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PROGRESS IN FARMING

The Tillers of the Soil Have Reaped Bountiful Returns in British Columbia.

Increased Attention Paid to Fruit Raising and to Dyking River Lands.

It cannot be said that the agricultural development of the province during the past year has kept pace with its mining development, but considerable additions have been made to the acreage of land under cultivation, especially in the delta lands of the Lower Fraser valley, where dyking operations have been carried to a successful conclusion, large tracts of the most fertile soil of the province redeemed, and immense crops raised thereon. In other districts subject to periodical overflow also containing extensive areas, these fertile lands are in process of redemption by similar methods, and will be rapidly developed under the changed conditions brought about in this manner.

The area devoted to wheat raising in the Spallumcheen and Okanagan valleys has been considerably enlarged, the lower bench lands, although lighter in soil than the valley lands, are productive, easily tilled and produce heavy crops of clover, as well as cereal crops. In the vicinity of Vernon the commonage lands, which at one time were supposed to have little value except for grazing, are proving to be well suited to the production of cereals, and mature their crops earlier than the better known and valued lands of the lower valleys. The Spallumcheen valley especially has upheld its reputation the past season for producing heavy crops of splendid milling wheat; the yield of fall-sown grain on summer fallowed lands was very heavy. Yields of from 40 to 50 bushels and upwards of choice wheat to the acre are claimed by well known farmers of the district.

In the district known as the Salmon valley, which is essentially one of small holdings, particular attention has been given to the production of fruit, especially strawberries, which have been shipped as far east as Winnipeg in excellent condition. The valley is well adapted for fruit growing, and the orchards in bearing yielded good crops of fruit. The position of the settlements on the main line of the C. P. R., with the shipping facilities consequent, are important factors in favor of the settlers, and are being used to good advantage.

The famous Chilliwack valley has once more demonstrated its superior advantages as a farming and fruit raising country; immense yields of corn, clover and other fodder crops have been raised and harvested. The silo is being largely used, both for corn and clover, and opinions are divided as to which crop is the better for feeding purposes, both succeeding so well. In one instance the yield of an acre of fresh cut clover was upwards of 18 tons, as put into the silo. The farming of the district is being specialized in dairying and hog raising, and probably the best specimens of these animals in the province are located in the valley.

The production of fruit, in consequence of the coming into bearing of many young orchards, and the favorable season for fruit has been probably doubled, and added many thousands of dollars to the year's returns.

On Vancouver Island the clearing of land for farming purposes has made encouraging progress. On the Saanich peninsula many fertile acres have been added to the area under crop, and extensive under draining, chiefly with tiles made in the district, laid down, a permanent improvement of the most valuable nature. The proximity of this district to a good home market, and the excellent roads running through it, furnish opportunities for the sale of high-class farm produce direct to the consumer, which are freely made use of to the advantage of all parties concerned.

Gordon Head district has made a name for itself as "the strawberry section," and the young orchards produced this season some remarkably fine fruit in apples, fully equal to the finest imported fruit, both in quality and appearance.

On Salt Spring Island also large additions have been made to the cultivable area by clearing and draining, new settlers with progressive ideas leading the way in these desirable improvements. Extensive plantings of fruit trees have been made, chiefly in apples; the suitability of the island to the production of this fruit in great perfection has again been demonstrated, and shipments of choice, highly colored fruit for this season are estimated as fully double that of any previous year.

Speaking generally, the ordinary farm crops of grain, hay, etc., have been uniformly good, and in many districts unusually so, and were harvested in good condition. The extremely hot weather experienced during a portion of the summer, just suited the deep, rich, moist soils of the Fraser valley and enabled them to mature maximum crops.

The dairy industry has benefited from the operation of creameries at Chilliwack, Ladner's Landing, Cowichan, Salt Spring Island, New Westminster and Vancouver, which have turned out a first-class article, uniformly commanding a higher price than that prevailing for the best imported butter. Improvements have been made to the creamery plants and methods of work; these and the larger quantities of milk and cream handled have naturally resulted in lowering the cost of production, to the advantage of the patrons. It has been a notable year for the production of fruit, and very heavy crops of apples and plums especially have been secured in all the fruit growing districts. The methods of grading and packing fruit for market have been vastly improved, largely through the operation of the co-operative associations of fruit growers, to the advantage of both consumers and producers; still some fruit found its way to market which had better be fed to stock.

Some extensive orchards in the Okanagan valley, notably that of the Coldstream ranch, the property of Lord Aberdeen, bore their first full crops of fruit, profitable markets for which were found in the Kootenays and Northwest Territories.

The regulations of the provincial board of horticulture, and the information furnished by the board to fruit growers, have been of very great service in the development of the fruit-growing industry, and largely instrumental in placing it upon its present satisfactory basis.

The hop-growing industry, which had languished somewhat during the past two or three years, has this season been highly remunerative where the yards received proper care and cultivation, and owing to the higher prices for the cured product have probably been the most profitable item of crop production grown during the past season. British Columbia hops have now an established reputation on the London market, and good samples command the highest market price.

The area devoted to hop growing will be considerably increased next spring; one well-known firm of California dealers and growers have leased some of the older yards, which had been neglected, with the intention of putting them in thorough order, besides planting out new yards on adjacent lands; other growers also intend increasing their acreage, owing to the encouraging results achieved.

Prices for farm produce, while not by any means high, have still been well above the average cost of production. duced her husband to favor their cause as and owing to the opening of new markets, the demand has been active for all classes of produce. These facts and the excellent crops harvested have undoubtedly placed the farming community generally in a better position than for some years past. Extensive improvements are contemplated on all sides, and a cheerful, hopeful feeling pervades the entire community, thoroughly justified by the encouraging returns of the past season and the prospects of the future.

THE POWER OF THE HAREM.

A Factor That Must Be Taken Into Account in Dealing With the East.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Europe has apparently come to the conclusion at last that it has made a big mistake in neglecting to take into consideration the harem as a factor in the course of events in the Orient. Until now the seraglio has been, so to speak, a sealed book to the Christian powers of the civilized West. In the West of Africa and throughout Asia, where the harem system is in vogue, irrespective of religious belief, since the Buddhist King of Siam, the Confucian Emperor of China, the Shintoist Mikado of Japan and the Brahmin Rahjahs of India all maintain great seraglios in the same way as the Sultans of Turkey and of Morocco, the Khedive of Egypt and the Shah of Persia, no male save the sovereign is permitted to cross the threshold of a man's zenana. The latter is closed even to the judicial authorities and to the police. Murder and crime of every conceivable character can be perpetrated with impunity behind its doors. To such an extent, indeed, is the harem secure from the visitation of any save its owner, that, although the authorities of British India have all along been aware that large numbers of those many hundreds of young English women and little girls who disappeared during the great Sepoy mutiny of 1857 were and are still detained as inmates of the zenanas of Rahjahs, native dignitaries and rich merchants of India, they have never dared to institute any search for these captives or to deliver them from the bondage in which they were held. This perhaps demonstrates better than anything else the degree to which the harems of the Orient have remained impenetrable mysteries to Europeans.

Under the circumstances it is not surprising that much ignorance should prevail in the Occident concerning the true character of the women of the Orient, and, inasmuch as the sole knowledge of their individuality and of their intellectual capacity is derived from the stories of women tourists, usually frivolous and only able to converse with the inmates of the harem through interpreters, and from the rare and derogatory remarks of the male native, who affect a profound contempt for the fair sex, it has been taken for granted in this country, and likewise in Europe, that the mental caliber of the inmates of the seraglios is exceedingly low and even degraded. An Oriental will never refer in polite society to his harem, which is regarded as a breach of etiquette to question him about the latter or even to inquire after the health of its inmates, while the general tenor of his utterances concerning the weaker sex is entirely in keeping with that Oriental legend according to which the Almighty created woman not with a rib of Adam, but of the tail of a monkey.

According to this story, which in a slightly different form is current throughout Asia and the greater part of Africa, Allah, while sewing up the side of Adam, after removing the rib which was to serve as the basis for the construction of Eve, had laid it down by his side on the grass. A hungry yellow dog happened along and catching sight of the rib seized it and bolted. Allah started in hot pursuit, and would have recovered the bone had not the tail of the dog given way, and remained in his hand just as he managed to clutch hold on it. Thanks to the fresh headway which the cur thus obtained, it was able to escape and to swallow the rib before being once more caught. Unwilling to deprive Adam of other bone, Allah resolved to use the dog's tail in lieu of the rib for the construction of Eve, and it is alleged that it is precisely because there is so much of the caudal appendage of the dog in the composition of woman that it just as impossible for her to remain quiet for any length of time as it is to keep a dog's tail from wagging.

Yet no greater mistake can possibly be made than to set down the inmates of the harems of the Orient as what the French are wont to term a "negligible quantity." Women are the same all the world over, and they exercise just as much influence in the East as they do in this country. Indeed, their influence is probably greater. For, whereas in Europe, and especially in America, pretty faces and comely figures unsettle and distract a man's attentions at every step, in the Orient his infatuation is restricted to the inmates of his own harem, who have nothing to fear from the wiles or charms of their friends or acquaintances. In fact he is amenable to no influence save their own, and, inasmuch as their main object in life is to win his affection, and to devise means for the retention of his obedience to their every caprice and fancy, an aim which they generally manage to attain, it generally follows that the harem is a far more important factor in the course of events in Asia and in Africa than the people of the West have been willing to believe.

It is with the object of availing themselves of this harem influence for political purposes that the Russian government has just organized at St. Petersburg a special school for the training of female students for secret diplomatic service in the seraglios of the Orient, and it is possible that other foreign nations having interests in Asia and in the north of Africa will very shortly follow suit. Indeed, they will have no alternative but to do so. For, male diplomats being forced to remain outside the gates of the harem, Russia's female agents will have, diplomatically speaking, an altogether free hand and an unhindered course within the seraglio, until they are called upon to cope with political rivals of their own sex who enjoy the same means of access as themselves to the zenana. The students of this new government school at St. Petersburg are being instructed not only in the Turkish, Chinese, Siamese, Persian and Japanese languages, but likewise in the various dialects spoken in India, which naturally leads to the inference that in beginning this novel department the Russians have in view political intrigue and propaganda in the great Oriental empire of Queen Victoria, by means of the harem. Emperor William, too, has become alive to the possibilities of this species of diplomatic negotiations, since there is every reason to believe that his despatch of his sister-in-law, Princess Henry of Prussia, to the China seas is not so much for the purpose of spending Christmas with her husband at Hongkong as with the object of making the acquaintance and securing for Germany the good will of the Empresses of China and Japan.

These two great ladies of the Orient constitute by no means isolated instances of women playing predominant roles at Asiatic courts. Thus the present Queen of Siam is a remarkable woman, and ruled her husband's kingdom with the utmost sagacity and statesmanship during his long visit to Europe. In Egypt, too, the mother of the present Khedive, a strong-minded and in every sense of the word remarkable woman, has frequently been the power behind the throne during the somewhat stormy events which have succeeded one another in Egypt since the time of her marriage. Her husband, the late Khedive Tewfik, was altogether subject to her rule. Whether this was owing to his appreciation of her intellectual superiority, or due to fear, I have never been able to discover.

There is reason, however, to believe that apprehension had something to do with it. For his wife took after her mother, a Turkish princess who is asserted to have presented to her husband on a golden salver the head of one of her odalisques that he had ventured to admire, and who then had him fastened up in a sack and pitched into those swiftly flowing waters of the Bosporus which have witnessed so many tragedies of the same kind. Khedive Tewfik did not relish the idea of sharing the fate of his father-in-law, and chiefly on this account restricted his affections exclusively to the Khedivah instead of taking the usual number of wives allowed by Mohammed and filling his harem with lovely slaves. It was this too that led him to obey so implicitly her advice, which is accountable for the somewhat suspicious role which he displayed at the time of the Arabi insurrection of 1882. Owing to the fact that the Khedivah had some near and dear relatives among the leaders of the rebellion against the Europeans, she inmuch as possible, and his loyalty to England was in consequence to such an extent questioned in London that in 1883 Lord Randolph Churchill demanded in parliament that he should be deposed.

With the advent of Lord Cromer to Cairo, however, matters there underwent a change. The Khedivah, who is an extremely stout woman, entertained the warmest affection for the late Lady Cromer; the latter had befriended her at times during the reign of Ismmil, when no one dared to visit Tewfik's palace for fear of incurring the displeasure of his father, who was eager to put him out of the way, and who hated him. The Khedivah never forgot the kindness of Lady Cromer ((Mrs. Baring, as she was then) in those days of her peril and of loneliness. tiait of Khedive Tewfik was largely due from 1884 on became the distinguished to the friendship of the Khedivah for Lady Cromer and the kindly, healthy influence which the latter exercised in the vice regal harem.

Lady Cromer, however, found it impossible to establish relations of the same kind with the wife of the present Khedive, a potentate whom she had known from babyhood, and on the subject of whose infant ills she had oftentimes been consulted by his mother. His consort is not a highly educated Turkish great woman, like the widowed Khedivah, but a former odalisque, or slave, who was merely raised by her husband to the rank of wife because she was the first woman of his seraglio to afford him the joys of fatherhood. She is a relatively ignorant woman, possessed of no intellect or breeding, and is entirely subject to the influence of a Russian woman established at Cairo, and married to an Italian, the intrigues of this lady being largely responsible for the antagonistic attitude of the young Khedive toward the English.

In Abyssinia woman is likewise the chief factor. For it is the Empress who is by far the most important personage; her influence over the Negus is unbounded and he consults her in everything that he does, preferring her advice to that of everybody else. Indeed, it is to her clever statesmanship that is ascribed the extraordinary manner in which he succeded in not only freeing himself from the protectorate of King Humbert, but likewise in driving the Italians out of his land. The women who have visited his dominions are united in declaring that she is far and away the most important figure in the contemporaneous history of Abyssinia, and that she is far more dreaded by the people and by the great chieftains than her husband. Her intellect, in spite of his alleged lineal descent from King Solomon and from the biblican Queen of Sheba, is universally admitted to be distinctly inferior to her own.

The British authorities in India have always found the Begums, or sovereign princesses of the Deccan, far more difficult people to deal with than the Mahadjahs and native kings. And both the great Duke of Wellington and Lord Clive are on record as declaring that the Begums had offered a more stubborn resistance to the English conquest of Hindostan than any of the more celebrated Indian potentates. It is likewise an undeniable fact that in the present day, as in times past, the native states subject to feminine rule are more ably governed and more progressively administered than those controlled by male sovereigns. True, some of the Begums have achieved an unenviable celebrity for cruelty, and none of them seem to have cared on the side of leniency. But with all that their dominions have always been superior, so far as prosperity and the maintenance or order are concerned, to those of their neighboring brother chiefs.

Everyone knows how for the last thirty years the Dowager Empress of China has exercised sovereign sway at Pekin, bending to her own will every one, even statesmen of such acknowledged skill and world-wide fame as Prince Kung, the late Marquis Tseng and old Li Hung Chang, during lifetime a mere slave girl, with nothing in the form of family prestige or influence or even of extraordinary beauty to assist her, she has managed by dint of tenacity of purpose and statecraft to secure and retain supreme power over an empire of 400,000,000 of human beings, and on her birthday the other day the court of Pekin was treated to the altogether unprecedented and astounding spectacle of the Emperor himself performing the act of kotow, or self-abasement, before the ex-slave girl, who is not even his mother, but merely a deputy wife of one of his predecessors on the throne.

Like the Empress Dowager of China, the Empress of Japan is childless, and whatever children the Mikado has are the offspring of members of his immense seraglio. If I mention this it is because in the Orient childlessness is regarded as almost a crime on the part of women, and, at the same time, it should, in spite of this drawback, have acquired such predominant influence, speaks volumes for their cleverness. The Empress of Japan is in every sense of the word a remarkable woman, her husband's most sagacious and enlightened counselor and, astounding progress and development in a modern and Western sense of the Land of the Rising Sun. Indeed, if Japan is to-day almost in the front rank of civilization, according to Western ideas, it is quite as much due to Empress Haruko as to the Mikado.

This, I think, will suffice to demonstrate that woman plays in the Orient a far more weighty and predominant role than people in America have imagined; that the contemt which has hitherto been professed in Western countries for the intellectual capacity of the inmates of the harem is based on ignorance, and altogether unmerited, and, lastly, that there is no more powerful factor in the course of events in Asia, as well as in Northern Africa, than the seraglio.

GUN POINTING CASE.

An Ottawa Youth Just for Fun Shoots a Companion Through the Heart.

Dauphin, Man., Jan. 3.—(Special.) Wm. Hubbell, of Havelock, Ont., was shot and instantly killed by a young man named Harry Cotle, of Ottawa, on Sunday night. The men were engaged in getting out logs in Wm. Sutton's camp, near Garland Station. It appears that Cole, Hubbell and several other men were in camp, when Cole took down a gun which was hanging on the wall and pointed it at Hubbell, it is supposed in fun.

The gun, which was loaded with shot, was discharged, the whole charge entering Hubbell's body and passing through the heart, killing him instantly.

Cole is now in custody here, awaiting the arrivel of a constable from Portage la Prairie. Hubbell is about thirty years of age and has a wife at Havelock. Cole is only nineteen.

The Parliament Buffet.—Hereafter the restaurant in connection with the local legislature will be but a memory, its place being taken by a first class buffet of which Mr. H. E. Levy, of the Arcade restaurant, is to have the charge.

A DRILL HALL EPISODE

By Masterton Clarke,
H.M.S. Leander, Esquimalt.

It was a Saturday evening just before Christmas, and Joseph Kelly was feeling rather at a loss for something to do. He had not been long enough in Victoria to make many friends, and just now he was wishing himself back in dear, dirty Dublin, where there was always something going on in the evenings. He was strolling down Government street, looking carelessly at the gay Christmas pictures in the shop windows—the usual pictures of batties, and sailors, and naughty Pollies, and reconciliations.

What shall I do with myself this evening? thought Kelly. I hate this Christmas business; it makes one think too much of home. Hello! what's this notice? "Basket ball at the Drill hall to-night." I may as well go there as do anything else.

The band was finishing a march as Kelly entered the Drill hall, and a space was being cleared for the basket ball match. Both teams had unbroken records for the season, and most of the people were struggling to get in the front rank of spectators. Those in the galleries craned over the railings until it seemed as if they must tumble on the players.

Fortunately Kelly did not take much interest in the game, for he had to be content with a position on the outskirts of the crowd, immediately behind a fat woman with an enormous hat of waving feathers. As he could only see the ball when someone had a shot at goal, he soon tired of trying to follow the game, and began to look around at the people behind.

There was no one on whom his eyes rested with more than passing interest until he noticed a girl sitting alone near the corner by the entrance. It is not often you see people alone at a band concert; the majority come in couples, and others in larger parties. This girl was worth looking at. Her hair was thick and as black as night; her eyes were large and grey. At the moment the shadow of some thought lay on her face as a cloud on the sky, and gave her a more serious expression than the occasion and the season seemed to demand. That's an Irish girl, thought Kelly, and all alone like myself. I wish I knew who she was.

The referee's whistle and the cheering of the teams disturbed his musings, and as the people fell back to the sides he took up a position close to the girl. The band climbed back into their places and began to tune their instruments, but Kelly had forgotten all about the music. Suddenly they broke into an air that set the blood dancing through his veins. Why, it's "St. Patrick's Day," he thought, and for the moment forgot the girl behind him. She was similarly affected. If her face had been like a clouded sky, it was now as if an April sun had broken through. Her little foot beat time on the floor, and she looked ready for a jig with anyone. The music wandered off into the "Cruiskeen Lawn" and the "Old Cork Boat" the usual manner of selections. Kelly forgot the music again and could only look at the clear face of the girl as her complexion varied with each air. Gradually the merrier music gave way to the "Meeting of the Waters" and the "Minstrel Boy." "What rot!" said someone in the crowd. "I do think they might give us something a little less musty." But the Irish girl, with parted lips, seemed to drink in every note.

As the selection was ending with the stately "Harp That Once Through Tara's Hall," Kelly, whose own eyes were glistening, saw a tear roll down the girl's cheek. He could not longer resist. "You're Irish," he said. "And you?" said the girl, with an upward look of the grey eyes and the flicker of a smile.

"Of course," replied Kelly.

"Shall we walk?"

The girl rose from her seat and took his arm in the frankest manner possible.

"I am afraid," said Kelly, "that this is a very informal introduction, but—to make the best of it—my name is Joseph Kelly."

"And mine," answered the girl, "is Una Macnamara."

"After all," remarked Kelly, as they promenaded the hall, "we have not been introduced by Ireland, and surely that ought to satisfy anybody."

"Ireland is not enough for my uncle," replied Una; "you have only to come from Dublin for him to like you, and from Trinity for him to love you."

"How lucky. Why, I haven't left Trinity more than a year."

"Oh, then you must have known my brother there."

"What! not Tom Macnamara—the wildest rascal at the college?"

"Yes, that's him," said Una, with a charming disregard for grammar. "Many a lark we've had together."

"Well, you don't look like larking tonight. I thought that is was crying you'd be in a minute."

"One must think sometimes," said Una. "I was longing to be at home again. I came out to stay with my uncle about a month ago, and I find it very dull here. Victorians seem to look on newcomers as wolves forcing themselves into the fold."

"People are always jealous of a new beauty," said Kelly; "and how long do you stay?"

"Oh, thank goodness, I'll be going home after Christmas."

Kelly felt unaccountably cast down at this piece of news. By Jove! he thought, half an hour ago I wouldn't have minded if all the girls in Victoria had cleared out, and just now because one is going I feel as miserable as a wet cat.

All too soon came "God Save the Queen," and Kelly, for whom the prosaic Drill hall had for half an hour been a fairy palace and his companion a fairy princess, was brought back to earth.

There was the usual rush for the door, and in the crowd Una, for too brief a moment, was pressed deliciously close to him. Just then someone, more pushing than the common, jostled Kelly so that his hat fell amongst the trampling feet. 'Twas a sorry hat when he had with difficulty recovered it, and he held it up with a smile for Una to see, but Una had disappeared in the crowd. Kelly pressed has way through the door, eager to rejoin her. Outside, however, he looked in vain, and at length, thinking that her uncle might have been waiting to take her home, set off for his own rooms.

His thoughts were pleasanter this evening than they had been for many days, and he had new eyes for the beauty of the night. There was a touch of frost in the air, as befitted the season, and the stars sparkled in the clear sky. The moon, somehow, looked friendly as it hung, yellow and round, over the town. "Una," said Kelly to himself—and she's as charming as her name. Hasn't Lady Fortune smiled on me to-night! Well, I must put on the pace a bit if I want to catch a car. I wonder how the time goes; and he felt for his watch.

It was gone.

"Good Lord," he said; "how could that have happened?"

It was a valuable gold watch that he carried—a birthday present from his father.

A horrible suspicion struck him. Who, after all, was "Una Macnamara?" Was it a pass-port to respectability to say you came from Ireland? Why has she disappeared after that crush at the door? The remembrance of the grey eyes seemed to brand such thoughts as treason, but they still buzzed through his brain.

Kelly, like most Irishmen, was impulsive. He knew his disposition and tried hard to act dispassionately. Just now his heart was beating angrily that such thoughts should be when Una was concerned, whilst his head was saying: Oh, well, if you're going to let a pair of eyes going to chum up with you for nothing, was she? Go after her, man, and get it back.

It is a mistake for anyone to think himself too impulsive. Had Kelly never bothered about motives, he would have told himself that those grey eyes were as honest as the day; and quietly informed the police of his loss. Now, however, he felt that he should not let his heart persuade his head; so he swung round and set off hot-foot, past the Drill hall. He had no idea of where he should look for Una, but, possessed by an unreasoning rage at the destruction of the dream-house of had been building up from her smiles, rushed on unheedingly.

Luck sometimes favors the thoughtless, and as Kelly passed a house on Menzies street a light was switched on in one of the rooms, and there was Una about to pull down the blinds. Evidently she had just got home.

Kelly, who had by this time worked himself into a passion, all the greater because of his recent beatific feelings, rushed up to the house and rang the bell. Brushing aside the startled Chinaman that opened the door, he rudely entered the room. Una, hearing a step, cried: "Come to the fire, uncle; I'm sure you must be frozen." Her smiling look of welcome changed to one of astonished annoyance as she saw who came.

"I want my watch," said Kelly.

"Your watch!" exclaimed Una.

"Yes, my watch. Don't try to come the injured innocent over me."

"Really, Mr. Kelly, I fail to understand you."

"Come on; hand over my watch before I call the police. I don't want to hear your talk—you've fooled me once this evening already."

That Kelly was drunk was Una's first with disappointment, if not with whiskey. Then she decided that he must be mad, and in the hope of keeping him in conversation until her uncle returned, said: "Yes, you shall have your watch." Frightened though she was, the spirit of fun did not forsake her, and she took up a small clock from the mantlepiece. "Perhaps this is it," she added.

Kelly, who grew angrier and angrier, with an effort forced himself to speak calmly. "Look here," he said, "you pretend to think me mad or drunk. I'm sane and sober, and I tell you I want the watch you stole from me at the Drill hall to-night."

"You cad! And I took you for a gentleman!" and the girl began to cry. "If only my uncle was here."

Kelly was taken aback. He had not expected anything like this. He had pictured the triumphant recovery of his property and the exposure of a very dangerous thief. Yet he felt that the sight of this girl crying would soon undermine his resolution, and he began to wish that he had made no effort to recover his watch from her.

To see her was to recall the happy dream she had inspired. If only she wasn't a thief, thought Kelly. Irritated as he was at the failure of his quest, he felt that it was better to abandon it than to prolong such a scene as this.

"Well," he said, moving towards the door, "you can keep the watch, and much good may it do you. You're a credit to your country."

"Go," cried the girl; "go, and I'll pray never to see your face again, you—you Irishman!"

So ends what I imagined was to be the pleasantest chapter of my life, Kelly thought, as he walked down the street. It was poor consolation to reflect that experience is far above rubies. The rubies have an attractive glitter that is lacking in dull experience.

The best thing I can do, said Kelly to himself, unlocking the door, is to buy a Waltham watch and forget all about "Una." What a darling she was. She'd have altered my life, if only——! And with a sigh he turned on the light.

Something shone on the dressing table.

It was Una's watch.

"My God!" said Kelly, "I must have forgotten it when I went out."

THE SALMON'S LEAP.

From Forest and Stream.

A few years ago, in a fisherman's nook in London, we were discussing the height to which a salmon could leap, and an Englishman stated that he had known salmon to make a clean leap of twenty feet perpendicularly. This was questioned by a Scotchman present, who said that he had been on many a salmon river, and said that he had never yet seen the salmon that could clear ten feet perpendicularly. Several different views were expressed upon the subject, and since that time I have taken occasion to note falls in several rivers where salmon were leaping, for the purpose of determining how far a salmon can leap. The question allows of some elaboration, and several important factors must be taken into consideration. First, the character of the "take-off," or, in other words, the water from which the salmon starts before the leap. If he can start from a quiet, deep pool or eddy just below the falls, he can make a much higher leap than if he must start from broken water or swift current. In some rivers salmon are much longer and slenderer than in others, and the slender salmon make much higher leaps than the more robust ones. A fresh-run salmon may be so fat that he is clumsy, and not able to do his best at leaping, but after three or four weeks spent in the river he may perform some remarkable acrobatic feats. In the Washedomoak river I have seen salmon thrown back time and again from a leap of six feet, and do not remember ever having seen a salmon make more than an eight feet leap in that river. On the Ottoman river I have seen salmon thrown back repeatedly from a leap of ten feet, but having been foiled several times in succession, these fish jumped approximately fourteen feet on two occasions, and sixteen feet in one instance, while I was watching them. On the Kegaska river I have seen salmon leap about twelve feet, but in this river the leaping place was not where I could measure the height of the chosen spot. On the Coal river, in Newfoundland, salmon seem to have difficulty in clearing eight feet of fall, and this is due probably to the character of the rocks beneath the fall, but as the water from which they leaped was white water, I could not see the character of the "take-off." On the north branch of the Humber river salmon were leaping very much higher with ease over falls similar in character to those on the Coal river.

The highest leaping that I ever seen was on the first falls of the White Bear river in Labrador. The salmon in this river are large, some of the adult fish weigh usually from eight to ten pounds; but they are very slender, and have tremendous broad tails. A photograph of one of these salmon of ten pounds weight placed by the side of a sea trout four and a half pounds weight shows the breath of the tail and the more graceful outlines of the salmon of this river. Imeasured the height to which the salmon were leaping, approximately, by standing above the falls and letting my line from the top of the falls into the pool below, and this line was marked with knots three feet apart, so that while the distances were not measured accurately, I was able to determine that most of the salmon leaping the falls at this point were making a leap of twelve feet. Salmon would frequently leap far past this chosen spot into another chosen spot which was approximately 18 feet from the pool below.

Reducing the question to one of mechanics we may estimate that a salmon of ten pounds weight leaping from a still pool requires an initial velocity at the moment of leaving the water of eighteen miles an hour in order to have momentum sufficient to carry him twelve feet perpendicularly. A velocity of twenty-three miles an hour is required for carrying this same fish eighteen feet perpendicularly.

THE VOICE.

The voice is produced by various organs, which, as we have said, have functions of life to discharge before and above speaking. These are the lungs, the windpipe, the throat and the mouth. The lungs are the bellows of this wonderful organ, viewed as a wind instrument. For it is both a wind, a string and a reed instrument. It is of the nature of all the sounding instruments, and is superior to each of them. We live by breathing, and we must breathe wisely. Speaking is a use of the lungs which human beings have found out.

The breathing to live is of the same nature as the function of the eye or the ear. The breathing to speak has to be learned, if speaking is to be done well. To manage the breath properly is the first requirement of the art of speaking. To compress and condense the air in the lungs, and then to force it straight at the vocal organ in the throat is to manage the breath properly. It is an artificial process. There is deep breath-breathing; there is broad or wide breathing, called diaphragmatic or abdominal, called rib breathing; and there is shallow breathing, called collar-bone breathing. The full explanation of breathing must be left for the instructor. Suffice it to say that deep breathing is the only possible breathing for true use of the voice. Sound must come without breath. Breath coming without sound exhausts itself too soon, and it makes the sound harsh. You have only to try it to become conscious how the tone is affected by it.

Mr. Sandlands tells us of a very good hint he got on this point. Hold a lighted candle before your mouth while you are giving forth the sound. If the flame flickers, there is breath with the sound. The flame will not flicker if there is only sound.—Chambers' Journal.

THE SECRET OF THE SPHYNX.

What is the meaning of that vast human head that rises out of the gleaming sand beside the great pyramid of Ghizeh? Hewn out of the solid limestone rock, it towers above you to a height of seventy feet, and stretches away in the form of the body of a lion to a length of 150 feet in front of you. Sculptured with consummate skil, it reposes in graceful ease on the sand. The face gazes with a sublime patience and mystery into the far distance. Its features have been much mutilated by the ravages of time, and many of the finest lines have been worn away by the graving tool of the winds, holding as a cutting edge the desert sand. But still the eyes preserve their ancient human look of unfathomable mystery and calm, eternal patience.

Why was this colossal figure constructed? Was it a mere caprice, or was it meant to express a definite purpose?

That question is involved in the meaning of its symbolic shape. The people who fashioned it, we have reason to believe, were astronomers as well as sculptors. They came from a land where the stars were first observed and their phenomena studied in connection with the affairs of men; where the priests watched the rising and setting of sun and stars, in temples that were astronomical observatories, and were orientated to certain astral movements. The event of greatest importance in Egypt has always been the annual inundation of the Nile. The whole welfare of the country has depended upon this event from time immemorial. We can imagine, therefore, how profound would be the interest manifested in everything associated with it, and especially in the signs of the heavens that indicated its approach. The two signs of the zodiac through which the sun passed at the time of this periodic flood were Leo and Virgo. May we not suppose, then, that the woman's head and the lion's body were carved in the rock in the composite figure of the Sphinx in order to represent the combination of these two constellations, as a perpetual heraldic record of the annual baptism and resuscitation of the land, under the benignant influence of these auspicious stars?—Sunday Magazine.

E. & N. RY. GRANT AND THE DUNSMUIRS.

Sir:—One cannot but be struck with the way in which some persons try to whoop up an "anti-Dunsmuir" cry for political purposes.

Everyone professes to wish to see the country go ahead and employment given to people willing to work. Who on Vancouver Island have greater interests at stake than the Dunsmuirs? Who are greater employers of labor, and who spend more money on Vancouver Island than they? How many are there who have more money invested on Vancouver Island and in Victoria than they? See the number of mines and miles of railway they operate outside the E. & N. Ry. See the large amount of money they have invested in coke works and the steamers they run. And while many have for years contended that cars could not be successfully ferried across the Gulf, they have in successful operation a train, ferried some seventy miles across from Vancouver to Unioin, and did it remembered these things are done and paid for—no unlucky shareholders sinched; no selling so-called "non-assessable" treasury stock; no fake townsite booms.

Surely one would say these people are most valuable citizens, and surely some better plan could be adopted than trying to bulldoze and bluff them. We find, however, that the needy politician has his shy at them. Why? Not for blackmail. Oh, no! All for love and patriotism, eh?

To those who know how little electors, whose desire is to injure no one and to see British Columbia flourish, have in reality to do with things, but on the contrary know the three factors in British Columbia politics at the present time, it is not so surprising. But the average voter who reflects must sometimes wonder why they are singled out. Take the mineral question for instance. I understand that the Hudson's Bay Company still own the minerals under many acres on Vancouver Island. Who attacks them? I also am given to understand that by virtue of the crown grants they got years ago many others of our citizens own the base minerals on their lands. What about them? On the Dominion railway belt miles in length and width the province owns the gold and silver and the Dominion the base minerals. The miner in that case has to do assessment work up to $500 and to survey his claim and then to pay $5 per acre. Who kicks at it? On the contrary, those terms were, after considerable negotiations between the two governments, arrived at as just and equitable.

Are the terms on the E. & N. grant any worse for the miner? It is well known they are not. But our statesmen say: "Let's go for the Dunsmuirs, and try to hunt up a grievance. We will expropriate (not confiscate) these lands. No contract is binding on us, and we are the people and the people's money, which of course is ours while we are in, we will use for the benefit of our friends in the legal fraternity and distress the citizens, who are not our supporters, and we will have something to the good no matter how the fight goes."

But the average citizen, while he may for a time, not knowing the springs which move the game, be misled by the clamors, must sooner or later see that the destruction of honest and industrious citizens cannot fail to injure him also, and will realize the big bluff attempted to be made and how hopeless of real success the fleecing business will be. Let us hope he will drop on it in time. I am glad to see that the citizens' committee are not foolish enough to lose sight of the fact that Victoria's, Vancouver Island's and British Columbia's prosperity does not lie in the direction of injuring their own townsfolk.

Thinking that Victoria's prosperity will be advanced by connection with transcontinental lines and knowing that they have citizens who, if they can run ferry trains for seventy miles, can, and will, when it is justifiable to do so, run them forty or twenty-five miles and pay for them, the citizens' committee have wisely not ignored or bluffed them, nor gone to some company promoter to get the desired connection, but have put themselves in communication with their fellow-townsmen, the Dunsmuirs.

B. C.

DIED AT CHRISTMAS TREE.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—(Special)—Little Frankie Kean, son of the Methodist minister at Thornhill, while dancing round a Christmas tree, seized an orange and began sucking it. A pip stuck in his throat, and the boy fell down in agony, dying in a few minutes. Rev. Mr. Kean came to Thornhill from Prince Albert, and is very popular.

COMPLETELY GONE.

Wreck of the Brixham Disappears Altogether—Danube's Salvage Pick-Up.

Canadian-Australian Liner Reaches Port With Large Cargo of Tropical Produce.

There was not a vestige of the wrecked Brixham to be seen on the Danube's downward trip, and the conclusion therefore is that she has been completely broken up. The severe weather of a week or two ago no doubt accounts for the vessel's disappearance, and has put an end to all likely wrecking operations. When the vessel first struck she was eyed continuously by many a steamboat man, both here and on the Sound, and was considered a good investment. Time, however, was allowed to slip by before anything practical was done towards removing the ship, and as a result she is a total loss. The Danube, when approaching Trial Island came in for a salvage pick-