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OUTDOOR UNPROFESSIONAL RECREATION.

The title of this article is suggested by the utterances made on Saturday last at the Granite Club, in this city, on the value to a community of healthful games, which are free from the elements of gambling and rowdiness. To the business or professional man of sedentary habit, whose mind is for many hours a day absorbed in calculation, in correspondence, in experiment, a competitive game, which, by means of recreative, pure, companionable exercise, will get the blood out of his head and his mind off his books, is of direct value. It restores the balance of the body, which is disturbed to the point of danger by neglect of physical exercise in our too close devotion to business. It takes a man out of himself and compels him to be sociable if not cheerful—something that many a man needs to learn. And it fits him for his work, whatever that may be; for everyone knows, who has ever tried one of them, the correcting effect on his mental vision, in the composure of his nerves, in the improvement of his appetite and spirits, produced by rowing a boat for an hour; by a short game at bowls on the green; by a round at golf. Almost anyone can get these things, but only a few can get the horseback riding, the ocean journey, the trip to the mountains, that are sometimes prescribed for business men, whose physical health is upset.

It was very well said, on the occasion of a gathering in his honor, by the president of the club named, that the existence in a community of places where outdoor sports can be cheaply and easily had is a great blessing to the individual. "I recall," said Mr. Dalton, "the names of many members of this club—there must have been twelve hundred of Toronto's citizens who have belonged to it during these twenty-five years—to whom their membership has been an unmixed blessing. It has developed sociability in some; it has disciplined others, and also made them healthy where before they were dyspeptics. Speaking for myself, I say that I treasure my connection with the Granite Club, as I treasure few things. It has done far more for me than I have done for it. Not only have its recreations made me more healthy and supplied just the sort of safety-valve a busy man needs, but it has given me rest when I needed it, and given me friendships that I can never forget. Such places as these are, I contend, a moral, as well as a physical advantage to a community, and the cheapness with which they may be had, in this city and in many other places, further commends them."

Striking testimony of a like kind was given on the occasion by a medical man, Dr. James H. Richardson. Besides being a distinguished consulting physician of wide study and observation, Dr. Richardson is, at three score years and ten, a vigorous illustration of what outdoor sports will do to keep a man young in limb, brain and heart. "I have often been struck," he said, "with the privilege that I enjoy, that all of us enjoy, in being able to find a place like this and delight, day after day, summer and winter, in bowling and curling, tennis and billiards, in gentlemanly society, in comfortable

surroundings, without the betting and the profanity that offends one so often in connection with games played publicly by professionals. And how cheaply we get these simple pleasures! Let us welcome, then, the growth of these simple games." When he tells us that fishing and hunting, games of golf or bowls on the green in summer, skating or curling in the winter, may save a man from apoplexy or paralysis, the suggestion should be heeded. There are many among us far too greatly engrossed in business:

* * * * * Late and soon,
Getting and spending we *lay waste* our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours.

If we miss the joys of Nature and lack health, our lives are sadly curtailed. Better to seek betimes the inspiration of such places as Studleigh Park, in Halifax; the Thistle green and rink in Hamilton; the Forest and Stream club in Montreal, and various resorts of the kind to be had in scores of clubs in Canada from Winnipeg to Pictou. Here may be found what old Isaac Walton called "the second blessing that we mortals are capable of; a blessing that money cannot buy." Toronto is fortunate in having a number of such breathing-and-expanding-places for business men. There are other Canadian cities and towns to which such a place in each might prove a blessing.

SIMPLE MEANS OF FIGHTING FIRE.

"Only the closest attention on the part of the householders, aided by lawn hoses and bucket brigades, saved a town from being reduced to ruins." Such is a sentence from the press report of the fierce fire in Cossitt Brothers' implement factory and other properties at Brockville, on Sunday, where \$200,000 to \$300,000 damage was done. In the great fire at New York harbor, last week, where 120 lives were lost, and three ocean liners with their wharves and warehouses were burned, under unusual and dreadful conditions, men with buckets saved much property. Testimony to the value of the bucket brigades is borne in the formation of one at Oshawa; and the agitation in favor of one at Hull, so recently devastated.

We recall an instance in the property of Davis Brothers, at King, last year, where their bark-house was burned, and nothing but the provision beforehand of water barrels and buckets saved their fine tannery from being destroyed. And the official returns of the New York fire commissioners for six consecutive years showed that out of 13,255 fires, 8,453 were put out by pails of water, 64 per cent. of the whole number. More instances might easily be given, but these are quite sufficient to prove the value of such simple means of putting out fire as barrels or tanks kept full of water; bucket brigades, for use with these or in cases where a stream or pond or lake is available. Small towns and villages, whose inhabitants think they cannot afford fire engines or waterworks, should form bucket brigades; and isolated factories or mills, whether they have other fire appliances or not, should have water-buckets and water-barrels in easily accessible places.

But who is to convince the residents of towns and villages of the ever present danger of fire? Who will induce them, apathetic as the average householder or merchant is in such matters, to provide even the cheap and simple pail and cask brigade for the protection of