

Home Journal

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

A cheque for \$5,000 was recently mailed to Robert W. Service, the poet of the Yukon, to cover royalties on his two books of verse, "Songs of the Sourdough," and "Ballads of a Cheechako" for the past twelve months.

The women all over Alberta are to have their franchise for municipal elections, the same as those in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton, where all holding property are given a vote.

A New Jersey farmer has discovered that music pays in the dairy business. He employed a Swiss milkmaid who yodeled, and the daily supply of milk increased. The milkmaid left, the cows moped and the milk supply decreased. He bought a phonograph and installed it in the stables and when he put in the kind of music the cows liked they gave down freely. Some tunes made them dry up.

At the initial service in connection with his winter Bible Classes in Edinburgh, Dr. Whyte offered the following characteristic prayer: "We thank Thee, O God, for the means of Grace in this our city, for the university and the colleges we thank Thee; for all professorships and lectureships; for all libraries and booksellers' shops. Grant we beseech Thee, that over all of them may be inscribed 'Holiness to the Lord.'"

Mme Bjoernson is 70 years old, and she and her husband have celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, but she is not content that he should have all the work for himself, but acts as his sole secretary. When the poet-politician writes something it is his old wife who transcribes it. She copied his drama, "The Lord's Ways," six times. Her husband never talks to her about the work in hand, and she copies a drama sometimes without even knowing its name. She is the mother of five children.

Of the actual work of Gordon's hands there remains but a rosebush in the palace garden, which, hewn down by the malice of his enemies, sprang to life again with the coming of spring. It is affectionately tended by an old Soudanese sergeant who was one of Gordon's men, and stands in the midst of an earthly paradise. This rose tree was found blooming beside the ruins when on the second day after its red victory at Omdurman a British army was drawn up, in the full pomp of war, beside the last earthly habitation of Charles George Gordon, to give him, in the religion of the three kingdoms, the most solemn funeral service ever read over a general killed in battle.

Standards of Success

Professor Brander Matthews, writing in *The Forum* for October on "Standards of Success," says: Probably many Americans who have made colossal fortunes have not been urged by avarice, by the naked desire for gain; rather have they been taken captive by the lure of the game itself, unwilling to draw out so long as they could sit in at the table. Perhaps some of them may be victims of the false reasoning which justifies a belief that as a moderate fortune helps us to enjoy life, a fortune ten times as large will provide ten times as much enjoyment. To argue in this way is to ignore the law of diminishing returns; and it is to commit the grosser blunder of supposing that pleasure can be bought with a price. But we all know that there is no shop where pleasure is sold—at least there is none where the products are guaranteed under the pure food law. Pleasure cannot be purchased, and it cannot even be sought for with any chance of success in the

pursuit. If we go gunning for pleasure we are certain to come home with an empty bag, as well as with empty pockets, and the man who seeks that kind of sport generally starts out with an empty soul.

The truth is that pleasure is a by product of work. The man who has something to do that he wants to do intensely and that he is able at last to do, gets pleasure as a fee, as a tip, as an extra allowance. Perhaps the keenest joy in life is to accomplish what you have long sought to do, even if you feel that the result might be a little better than you have achieved. Possibly the most exquisite gratification comes from the consciousness of a good job well done. The foolish talk about the "curse of labor" is responsible for much of the haste to gain wealth that we may retire into idleness. But if we are honest with ourselves we know that labor is never a curse, that it is ever a blessing. The theory that work in itself is painful, or that it is the duty only of inferiors, is essentially aristocratic and fundamentally feudal; it is hostile to

The Barred Door

One night upon mine ancient enemy
I closed my door,
And, lo, that night came Love in
search of me,
Love I had hungered for,
And, finding my door closed, went on
his way
And came no more.

Pray you take counsel of this penitent
And learn thereof:
Set your door wide, whatever guests
be sent,
Your graciousness to prove.
Better to let in many enemies
Than bar out Love.

—THEODOSIA GARRISON.

the democratic ideal. Work is what sweetens life and gives delight to all our days. That man is happiest and gets the utmost out of life who is neither poor nor rich and who is in love with his job, joying in the work that comes to his hands. And that man is truly accursed who is refused the privilege of congenial toil because he has too much money.

The Saint of Spinster Ladies

Since old maids have given place to bachelor girls one saint in the calendar is due to suffer neglect—St. Catherine, whose feast is celebrated on November 25th. The neglect has not extended as yet to old Quebec, where old maids never were fashionable and the bachelor girl is unknown. It is among the French-Canadians made an excuse for a day of jollity. The country storekeeper lays in extra supplies of good things, almost as if it were Christmas, and especially orders a good stock of the best molasses for the making of "latire," a delectable taffy made and "pulled" after the guests arrive. The guests comprise whole families, babies and all, who have had an early tea, bundled themselves up in shawls and been transported to their host's home in the big box sleigh, regardless of the bumps received on a road full of pitchholes. Lovers are privileged to go by themselves and the equipages displayed by the young men are a brave show of robes and bells. The candy-pulling is the great feature, mixed with a great deal of joking and teasing and hearty laughter. When every one is sufficiently sweet and sticky an impromptu dance lends appetite for the bounteous supper the hostess has provided. Then the sleeping babies are gathered up again into the box sleighs and the party breaks up.

A Visiting Comet

A matter of interest to others beside astronomers is the return of Halley's comet into the earth's ken after an absence of nearly seventy-five years. The comet received its name from the British astronomer, Halley, who proved by it that these bodies can go on long journeys from the sun and return to it again. This particular comet takes three-quarters of a century on its trip and once during that time comes within ten million miles of our own little earth. That will occur next May when its brilliance will be plainly discernible to the naked eye, at a time soon after sunset and low in the western sky. At present it is some three hundred millions of miles away, but has already been sighted and photographed by Professor Wolf, of the Konigstuhl Observatory at Heidelberg.

Like the aurova borealis and other awe-inspiring natural phenomena, comets were supposed by the ancients to be attributable to a special decree of providence and to presage some marvellous event. Halley's comet was no exception. It was visible to the earth in the year of the destruction of Jerusalem. When William of Normandy landed in England in 1066, it appeared in the sky and a representation of it was woven in the Bayeux tapestry. In 1456 its visit was popularly supposed to be in support of the Turks who were then at war. While it is the proper thing in this advanced age to scoff at signs and portents, there will be much quiet observation of events for the coming year.

Lovers of Music

The work of the Southern Alberta Musical Association should be an incentive to other sections of the Canadian West to form similar organizations. It is surprising to those who have never belonged to a musical or choral society how much pleasure and profit can be gained from a winter's work. The second annual festival of the above-named association will take place in Claresholm, Alta., next April and preparations for it are already being made. The following program of selections for competition has been arranged, and other particulars can be learned from the secretary, Rev. Peter Henderson, Claresholm:

The second annual festival, under the auspices of the Southern Alberta Musical Association, will take place in Claresholm, in April in 1910. Preliminary arrangements are now being made by the committee in charge in Claresholm. Following is the programme of pieces for competition:

Mixed Chorus—Hail Bright Abode	Wagner
Male Chorus—Crossing the Plains	Price
Ladies Quartette—Legends of Orient	Mohring
Male Quartette—Forsaken	Koschat
Mixed Quartette—Shepherd of Souls	Jones
Duets—	
Female voices—I heard a voice	Glover
Male voices—Crucifix	Faure
Solos—	
Soprano—Silently blending	Mozart
Contralto—He was despised	Handel
Tenor—The Soft Southern Breeze	Barnby
Baritone—Lord God of Abraham	Mendelssohn
Bass—Out of the Deep	Marks
Children's Solo—The Little Dustman	Brahms
Piano Solos—	
Senior—Spring Song	Henselt
Waltz—Opus 64, No. 1	Chopin
Junior—Minuet	Paderewski
Valse—E. Flat	Durand
Piano Duet or Trio—Any standard Overture	
Piano Competition—A prize will be offered for the best composition played by the composer or other person.	

Prizes will be awarded in the form of shields for the choruses and quartettes and medals for the solos, duets and piano pieces. Entries may be made from any town in Alberta, south of Calgary, excluding the city of Lethbridge.

Founded 1866

\$4.00 to \$4.15
3.85 to 4.00
3.50 to 3.75

3.00 to 3.50
2.50 to 3.00
2.50 to 2.75
7.25 to 7.75
6.00 to 6.50
5.00 to 5.50
3.00 to 3.50
2.50 to 3.00

ASES
e. Wt. Price

172 \$7.75
165 7.60
167 7.50
191 7.35
154 7.25

1350 4.50
1250 4.10
1079 3.70
1113 3.75
1026 3.50
838 3.15
1110 3.10
906 3.40
968 3.25
1070 3.10
1080 3.00
955 2.70
1339 2.50
364 4.00
295 3.75
306 3.65
324 3.60
98 6.50
120 5.50

butcher, \$4.80
rt ewes, \$3.75
\$7.85.

ws and heifers,
; sheep, \$3.25
\$6.15 to \$8.25.

dian steers at
12c.; cows and
At London,
anadian cattle
12½c. to 13½c.;
Glasgow, top
½c. to 12c., and

ices
18.00
20.00
22.00
25.00
24.00

1.00 to 9.00
1.00 to 11.00
1.00 to 11.00
1.00 to 5.00

.23 to .24
.30
26

15 to .19
.12
.13

.24 to .26
.45 to .50

14
11
7
4
8
9