

Plain Philosophy

By "COG"

After that long spout about the four-hundred-million-dollar kid last week (the million dollar kid is now a back number), I had about made up my mind to two things, viz., and verily, that I would in the future confine myself to short paragraphs and furthermore that I would henceforth and/or ever leave society to work out its own plan of salvation without my help, not that I really thought that my help was not greatly needed, but I wanted to see how they could get along without this directing mit.

But here I am into it worse than ever. And I don't see just how I'm going to get away with the stunt without getting in bad with the ladies. Now as you all know, (isn't it fierce how long a would-be witty writer takes to tell you something you know?) this world is made up of men and women. (Wonderful disclosure that, but when we consider how many men think the world consists of one woman and how many women think the world consists of one man, it is probably necessary. But let's take the broader view and admit that it takes both sexes to keep things going.) Now that I've got that off my chest let's proceed.

As I was about to say, when I interrupted myself, the world is made up of men and women, but society is made up of women. Men are absolutely unnecessary in the scheme of society except to foot the bills. (A very minor consideration we must all agree). There's your connection between this and society. After this lengthy dissertation its about time to get down to brass tacks and get this very clever pen product out of my system. I confess that I put it off as long as possible for I approach the subject in fear and trembling. Now how shall we get to it. Shall we come out bluntly and bravely? No, let's put it in the form of an unobtrusive question.

Have you seen the new hobble skirts? Not the semi-fitting imitation but the real name-blown-in-the-bottle, dare-you-to-move-fast, hobble skirt; the close fitting, limb binding, hobble skirt that hobbles. Now let's approach the subject calmly and ascientifically and see what we can find out. I acknowledge right here and put myself on record as having few or any hopes of arriving at any satisfactory conclusion.

Of course the first thing to enquire into is why women should be hobbled. (Now shut up, you, who suggests that it would be handy to apply the hobbles to their vocal appendages). The only kind of hobbles up for discussion are limb hobbles. After a careful pursuit of all up-to-the-minute authorities I find only one case where hobbling an animal has proven satisfactory. This is done when it is desired to get a race horse into the proper gait. In this case hobbles seem to serve a purpose but if fashionmakers thought to improve the gait of womankind by the hobbles they have failed miserably.

The other day in a popular weekly magazine I was looking at a page of pictures of classy dames attired in these short-step draperies. A great many wise people would undoubtedly class the result as disgusting. Probably it is but let's not go that far; simply label it as

"bad taste." You probably want to know what they looked like. Maybe you've seen some of the near-hobble skirts but these were the real thing. There are times when cold print is totally inadequate to convey the desired impression. This is sure one of them and I throw up my hands and acknowledge failure. I could never, never describe one of these fashionable confections. (Imagine a mere man trying to tip off the fine points of women's attire.)

But what's the use of lying down on the job? I guess after all I will take a try at it. Supposing you are a fairly stout party and your better half fairly slim and she should appropriate one of the legs of your Sunday trousers, put a little trimming on it and with the use of the shoe horn, much perspiration and many near cuss words manage to get into it. She would have a hobble skirt no worse than some of those in the picture.

And then further the other day I saw an advertisement of hobble garters. Just think of it, a set of limb harness that keeps the wearer from stepping far enough to tear the flimsy material that the skirt is often made of. Why do they (the fair sex) do it? Why do they stand for every fool idea that the dressmakers inaugurate? I give it up.

But right here I want to go on record wholly and irrevocably as absolutely opposed to the hobble skirt. (Lots of good that will do). Hoops, big bustles, sheath gowns and now hobble skirts. Ye gods, what next?

"Smile awhile, and while you smile another smiles, and soon there's miles and miles of smiles, and life's worth while because you smile."

I grabbed that sentiment off a street-car ad the other day. It sounds good to me. But sometimes it's rather hard to work up a smile. Some of us haven't smiled for so long that we're suffering from an ingrowing face and the nearest we get to the real thing is a sickly grin. If you are one of the latter class try smiling at your wife to-morrow morning at breakfast. Don't try it to-night. The result might keep her awake and if you're a sour-faced individual she probably is worked hard enough to need her rest. But try it in the morning and keep it up. You'll improve with practice.

The other day I stole an hour from work and care and got out into the country. This is the time of the year when I envy the man on the farm (not that he's not pretty well off at any time of the year) but I envy any man that is putting in his time far from the busy streets of the city; who is living close to Nature and drawing from her inexhaustible store of beauty and charm. On the day I speak of the sun was brightly shining and there was a tang in the air found nowhere except upon our Western Prairies; the trees were attired in multi-colored hues and a few birds and squirrels were scurrying around. Nature was at her best and every voice of her varied language was appealing. But only a few minutes and I had to tear myself away; back to the office and work; a few minutes next to Nature when I could have reveled for hours.

Saskatchewan Sheep Sales

There will be held at

SASKATOON, on October 18th

and at

REGINA, on October 21st

at the hour of 1-30 p.m.

Auction Sales of Pure Bred and Grade Sheep under the auspices of the

Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association

Every animal individually selected.

Special rates on all railroads on the Certificate plan

T. C. NORRIS, M.P.P. - - - Auctioneer

For Catalogue and Rules address:

Secretary, Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association, Dept. of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.



Rifles Shoot Well, Work Well and Wear Well

The rough, hard usage that hunting rifles often receive requires them to be constructed on sound mechanical principles and of the best materials. All Winchester rifles are so made. Nothing is left undone that will make them shoot well, work well, look well and wear well.

Winchester Guns and Ammunition—The Red W Brand—are made for all kinds of Hunting
WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO., NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Standard Building Specialties

COMPO BOARD

Used instead of Lath and Plaster.

Nailed directly on Studding. Manufactured 4 ft. wide and from 8 to 12 ft. long.

CABOT'S QUILT

Cuts half the price of Back Plastering.

Uninflamable, and will not harbor Insects and Vermin.

IBEX BUILDING PAPER

Tough; will not become dry or brittle. Always airtight.

MIKADO READY ROOFING

High Grade—Low Price—Composition Cap adds 50% more strength at all joints.

DUNN BROTHERS WINNIPEG REGINA

When Writing to Advertisers. Please mention The Guide

THROUGH VALUABLE COUNTRY

An Ottawa wire of September 19 said: That the country through which the new Hudson Bay railway will run possesses agricultural and mineral possibilities that need only railway facilities to open them up, was the substance of an interview given today by Prof. R. W. Brock, director of the geological survey, who has just returned from the trip on which he accompanied Earl Grey through the north country.

"While I had not time to make a thorough examination of any kind," said Prof. Brock, "I noticed one promising-looking belt on the Et-hin-amine river, up which we went. It was about 130 miles long. There has, of course, been no prospecting in this district owing to the difficulties of transportation. The railroad, however, will supply a base for this work and several of the inlets afford great opportunities for it.

"As regards agriculture the country of course doesn't offer such advantages as does the prairie, still there is a lot of land that could be used for farming north of Lake Winnipeg, particularly. It would, however, need experiments to decide this question fully.

A London cable of September 12 said: Queen Alexandra, who has hitherto seemingly been quite unable to tear herself away from Great Britain, has finally decided to go to Copenhagen for a brief visit. Princess Victoria, whose health still causes anxiety, will not accompany her mother. The Prince of Wales and Prince Albert were among the first school boys to return to work. Both left London yesterday. The Prince of Wales went to Dartmouth and Prince Albert to Osborne.