whole band separated there to make their way to the coast. The latest dispatches state that the desperado who figured in the Ashcroft tragedy is still in the mining tunnel at Red Gulch, six miles east. Watchers last night had only one shotgun and one revolver among them, while the fugitive is well armed. He shot a Chinaman in escaping, and may have broken away. Among the effects the robbers left in the boat at Ashcroft are a dressing-case, tooth brush, a silver-plated shaving outfit and changes of linen. The clothing of the dead man is of good linen. All the linen marks and the name of the maker of the clothing have been obliterated. The hat bore the name of a clothing store at Spokane, Wash. The fleeing robbers took all the papers from their dead companion. The pockets of the dead man contained the photos of a baby girl three years old well dressed in different poses. A pair of pants left behind evidently belonged to the fugitive.

Decker previously served on the provincial police. Old-timers recall the murder of French Pete, shot at Campbell's ranch, near Ashcroft. The murderer was seen by Decker, but got away safe across the line. He came back a few years later with some horses and was recognized by Decker. He was then arrested and found guilty and hanged at New Westminster. Friends think there is something behind his killing. They say, "Fends of a bad man's friend last long." French Pete's murderer was hanged in 1899.

### ELECTRIC SMELTING

Premier Looking Into Possibilities for Central Canada.

Ottawa, June 30.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has received a communication from the British minister to Sweden giving particulars as to the establishment of an electric smelting plant at Trollhatten Falls. It has three furnaces, each of 2,500 electric horsepower, and a capacity of 7,500 tons of pig iron. The cost of electric energy will be \$7.50 per horsepower for the first ten years and rising to \$10 in the second ten years. The ore treated carries percentages of phosphorus ranging from 4.10 to 13.10. The iron deposits of Ontario and Quebec and particularly in the valleys of the Ottawa and Gatineau, present this very peculiarity. It is said that the premier is extremely sanguine as to the possibility of the establishment of an iron industry in Central Canada. He is making an examination of the iron ores of Eastern Canada in the light of the disclosures of the Swedish experiments.

### WEDDED AT BELLEVILLE.

Belleville, June 30.—Rev. Rural Dean Beamish, rector of St. Thomas Church, and Mary Jessie Ackers, daughter of Dr. D. H. Ackers, were wedded in St. Thomas this morning. The Lord Bishop of Ontario performing the ceremony. The church was crowded to the doors.

### THE PLANTATION PLATE.

Newmarket, June 30.—The Plantation plate of 200 sovereigns, for two-year-olds, distance five furlongs, was run here today, and was won by Gally Bawn, R. McCree's Santa Corso being second and H. P. Whitney's Oversight third. Among the 24 starters was August Belmont's Amical.

### PREMIER ASQUITH FOR CUT IN CABLE RATES

Imperial Press Conference Delegation Interviews Him on the Subject.

London, July 1.—The Imperial Press Conference delegation re the cable question waited on Premier Asquith Wednesday afternoon at the House of Commons. Hon. W. Lawson introduced the delegation. Having pointed out that the Government spent a quarter million annually in cables, he said the Imperial news service was now poor, dry, and bloodless. Cheapness of rates was only possible through government action. Canada had expressed her anxiety for the co-operation of the Imperial Government, and he understood from a very highly-placed official now in London that Canada's enthusiasm has not diminished.

Concluding, he remarked the press conference did not wish to prejudice the issue between wireless and cables, adding that Canada's subvention to Marconi was a valuable precedent.

### The Canadian View.

Mr. P. D. Ross, speaking for the Canadian delegates, referred to the combination against the cable companies, pointing out that a reduction in rates through Canada to Australia would inevitably reduce rates the other way. It has been stated that government action would be unfair to private companies. The press conference did not want any Government to run a state line of electric communication at a loss. It must be on a commercial basis; if governments made the line pay, then the companies must be ready to meet their competition, as well as that of private companies. He then pointed out that the British Government paid £60,000,000 yearly on the army and navy, and the small outlay necessary for greater facility of communication throughout the Empire would be well spent. The Canadian delegates on their return to Canada hoped to persuade the Government to meet the Imperial Government's offer.

Delegates from the other portion of the Empire, having laid the views before Premier Asquith in response, said towards the general objects of the deputation the Government was entirely sympathetic. The Pacific board's reduction, had the concurrence of the Imperial Government.

As regards Canada, Hon. Sydney Buxton and Mr. Lemieux had been in communication for a considerable time on the question of the reduction of Atlantic rates. If nothing had been done it was certainly not the Home Government's fault, because at the request of Mr. Lemieux any action had been postponed.

He hopes a satisfactory arrangement would ultimately be come to respecting the cable companies. The means of action at the disposal of the Imperial Government was very limited, but its influence would be used as far as may be in the reduction of rates.

### Increased Service Necessary.

Cable companies were commercial bodies, and the most powerful argument for the reduction of press rates would be the assurance of largely increased service. The development of wireless was a matter which could not be left out of sight, especially in connection with the suggestion to lay a state cable, and the progress of invention might considerably alter the carrying capacity of cables and thus change existing circumstances. The government department would keep in touch with the standing committee of the I. P. C., and this would be a very solid result of the conference.

In conclusion he declared one of the first requisites of the empire would be a cheap, certain, constant, convenient and universally accessible system of electric communication. A vote of thanks to the Premier concluded the proceedings. Hon. Mr. Buxton and Col. Seeley were present.

The Standard says there is no question as to the company's ability to reduce cable rates if they will face the matter in a judicial spirit and thoroughly modernize the system of working.

Milk is now sterilized by exposing it to the ultra violent rays of a mercury vapor lamp. The chemical composition of the milk is unchanged by the treatment.

### STIFF PROPOSITION FOR THE STUDENTS

Who Are Writing on Faculty of Education Examinations at Collegiate.

The pupils who are writing on the faculty of education examination are facing a very stiff proposition, and there will be little discredit arising out of any failures that may result. The truth of the matter is that there is not sufficient accommodation in the different normal schools to properly care for the interests of all the pupils who are presenting themselves for that branch of work. Something naturally has to be done, and the department has adopted the plan of working on the basis of the survival of the fittest. And as a result the examinations in this department have been unusually hard; harder, in fact, than would be justifiable under any other conditions. It is seemingly a rather cold-blooded way of meeting the congested condition in the Normal Schools of the province. But no other scheme seems feasible, and the numbers to enter the Normal Schools must be kept within certain limits.

Demand for Teachers. It is not a case of supply exceeding the demand, for there is a strong demand for teachers; it is only the machinery of production that is lacking. The other examinations, while not in a similar state, have still been very hard.

"Fair, but difficult," is the consensus of opinion among the teachers. The scholars are a unit in the matter of the latter quality, but are divided regarding the former. Mathematics, physics, history and even literature have all been very difficult papers. Still with it all the teachers are confident that the London Collegiate pupils will take a very satisfactory result when the results of the examinations are made known.

### AN EXTRA BURDEN ON THE PEOPLE HE SAYS

Senator Borah Gets This Meaning From Proposed Corporation Tax.

Washington, July 1.—Prefacing his remarks with a statement that his text would be the words of the chairman of the finance committee—"I shall vote for the corporation tax as a means to defeat the income tax," Senator Borah today declared his opposition to the corporation means for taxing the consumers of the country.

"I realize," he said, "that the chance for enacting an income tax has practically been removed so far as this session is concerned, but I am sufficiently devoted to the faith to believe that it is only removed for a time."

He had favored the income tax, he said, because it would have made possible a distribution of the burdens of the Government between the consumers and the producers. He was proposed to lay an additional tax on consumers in the form of a corporation tax, he would prefer following the course suggested at the beginning of the session by the chairman of the finance committee, in favor of re-employment in the expenditures of the Government to avoid the necessity for such an additional burden on the people.

"Unquestionably," Mr. Borah said, "the great corporations of the country have transferred their taxes to the consumer."

"The men who do not transfer their taxes are the holders of millions of bonds who are exempted from the operation of the law it is here proposed to pass. Today the great corporations, knowing that they can transfer this proposed tax, are advising that the tax be put on them, preferring it to the income tax."

Much of the time today was devoted to the consideration of the nation's finances. Estimating the total revenues under the Aldrich-Payne bill at \$360,000,000 and those to be derived from the internal revenue at \$240,000,000, Senator Cummins predicted at the end of the fiscal year 1911 there would be a deficit of not less than \$175,000,000. He therefore contended that the amendment of the tariff bill by the addition of an income tax was necessary to produce sufficient revenue for the conduct of the business of the Government.

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### BARTENDERS FINED.

Ottawa, June 30.—Magistrate Okeard handed out a severe sentence to Albert Dugar and Jos. Parr, two bartenders in the employ of John Smith, of Perrons street, who was prosecuted by the department of Indian affairs, for selling liquor to Louis Eustace, an Indian belonging to the Oak tribe, who resides in Hull. He fined them \$50 and costs. The bartenders, for the defense, swore that the Indian had

got no liquor at all; Eustace was discharged with a warning on the charge of drunkenness against him.

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