

THE DAILY ONTARIO

THE DAILY ONTARIO is published every afternoon (Sundays and holidays excepted) at The Ontario Building, Front Street, Belleville, Ontario. Subscription \$3.00 per annum.

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO and Bay of Quinte Chronicle is published every Thursday morning at \$1.00 a year, or \$2.00 a year to the United States.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1916.

CROW CONVENTIONS.

One of the Edinburgh Scotsman's naturalist contributors supplies some curious particulars concerning those immense gatherings of crows which are sometimes confined within a small area in a field, or on a hillside or a stretch of seashore. These conventions have been interpreted in different ways—as crow parliaments, as crow courts of justice, or as crow weddings. It has been noticed that the meetings take place oftenest in spring or autumn, and rather in spring than autumn. One beautiful Sunday morning in August, some years ago, there was seen an enormous assemblage of crows on a flat meadow beside Loch Linnhe. "It's a caw-kirk," said an old Highlander, and the remark seemed appropriate, for, while hundreds of birds remained silent and immovable, only one or two uttered an occasional suppressed "caw" and then flitted off to a few yards to another resting place.

That crows convene for some matter of business cannot, the contributor thinks, be doubted; and, in all probability, that business concerns either some breach of crow law (for it is certain, he says, that birds have a code) or is a prelude to crow marriages. These crow conventions are often seen in the Western Isles of Scotland. An observer, who believed in the court of justice idea, says: "A few of the flock sit with drooping heads; others are as grave as judges; some are noisy, like advocates and witnesses. In the course of half an hour the meeting breaks up; and it is not uncommon, after the birds have flown away, to find one or two left dead on the spot."

A French writer, M. Vian, has elaborated the marriage ceremony idea in a most amusing way. It seems that, in the valley of Meulan (Seine-et-Oise) an immense gathering of crows takes place annually, about March 5. The gathering is called "Le grand jour des corbeaux," or "Le mariage des corbeaux." There are said to be more than one thousand poplars in this valley, and, on the great day, these trees and the surrounding hills are black with crows. It is on this day that the young male crows, under the direction of their revered seniors, provide themselves with suitable wives. When a young male crow has been formally presented to a young female that does not please him, he flies away, uttering impolite croakings or cries of distress. If the lady crow is not pleased with the proposed suitor, she drives him off with vigorous beak thrusts. In the evening the assembly breaks up. A month later the business of nest-building begins.

BABY AND YOUR WATCH.

Little babies think!

When you hold a watch to a baby's ear you imagine, with your grown-up brain, that baby's attention is simply arrested by the sound of the ticking.

You probably think that the baby's solemn stare at the time-piece is simply because the ticking sound has drawn and holds its attention.

Not so.

Baby is trying to figure it out; baby's tiny but very active brain is trying to discover whence the sound—and why!

All process of education and the attainment of knowledge is inspired in human beings mostly by curiosity.

This curiosity passes as ambition for knowledge but the real sense is the wanting to know why things are.

Why do you talk "baby talk" to your little children?

They are not stupid and they are not dumb animals.

Begin talking plain, regular everyday Canadian to babies and they will not only have nothing to unlearn but they will develop their thinking apparatus without the handicap of a lot of nonsense.

Efficiency is the cry in this age. You may help your children to don the armor by helping them to think even before they are capable of expressing thought in words.

This idea is a simplification of the Montessori system.

Also, it is good sense.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

In some communities the "family doctor"

seems to have gone out of style. There is a growing class of people who do not call doctors at all until they are conscious of some serious ailment. Then they rush off to specialists who have never seen them before and only too often are in the midst of expensive and sometimes unnecessary operations before they know what they are doing.

The development of surgery to its present high estate is one of the proudest achievements of modern scientific method. But like all splendid and rapid growths, it has its abuses. One of these is the one-sidedness of the surgeon specialist. It is natural that the man who has attained great skill in any field should have his outlook biased by the concentration of purpose which was necessary in acquiring his expert ability. To the knife expert everything seems curable by the knife, every seems to require the knife.

It is perhaps true that more deaths and life-long miseries are caused by fear of surgery than were ever caused by unnecessary operations, but the present tendency to rush to the knife as a panacea has its serious dangers.

This is the point where the family doctor should come in. No better investment can be made by any individual or family than a periodical examination by the same physician. This physician, called regularly, say every three months even where everyone is well, comes to know every member of the family. He knows the living conditions, the history of each person, mental, moral and physical. He knows the economic situation. He is a giver of wholesome advice. He knows how to keep people from illness as well as how to help nature cure it. Then if he finds it necessary to advise an operation, his word may be safely taken.

Official approval by the authorities of Cleveland, O., has been placed upon spooning in the public parks of that city. The city officials believe that spooning should be encouraged, that it often leads to marriage. But the same officials differ widely in their definitions of spooning.

"Proper spooning is holding hands," said Park Commissioner Newell. "Heartfelt sighs, languishing glances, soft cooing words, but no holding of hands, is proper spooning," said Alex. Bernstein, director of public utilities.

Safety Director A. P. Sprosty, whose cops will see that the spooning rule is obeyed, arose to speak as follows: "When the band plays ragtime and the moon plays peek-a-boo, I see no harm in a masculine arm slipping round a slim waist, do you?"

W. S. Fitzgerald, law director, says spooners may even kiss. "Suppose the hearts of two lovers had decided henceforth to beat as one," said Fitzgerald, "who would deny them one discreet kiss? The law wouldn't."

Many a young person has heard the story that Napoleon or some other famous man consumed but three or four hours in sleep during the twenty-four, and many young persons have wondered what was the matter with them when they tried to do likewise.

Well, these are stories. Here are the facts: According to Bertillon, the great French anthropologist who founded the Bertillon system of measurements, the human skeleton is fixed at age twenty, and never changes naturally after that time. During the first twenty years, and never after the skeleton gets its growth. Next, scientists tell us that the food we eat is digested and transformed into new tissue—bone, blood, nerve, muscle and brain while we are sleeping. Lack of sleep certainly retards the process of transforming food into tissue; and lack of sleep before age twenty—the only period in which bone tissue may grow—stunts the growth and makes a runty victim.

Young man and young woman, get plenty of sleep—about eight hours out of twenty-four. If you form the habit of retiring at about two in the morning and arising four hours later, night after night for many moons—calmly contemplate your finish as a runt.

BUGLE SONG.

The splendor falls on castle walls
And snowy summits old in story;
The long light shakes across the lakes,
And the wild cataract leaps in glory.
Blow, bugle, blow! set the wild echoes flying;
Blow, bugle, answer, echoes—dying, dying, dying!

O hark, O hark! how thin and clear,
And thinner, clearer, further going!
O sweet and far, from cliff and scar,
The horns of Elfland faintly blowing!
Blow; let us hear the purple glens replying;
Blow, bugle, answer, echoes—dying, dying, dying!

O love, they die in yon rich sky;
They faint on hill or field or river;
Our echoes roll from soul to soul,
And grow forever and forever.
Blow, bugle, blow! set the wild echoes flying;
And answer, echoes, answer—dying, dying, dying!

—Alfred Tennyson.

Other Editors' Opinions

DOBBIN AND EFFICIENCY.

Have you ever loved a horse? The favorite old safe family horse? Didn't you almost cry when old Jimmie died? We have, more than once in our lifetime. The automobile will never hold the endearing place in the family that the horse has but the demand of these times is speedily crowding out the horse. We have loved him, but with the swifter speed of the motor car we have to agree that the horse becomes an unprofitable servant. The practical man says a horse eats 10 lbs. of food for every hour's work, equal to 5 acres of ground annually—yet his thermal efficiency is only 2 per cent. It takes 27 minutes daily to care for him—service rendered by a "lord of creation" to a "lower animal." He takes up more room, keeps more people engaged, consumes more fuel in proportion to the total energy delivered than any other instance of power-producing machinery.

We don't believe the horse is on the road to ultimate extinction, but this practical, money-making man says it comes to this: that the efficiency engineers are on Dobbin's tracks and they'll get him sure. They have discovered that strictly in terms of horsepower he is an unprofitable servant. He cannot compete with the motor-truck, with steam and gasoline tractors. On the streets of busy cities the day when the horse-drawn truck will be barred by law from public streets is nearer, we surmise, than most of us imagine. Yes, it looks as if dear old Dobbin's star is setting. A sentiment with which all must sympathize—the affection cherished by man for the most docile and intelligent of his dumb friends—must no doubt protect his passing. But, in a day of big unit production, where tonnage and radius of delivery are everything, the question as to the most economical sources of power can not be postponed for long. The horse, like the ox, has had his day. He is being displaced by the motor trucks and tractors, just as the stage-coach was displaced by the railway, the tinder box by matches, the canoe by the steamship, the puddling furnace by the Bessemer converter, the ox car by the auto, the sickle by the binder, the flail by the threshing machine, the pen by the Hoe press, and the needle by the sewing machine. —Bowmanville Statesman.

BLEEDING THE LIQUOR DEALERS

We have been receiving recently copies of the editorial page of the Fra containing an article by Paul S. Conwell on "Bleeding Kansas." The hemorrhage to which Mr. Conwell apparently refers has reference to the prohibition and is written in such a style as to convince us that Mr. Conwell himself probably is bleeding the brewers and distillers for the literary effusion. It contains the usual haphazard misstatement, extemporaneous falsehood and grotesque grouping of census reports eight years old.

Here's a sample from it: "After 35 years of trial prohibition has given Kansas an enormous rate of divorces granted wives for cruelty and drunkenness, an unusual high an increasing rate of pauperism, poor school systems, and ever increasing rate of insanity and almost the lowest church population in the Union." It's the willingness of the liquor interests to pay for cheap rant like this that makes us doubt the traditional claim that the liquor dealer does not drink his own product. —Wichita (Kansas) Beacon.

FALL COURTS.

The autumn circuit 1916 of judges includes the following:
Hon. Justice Clute, Belleville, July 10th.
Hon. Justice Sutherland, Belleville, Nov. 10th.
Hon. Justice Clute, Belleville, Dec. 10th.

THE FINGER OF SUSPICION.

Port Perry Star: These are strenuous days, and it is easy to suspect strangers of sinister motives and dark designs. But the times are not so strenuous that strangers may be arrested because they act in a peculiar or displeasing manner. This is not Germany, and the freedom of possess is extended to all that are within our borders until it can be proved that they are abusing the privileges accorded to them. It might prove very costly to arrest a stranger simply on suspicion.

Simple and Sure—Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is so simple in application that a child can understand the instructions. Used as a liniment the only direction is to rub, and when used as a dressing to apply. The directions are so plain and unmistakable that they are readily understood by the young or old.

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It pays to buy the best
Fine Unscolored
Japan Teas

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Different from anything you have
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PURE COFFEES
30 and 40c lb.

WHERE PROHIBITION PROHIBITS

The old cry that prohibition does not prohibit is not being used with such insistence as it formerly was. The manner in which the prohibition laws are being enforced in North Carolina, West Virginia and other States show very plainly that Prohibition can be made to prohibit. It is being made to prohibit. Another interesting fact which is being clearly demonstrated is that Prohibition reduces lawlessness, and, therefore, cuts down criminal expenses. The saving in expense for the prosecution of criminals will largely offset the loss of revenue through the discontinuance of liquor licenses. When prohibition goes into effect in Virginia, on Nov. 1 next, we expect to see the criminal expenses of the State largely reduced. We also expect to see Virginia prosper as she has not done for many years. And we expect to see the prohibition law so enforced that Virginia will really have Prohibition. —Richmond Virginian.

GRAVEL ROAD.

The farmers are busy sowing.
Miss M. Cassidy spent Sunday 7th
with Miss Lulu Drummer.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Drummer spent
Sunday evening with her father Mr.
J. D'Arcy, sr.

Miss Mary Hayes of Belleville,
spent the Easter holidays at her home
here.

Mr. Fred Mowbray spent Sunday
with Point Anne friends.

Misses L. and R. Sheehan spent a
few days with their sister Mrs. J. C.
Meagher.

Mrs. B. Harvey, Deseronto, spent
a few days with her sons here.

Mr. Vincent Traynor, Toronto,
spent a few days with his sister Mrs.
J. F. O'Sullivan.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Scanlon and son
Grafton, visited at Mrs. Scanlon's
parents M. and Mrs. J. C. Meagher.

Miss L. Hughes, Smiths Falls, spent
a few days with Mrs. J. F. O'Sullivan.

Mrs. S. Campbell and son and
daughter autoed to Kingston one Sun-
day recently.

McGuinness brothers have been
confined to the house with measles.

Mr. John Corrigan has gone to Ho-
tel Dieu, Kingston, for medical treat-
ment.

Mr. and Mrs. John Drummer and
baby and niece, Marie Carroll, Co-
teau, are spending a few weeks at
his fathers, Mr. John Drummer.

FATHER OF TWENTY-SIX

John Downey, who died recently at
Downey's Bay, near Pembroke, had
the distinction of being the father of
twenty-six children, of whom twenty
survive. He was eighty-six years of
age.

BULL DOG FOR PHOTO

A young lady in West Belleville,
who is the proud possessor of a
handsome white bull dog was re-
quested yesterday by two soldiers for
the loan of the dog, their avowed in-
tention being to get themselves pho-
tographed along with "What We have
We Hold." The request seemed a
little unusual and was not granted.
Later the dog disappeared and the
first thought was that he had been
coaxed away. The police were notifi-
ed, but the animal soon returned.
Whether he had had his photo taken,
he could not say.

HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS TO THE LAND OF WHEAT.

Homeseekeers' Excursions to West-
ern Canada at low fares to Canadian
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31st, inclusive. Particulars from S.
Belleville or W. B. Howard, District
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We have just received a large
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\$4.00 and \$5.00 Shoes for \$3.50.

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Our Decorating while super-
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good.

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extra walk.

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Boiled and Raw Linseed Oil
randrams B.B. English White Lead
Pure Gov. Standard White Lead,
Turpentine and Colors.
Sherwin-Williams Paints and Var-
nishes.

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WATERS' Drug Store

218 Front Street

Appreciation.

A good story comes from London
about a lawyer who engaged a new
boy. As he had suffered to some ex-
tent from the dishonesty of his former
lad, he determined to try the new
boy's honesty at once. So he placed
a five-pound note under a weight on
his desk and walked out without a
word. Upon his return, half an hour
later, the note was gone and half a
crown in silver had taken its place.
"Boy, when I went out I left a five-
pound note under this weight!"
"Yes, sir, but you see you hadn't
gone five minutes when a man came
in with a bill against you for 24 1/2s.
So, I believe the change is correct."
"You paid a bill?" "Yes, sir; there
it is, all receipted. The man said it
had slipped your mind for the past
four years, and so—"
The lawyer showed his apprecia-
tion by discharging the boy at once.

Wears



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both Soft and Hard Hats are now in
stock for your inspection.

Children's Hats a Specialty!
Geo. T. Woodley

N.B.—Highest prices paid for Raw Fur

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them like new and return them
to you, with our New Method
of French Dry Cleaning and
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