

The Standard



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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1910.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IN FINLAND.

The introduction of universal suffrage in Finland, which was granted under the new constitution in June, 1906, does not indicate that the presence of women in the National Assembly has wrought any marked change. This is attributed to the fact that there have been few opportunities for them to discuss questions on which they might be expected to take a particular interest. In the elections held in March, 1907, nineteen women, of whom nine were Social Democrats, were returned as deputies. In 1908 twenty-five women sat in the legislature. Their number has since been reduced to sixteen. They constituted 8 per cent. of the Diet. It is significant that the women voters who comprise more than half the electorate do not support candidates of their own sex.

A Finnish correspondent of a London journal, speaking of the Diet, gives some interesting particulars. "The presence of women deputies," he says, "is a feature that at once catches the eye. There are sixteen of them, mostly women of middle age, grave, and even portentously solemn. They are apparently proof against all temptations of vanity; they dress with Quakerish simplicity, and are completely absorbed in their duties. The comic paper vision of the flirting lady member vanishes in face of the actual spectacle of women who outdo the gravest males in correctness of demeanor."

"Of the earnestness of the Finnish female deputies their male colleagues speak in high terms. As to their usefulness opinion is more divided. 'They make no difference at all,' said one member. 'They are a nuisance, but only a little nuisance,' was the opinion of another. 'They are quite helpful on a number of questions,' remarked a third. But, unfortunately, they have never had an opportunity of showing what they are really capable of. Since women were elected to the Diet the burning questions have been almost exclusively political, and there has been little opportunity of discussing those social problems on which their opinions would be most useful."

"One thing is evident," said a fourth deputy, "and that is that women will not vote for women. Females compose 53 per cent. of the electorate, and yet they form only 8 per cent. of the Diet. Most of the women who are deputies themselves voted for male candidates, and the number elected would be still fewer but for the system of proportional representation."

HOME-GOING IN BRITAIN.

"Home-going," a movement which has much to commend it, is being taken hold of vigorously in Great Britain. It is working admirably in England, says the London Morning Leader. "There were many affecting scenes at Leicester railway station when a further contingent of 'home-comers' arrived by the boat train from Liverpool. Among the number was Mr. Henry Hill, the organizer of the movement on the American side. He had not been home for 43 years, and he met one brother for the first time for 56 years. There were four brothers ready to shake him by the hand—one he had never seen. The elder was Austin, who is 80; then there was Joseph, who is 75; Thomas, 65; and Rowland, the younger, who is 23. There was also present a sister who is 61—a fine old family and a wonderful 'home-coming.'"

"How do you do, sir?" said the man from Milwaukee, huskily, as the younger brother approached him with extended hand.

"I am Rowland," he replied, and the eyes of the elder man became dim.

"Within the next day or two between 200 and 300 more natives will arrive."

A great Scottish "home-going" is to be carried out next year. The international committee of the "Scots of America" have completed arrangements for a great home-going of Canadian and American Scots next July. The Allan liners Grampian and Hesperian have been chartered exclusively to convey the party from Montreal to Glasgow, where a civic reception will be accorded the visitors. This visit to Scotland will take place at an opportune time, as the Scottish Historical Exhibition is to be held in Glasgow next year. A great reunion of home-comers and their friends will be held on the historic field of Bannockburn, and the party will visit, in addition to many other places, Burns' cottage, the banks of Loch Lomond, the world renowned Trossachs and "Auld Reekie."

A DIVORCE DECISION.

Uneasiness has been aroused in the United States by a decision lately rendered in a divorce case. It appears that the lady went to Nevada, dwelt there for the six months required by the law of the state, and obtained her divorce by default. The husband, however, had no intention of allowing the conjugal tie to be so easily broken. Why he did not contest the Reno application he does not say. But his wife having obtained the Nevada decree he forthwith entered action in the New York courts to have the divorce declared illegal.

The judgment of Judge Whitney does this, the ground being that the lady had not qualified through her residence in Nevada. It is true that she lived in the state for the six months required by the law, but, the divorce being granted, she at once deserted Nevada. In other words, she had gone to Nevada for the purpose of obtaining a divorce, that this divorce being granted she had at once quitted the state, this being evidence positive that her stay in Reno was undertaken merely for the purpose of qualifying as a resident for one purpose, and was in consequence not a bona fide residence under the law.

This, as the Montreal Gazette points out, is following the ruling of the Canadian courts which have held that

divorces secured by Canadians in different states of the union are not recognized by Canada when it is shown that resort was had to residence in the state in which the divorce was obtained merely for the purpose of obtaining the desired release from the matrimonial bond. When it is remembered that by far the greater portion of the divorces granted by the Dakota and other western state courts have been followed by a prompt abandonment of the "residence" upon the strength of which the decree was sought and obtained, it will seem that there is good and sufficient reason for anxiety on the part of many people as to their matrimonial standing.

The decision is one that will be commended by those who desire to see the divorce evil checked, for, if anything can check it, this judgment, requiring not only the legal evidence called for by the laws of the state in which the divorce is issued, but also an indeterminate period of subsequent residence, will do so. But few people want a divorce badly enough to put in a couple of years or so of residence after the matrimonial relief has been granted.

THE "GANG" SPIRIT.

Professor Allan Hoben of the University of Chicago, in a recent address on "Biology and the Boy Nature," made some timely references to the "gang" spirit in boys, which are of interest as bearing directly on the Boy Scout movement. He spoke of the boy's love for physical exertion, and stated as a result of his own investigation that "gangs" exist on an average of one to every two blocks in the south side districts of Chicago. The time has come, he said, when we must take cognizance of this "gang" spirit if we hope to win the boy. Through it we may, if we will, teach the boy higher things.

This is the theory of the Boy Scouts. It aims to work with nature—to take advantage of the situation which exists and to utilize it for good results. The "gang" instincts of the boy are altogether wholesome if they are directed in the right way, and that is all that the Boy Scout movement undertakes to do. But that is a great deal. It is enough to make all the difference between idleness and bad habits and a drift toward the worst, and manliness, courtesy, self-reliance, truthfulness and all other virtues which are so easily appealed to in the boy when the right means are adopted. Nor is this all fancy or enthusiasm. Experience in England, where this movement is three or more years old, and where it has enrolled upwards of 300,000 boys, justifies all that has been said in its favor.

"CONVICT NO. 7494."

Soon after the attempt on the life of Mayor Gaynor of New York a prisoner in the Dannemora penitentiary wrote to the stricken executive expressing the horror of himself and his fellow convicts at the deed and their sincere hope that Mr. Gaynor would speedily recover.

The mayor, with characteristic courtesy, replied to this communication as soon as he was able to handle a pen. His letter follows:—

"I am well aware that many of you are not really bad men, but unfortunate men, and that God so sees you."

"There are many of us who would be the same as you are if we had the same troubles and obstacles in our lives. Do not be discouraged."

"I shall not speak of my trouble in view of the greater trouble of you men. Let us be patient and content."

No 7494 will doubtless feel that he is not beyond that influence which makes for good character. And the kindly letter of the New York mayor gives a new and interesting insight into the manner of the man who has made himself respected by workers of evil in and out of prison.

Current Comment

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The row over the patronage of the Intercolonial involves George Graham in a dispute with Mr. Turcotte, M. P., the politician who approves of the navy because it is a step towards the new commission, and George has been taking advice from other quarters. At the same time the report of a patronage quarrel comes all the way from Victoria. Minister Topleman has neglected to consult Mr. Jardine, one of the bosses, in respect of an appointment, and the two have come to blows. The importance of the patronage system to the ruling men is illustrated by these unseemly bouts.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The English suffragettes threaten that if parliament does not at the coming session pass a law giving women the general privilege of voting they will make so many disturbances that the courts will not be able to deal with their cases or the jails to hold the convicts. This is interesting, and may be the prelude to other interesting developments. A great many people can on occasion be crowded into a jail.

(Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

Sir Alfred Mond and Sir Joseph Lawrence, eminent English public men, are now visiting this country. The Canadian Gazette observes that they will return with clear reports of the state of public feeling in Canada. Sir Alfred will find the Dominion ready for free trade and Sir Joseph will report that Canadian devotion to protection is permanent and sagacious.

(Stratford Beacon.)

Fr. Vaughan, who has said so many good things since coming to Canada in which Protestants as well as Catholics can agree, may be pardoned for his view of Protestantism. His stand on race suicide, on the purity of home life and denunciation of the frivolity and wickedness of the fashionable world made well worth while his coming to Canada.

(Calgary News, Con.)

It is asserted that no Canadian firms were involved in the grafting operations at the Ottawa printing bureau and that only American concerns were parties to crooked dealing. It is evident that the government would have fared better by adhering to the "made in Canada" policy of which we hear so much.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

After all the talk we have had throughout the Dominion on navy subjects, it is disappointing to learn that there is danger that not enough applicants will try the naval cadet examinations to fill the places open in the new navy-to-be. Can it be that even the boys of the country look upon the Laurier navy as a joke?

(Toronto World.)

When the American minister wanted to escape from Lisbon he got on a tug and ran up the Union Jack. The old flag gives a good safe feeling even to a Yankee.

(Vancouver Province.)

The leading Canadian fur houses have formed a merger. Another sign of a cold winter.

(Montreal Star.)

At the present time Montreal can, we believe, boast of more rats to the acre than any other city in the world.

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LOW TIDE AT GRAND PRE.

The sun goes down and over all
These arched reaches by the tide
Such unexclusive glories fall,
I almost dream they yet will bide
Until the coming of the tide.

And yet I know that not for us,
By any ecstasy of dream,
He lingers to keep luminous
A little while the grievous stream,
Which frets uncomfortable of dream—

A grievous dream, that to and fro
Through the fields of Acadie
Goes wandering, as if to know
Why one beloved face should be
So long from home and Acadie.

Was it a year or lives ago,
We took our grasses in our hands,
And caught the summer lying low
Over the waving meadow lands,
And held it there between our hands?

The while the river at our feet—
A drowsy inland meadow stream—
At set of sun the after-heat
Made running gold, and in the gleam
We freed our birch upon the stream.

There down along the elms at dusk,
We lifted dripping blade to drift,
Through twilight scented fine like
musk.

Where night and gloom awhile up-
lift,
Nor sunder soul and soul adrift.

And that we took into our hands
Spirit of life or subtler thing—
Breathed on us there, and loosed the
bag.

Of death, and taught us, whisper-
ing,
The secret of some wonder-thing.

Then all your face grew light, and
seemed
To hold the shadow of the sun;
The evening faltered, and I deemed
"This time was ripe, and years had
done"

Their wheeling underneath the sun.

So all desire and all regret,
And fear and memory, were naught;
One to remember or forget
The keen delight our hands had
caught;

Morrow and yesterday were naught.
The night has fallen, and the tide
Now and again comes drifting
home.

Across the aching barrens wide,
A sigh like driven wind or foam,
In grief the flood is bursting home.
—Bliss Carman.

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HAMMONDALE.

Hammondvale, Oct. 10.—P. W. McDonald preached here yesterday morning.

The diphtheria which broke out in the school here last week is under control. No new cases have been reported for several days. The first four patients have completely recovered and the other three are much improved.

People are pretty well through digging now. Some are getting ready to go to the woods.

Miss Grace Myles is visiting at Up-ham.

Some fine moose have been brought out by residents.

Mrs. Ashe of Markhamville, is visiting her nephew, Thomas Kelly here.

Official Encouragement.
Every time the automobile breaks down I notice you examine your state license.

I do that for encouragement. The license says I'm competent to operate the machine.

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