

Some time ago, the Board of Trade of Port Hope announced that, through the generosity of Mr. H. T. Bush, \$100 in cash prizes would be given the school children of the town for the best and most tastefully improved lawns, boulevards, flowerbeds, gardens, back yards, and general surroundings of the homes, during the summer of 1909, the first prize to be \$20, with eight others at \$10 each, following. The awards are to be based upon the degree of tastefulness, care, and originality exhibited, and the "individual opportunity of each competitor is to be given due consideration," which, we take, means that prizes will be given to the plots showing the greatest improvement.

The movement is one which might well be copied in other towns and rural districts. Every locality may not have a Mr. H. T. Bush, but it does not seem out of the way to think that the sum of \$100 might be secured in almost any district for such a laudable object.

As has been expected, the Budget has aroused much antagonism among the wealthy classes of England, and the objectors have found united voice through a number of rich bankers, who have addressed a protest to the Government, claiming that the nature of their business invests them with peculiar facilities for giving authoritative advice in regard to matters financial. This protest sets forth that Mr. Lloyd-George's plan of taking the larger part of the increased revenue for old-age pensions, national defence, etc., from those best able to pay it—the rich—will eventually act as a boomerang, which, curtailing both the expenditure on luxuries and investment of capital, will eventually strike at the poor themselves, diminishing employment, checking charity, and reducing wages.

In answer to this argument, British "Nation" holds that, although the trades engaged in producing luxuries must suffer somewhat, the aggregate employment will be by no means reduced, the expenditure of the money obtained by the increased taxation on luxuries being in no wise lessened, but rather increased, in the promotion by the State of sound public service, the building of battleships—urged by the rich themselves, for the maintenance of national security and credit—afforestation, and other public works, giving work to a host of unemployed. As a proof that existing conditions are not satisfactory, the recent spectacle of a money market "congested with capital, while every trade is thronged with unemployed workers," is pointed to.

"The effect of the Budget will not be to reduce the effective capital, employment or wages of the nation," the editorial concludes. "On the contrary, if the constructive social policy of the Government, for which this money is required, is faithfully pursued, the net effect will be to

take certain elements of surplus wealth, representing unearned or excessive income, which would have been put to unproductive expenditure on luxury, or to wastefully speculative investments, and to apply them to improve the condition of labor and the land, the true parents of national wealth."

To the majority of us, who find that it takes every effort and every opportunity to secure the necessities that mean mere comfort, and yet lay aside a trifle for the rainy day, the case seems clear enough. It seems little to ask a man drawing a yearly income of from \$20,000 upward, as so many of those whose voices are raised in a wail of woe do, to give a little of his superfluous gains, for which he does not even have to expend labor of body or mind, to the public cause. But the request has been made, and the lamentation is great. And yet, not one word of protest would have been heard from these sons of Croesus had a tax been uniformly placed on sugar and tea, the lack of which, to the poor, must mean actual want. Verily, the altruistic spirit is needed everywhere, but most of all in the halls of the inconsiderate among the rich.

A few weeks ago, certain revelations in regard to German navy appropriations set Great Britain and the British Empire in a state of pan-

perial Press Conference, the general and matured opinion of England's public men has, perhaps found expression, and been crystallized in the words of Sir Edward Grey, generally regarded as one of the least inflammable and most reticent statesmen: "The maintenance of the navy must be the first consideration, not only for the Home Government, but for all the self-governing colonies of the Empire. If the navy failed, it would be useless to discuss any other subject."

Lord Rosebery's speech has been fiercely denounced by the German press, but, when it is endorsed by statesmen such as Grey, Lord Cromer, Mr. Alfred Lyttleton, and Mr. Reginald McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, all of whom attended the Press conference, it behooves less-statesmanlike minds among British subjects to wait before passing judgment.

In the meantime, it is significantly pointed out by the Daily Mail that, whereas the proposals made by the British at The Hague Peace Conference of 1907 were followed during the ensuing year by a heavy reduction in the British military and naval programmes, Germany has gone persistently forward. As a matter of fact, "while the British navy estimates between 1904 and the present year have been reduced by no less than £4,000,000, the German esti-

### People, Books and Doings.

Sir William Macdonald has presented McGill University with an adjoining building site, valued at \$150,000.

The purposes for which the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, opened this month, at Seattle, has been set afoot, have been officially declared to be: To exploit the resources and potentialities of the Alaska and Yukon territories; to make known and foster the vast importance of the trade of the Pacific Ocean, and of the countries bordering thereon; and to demonstrate the marvellous progress of Western America.

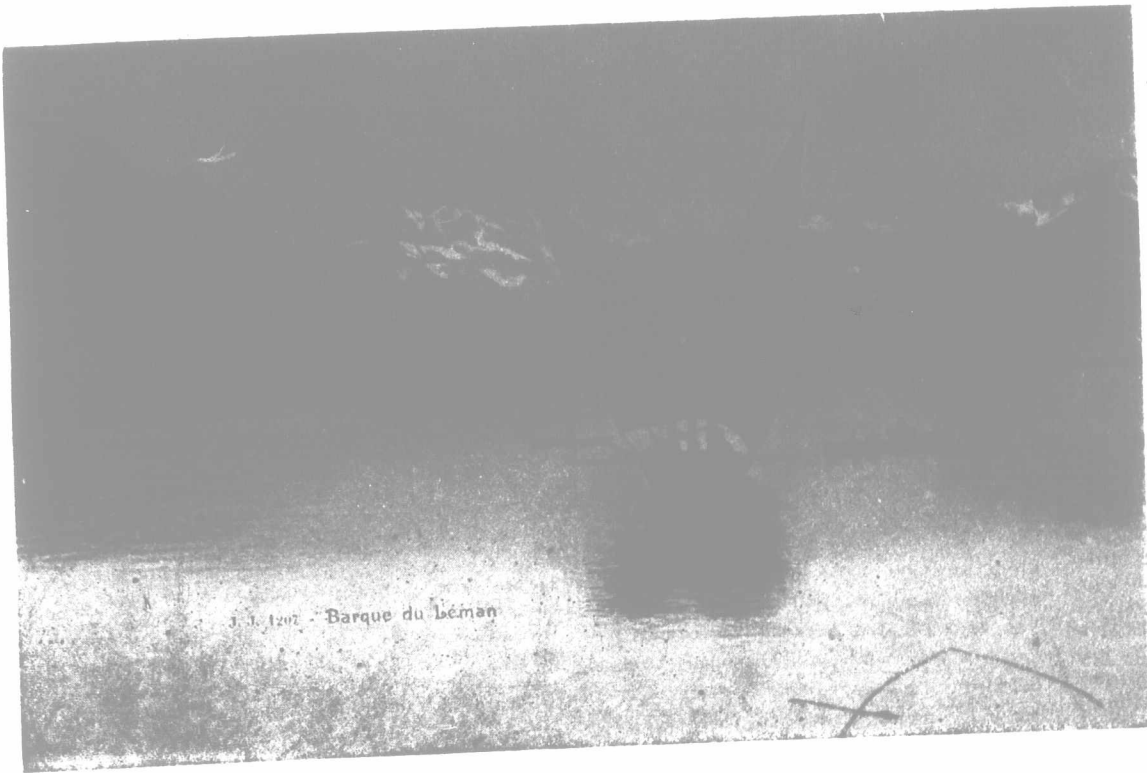
In the May "Contemporary Review," Dr. R. Nicoll quotes interestingly from the writings of William Bell Scott, the poet-painter, in regard to the poet Swinburne, who died not long ago. Dr. Nicoll writes:

Scott was painting at Wallington, in Northumberland, and Swinburne was spending his school recess at Capheaton, his grandfather's house, which was not far away. Scott says: "Very soon I began to recognize a little fellow who used to pass my postchaise on the road descending from Cambo to Wallington. He was always riding a little long-tailed pony at a good pace towards the village. He had the appearance of a boy, but for a certain mature expression on his handsome high-bred face, which had bright, coarse yellow hair flowing on his shoulders and flashing round his head. Young Swinburne could acquire without trouble, and had a memory enabling him to recite long poems after once reading. He gained at Eton a prize for French.

A few days after my first meeting him, he appeared with the prize-book entering the saloon where we were all at work, hopping on one foot, his favorite expression of extreme delight. It was a large edition of "Notre Dame de Paris," gorgeously bound, with illustrations by Tony Johannot; but the exuberance of his delight was so comical that even Lady Trevelyan could not resist a smile, and Miss Capel-Lofft, a very nervous person, begged him to sit down quietly and show her the prints. For my part, not yet recognizing in this unique youth the greatest rhythmical genius of English poetry,

I looked on in wonder, as at a spoilt child. The whole forenoon that book was never out of his sight. If it lay on the table, his eyes were always wandering to it. The fascination of first love was nothing to this fascination; and when we adjourned for an interval into the garden, there it was, tightly held under his arm, while he ran on before backwards, and ran back to us again, and the sharpest of eyes were fixed upon him with their amused but maternal expression.

But Scott testifies that Swinburne, even then, was altogether free from egotism. He loved and admired the excellent qualities of his friends. "He had the power of loving his



Summer Scene, Lake Lemman.

ic. Following the "scare," as in all cases of tenseness of feeling, came a reaction, during which an attempt was made, in many quarters, to show that such fears had been practically groundless, and had been due only to an agitation trumped up for political purposes, and reinforced by the overheated imagination of a populace swayed almost to hysteria by the influence of Du Maurier's drama, "An Englishman's Home." Once more the pendulum has swung, this time, possibly, to the happy medium. A fortnight ago, Lord Rosebery made a speech, which was censured somewhat on the score of presenting too dark a picture of the European situation. Since then, at the Im-

mates for the same period have increased £10,000,000."

Austria has entered upon the construction of four Dreadnoughts. Taking this decision as a threat to Italy's naval position in the Mediterranean, the latter retaliates by laying down estimates for 1909-1910 providing for an expenditure of £13,000,000, with a provision for the completing of four Dreadnoughts of the largest size by 1915. . . . So, in Europe, the race runs, and the world waits, helplessly hoping that something may happen to set the nations on a more trustful footing, and prevent this all too-mad expenditure.