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 "IT'S ALL RIGHT"  
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 Less Money for MORE SOAP  
 POSITIVELY THE LARGEST SALE IN CANADA

A Slogan of the King's English  
 (By Professor Walter Rippmann, M.A. Chief Inspector of the University of London.)

What is good English speech? What form of English speech ought we to impart in our schools? What should be our attitude to dialect speech?

These questions are forcing themselves on our attention. The interest in the spoken language is becoming very keen; of this we have indications on every side. Dr. Bridges, the poet laureate, has recently issued a tract on the Present State of English Pronunciation, and under his auspices a Society for pure English has been founded.

Mr. Bernard Shaw shows his wonted alertness by presenting a professor of phonetics in his "Pygmalion." We have a Poetry Society that lays stress on the reading aloud of verse. The Committee on English in the expected public schools will be found to adopt, intentionally or unconsciously, a more or less close approximation to the English standard.

Among speakers of the Received Standard the points of divergence are nowadays relatively few. Some differentiate w and wh, others do not; and the "a" of answer, after pass, etc., shows variations. More important is the treatment of "r" between vowel and consonant (as in "farm") and finally as in "far."

There are differences in the pronunciations of the vowels in unstressed syllables (e. g. in the endings -age, -ate, -ness). There is some uncertainty as to the accentuation of long words derived from Latin (e. g. laboratory, obligatory).

The other extreme is dialect, which remains fairly pure in rural areas, but elsewhere is subject, more or less to the influence of the Received Standard. This is especially the case in large towns, where the different social classes show varying degrees of approach to the standard.

It is obvious that such modification by the standard constitutes a grave danger to the dialects. Their vitality is further diminished by the present spelling which affords no adequate means of recording the spoken dialect, because many of our letters no longer have stable values. In German, which has a more phonetic spelling, there is an extensive dialect literature. Lastly, dialect suffers from being ignored or condemned in our schools.

Before showing how the decay of dialect may be checked it will be well to point out that the tendency to a Standard Speech among the educated is growing. There was far less uniformity one hundred years ago. Those familiar with the controversies that raged at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th (admirably dealt with in Professor Lounsbury's book on "The Standard of Pronunciation in English") are aware that many variations have since disappeared. To give a few examples: the actors said "ferce, perce," while in polite society "ferce, pierce," was the recognized pronunciation. Sheridan, who wrote one of the earliest pronouncing dictionaries, approved the pronunciation "sassaige." (Peppys writes in his diary: "Thence to the Greyhound in Fleet Street and there drank some raspberry sack and eat some saggas and so home very merry.") Walker who was Sheridan's most important successor, condemned "sassaige" as a "vulgar"

pronunciation. It was Walker who said of the word "cucumber" that it seems too firmly fixed in the sound of cucumber to be altered; and of asparagus "The corruption of this word into asparag-grass is so general that asparagus has an air of stiffness and pedantry." Smart, revising Walker thirty years later, approves only cucumber and asparagus. Kenrick, in 1773, refers to "boil" and "join" and many others, which it would now appear affected to pronounce otherwise than "bile" and "jine." Pope had made "join" rhyme with "mine" and "divine." Before long this variant yielded to the other pronunciation. For a long time people were divided as to the pronunciation of "gymnast" and "similar" words; some gave the "g" its present value, others pronounced it as in "get." In the accentuation there was also great variety; for a time, "blasphemous," "character," "contrary" were stressed by some on the second syllable by others on the first. This poet Rogers, early in the 19th century, says: "The now fashionable pronunciation of several words is to me at least offensive. Contemplate it had enough, but balcony makes me sick." The prolonged discussions about the accentuation of the word "deceit" makes most amusing reading.

There is no reason to assume that the movement towards uniformity will be checked; everything points the other way. Nor is it desirable; for a Standard Speech is essential for reasons that have been given. Of course, this does not exclude dialect poetry, drama, etc.

It is wanted for social intercourse. It has been handicapped in their career through faulty speech. It is wanted for teaching. Good literature may be its great appeal when it is well read aloud; indeed reading aloud affords a test, not only of the reader's apprehension of the meaning and beauty of a passage but of the writer's style. It is the teacher's duty to read aloud well and to secure good reading from his pupils. But we must render this possible for the teacher by making it clear what constitutes "good English speech," and by helping him to understand the difficulties of his pupils. I believe that better, longer, every education authority will range for what I may call a linguistic survey of its district. The results would be embodied in a little handbook giving the main features of the local pronunciation and vocabulary. This would be an invaluable aid to the teacher, and would stimulate his interest in local speech. Occasionally the pupils would be called upon to repeat a story in dialect after telling it in standard speech. Dialect verse and prose would be collected and some time would be devoted for it in the English literature lesson.

We need a generally accepted Standard of Speech also in order that we may have a rational spelling, and a rational spelling, in order that we may record and preserve the Standard Speech. This has been excellently done by Professor Lounsbury in the concluding pages of his book on "The Standard of Pronunciation in English," from which the following passage is taken:

"There can never exist that inflexible guide for whose appearance we are all longing until the spelling of every English word carries with it its own pronunciation. Even when the variation of accent must continue to show itself, though it will be reduced to the lowest possible limits. Long and rough is the road that must be travelled before any such result could be reached in a language like ours which enjoys and rejoices in the distinction of being the most barbarously spelled of any cultivated tongue in Christendom. We are weltering in an orthographic chaos in which a multitude of signs are represented by the same sound and a multitude of sounds by the same sign. Our race as a race has, in consequence, lost the phonetic sense. What can we hope for the orthography of a tongue in which, for illustration, the short sound of "e" found in "let," is represented by "ea," "head," by "ay" in "says," by "ai" in "said," by "ei" in "heifer," and by "ay" in "many" (also by "eo" in "leopard," by "ie" in "fried," and by "u" in "burn")? Or of the long sound given by us to the same letter "e" in "meter," represented by "ea" in "meat" or by "ee" in "meet," and, furthermore, by "i" in "magazine," by "ie" in "believe," by "ei" in "receive," by "eo" in "people," and by "ae" in "aegis" (also by "ey" in "wey" and "ay" in "quay")? Or take the sound denoted by the digraph "sh," seen in "shift." It is represented by "sch" in "ocean," by "ci" in "suspicion," by "si" in "dimension," by "ti" in "nation," by "xi" in "anxious," by "sci" in "conscience," by "ch" in "machine," and by "ss" in "sure" (also by "es" in "passion")."

The conditions are unfavorable on the side of the language itself; they are fully as unfavorable on that of the users of the language. Most of us love our present orthography—love it for its uncouthness, its barbarousness, its indifference to do very works for which orthography is presumed to exist at all. We cling with passionate devotion to its worst anomalies. We not merely

shudder at the prospect of changing a spelling which defies all attempts at proper pronunciation (e. g. "vicious," "yacht," "buoy") but at the suggestion of changing one that in addition disguises completely the derivation (e. g. "rhyme," "scent," "sprightly"), about which in instances we profess to be profoundly solicitous. Even the pettiest foundations in the interest of a mere mechanical uniformity (e. g. "diagram," "programme," "humour," "humorous") meet with the sturdiest resistance. On this whole subject, indeed, there is no ignorance so profound and so comprehensive as that which envelops the minds of many men of letters, if we can judge of their degree of knowledge by the character of their utterances. It requires a far more enlightened opinion than the majority of these before we can look for the success of any effort to cause our tongue to approach even remotely to the phonetic excellence of Italian or Danish or German. Yes, until the time comes, no small share of our lives will be passed in the profitable and exciting occupation of consulting dictionaries, in the equally profitable and exciting discussion of particular words, and in airing our opinions and delivering our decisions upon points about which one thoroughly educated man writing now, he would adopt a more hopeful strain, realizing that even the man in the street is becoming alive to the importance of good speech. The time has come for us to establish a Standard of English Speech, and put an end to the profitable and exciting occupation of consulting dictionaries, in the equally profitable and exciting discussion of particular words, and in airing our opinions and delivering our decisions upon points about which one thoroughly educated man writing now, he would adopt a more hopeful strain, realizing that even the man in the street is becoming alive to the importance of good speech.

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**Dr. B. J. KENDALL COMPANY**  
 Enosburg Falls, Vermont, U.S.A.

**1914 Letter "A" No. 2135**  
**IN THE SUPREME COURT**  
 Between  
 Stephen S. Ruggles, Edwin Ruggles and Harry Ruggles, Plaintiffs  
 and  
 William Creelman, Defendant

To be sold at public auction by the Sheriff of the County of Annapolis, or his deputy, at the Court House in the town of Bridgetown, in said County of Annapolis aforesaid, on **Saturday, the 18th day of April, A. D. 1914.**

at eleven o'clock in the forenoon Pursuant to an order of foreclosure and sale made herein and dated the 14th day of March A. D., 1914, unless before the day of sale the amount due and costs are paid to the Plaintiffs or into court.

All the estate, right, title, interest and equity whosoever in and to the said defendant Wm. Creelman, and which he had herein at the time he made the mortgage herein foreclosed and of all parties, claiming or entitled by, through or under the said defendant, and to all those certain tracts of premises, lots or parcels of land and premises, situate lying and being in Clarence, in the County of Annapolis bounded and described as follows:

**FIRST LOT:**—Bounded on the north by lands of Samuel Marshall, on the west by lands of L. F. A. Doering, Marshall, and on the east by the Leonard Road, so called, containing about thirty acres more or less.

**SECOND LOT:**—Bounded on the north by land of Watson Foster, on the east by lands formerly owned by James Edwin on the south by lands formerly owned by Gustave O. Theiss, and on the west by lands of Edwin K. Leonard, containing about twelve acres more or less. Being the same lands and premises as conveyed to Thurston W. Allen by Samuel J. Williams and wife, by deed dated the first day of April, A. D., 1905, and recorded in the office of the registry of deeds for the County of Annapolis in book 127 at page 512, and conveyed by the said Thurston W. Allen and Lemis Allen to the said William Creelman by deed dated the 8th day of December, A. D., 1910, and recorded in Book 146 at page 171.

Together with all the buildings, hereditaments, easements and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining.

**TERMS:**—Ten per cent deposit at time of sale, remainder on delivery of deed.  
**EDWIN GATES,**  
 High Sheriff in and for the County of Annapolis.  
**HARRY RUGGLES,**  
 Of the Town of Bridgetown in the County of Annapolis, Solicitor  
 Sheriff's Office, Mch. 16, 1914. 51ns.

**Rod and Gun for April**

"Rod and Gun" for April is out with a bill of fare designed primarily for the fisherman. The cover cut, which this month is especially attractive, depicts a fisherman holding up to view a 17-lb. prize salmon trout secured last year in Algoonau Park, Bonnycastle. Dale contributes the leading article "Halibut Fishing in the Northern Pacific;" H. Mortimer Batten a well illustrated article on "Trot Farming;" and other stories and articles follow that describe fishing experiences, etc. in various parts of the Dominion from Atlantic to Pacific. Prof. Edward Prince, Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries and an authority on both fish and game, writes of "The Prong Horned Antelope of the West," which is said to be in danger of extinction unless immediate protective measures are taken for its preservation. The regular departments are all well maintained.

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 The purchase of \$1,000 of goods from your own town or your own county, instead of purchasing outside means the addition of one person to your town or county instead of supporting him abroad.—Exchange.  
 Misard's Liniment relieves Neuralgia

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