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THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY,

LIMITED.

London, Ont., Thursday, August 5.

FLIRTING WITH QUEBEC.

Premier Meighen gave a pleasant talk to the Portage la Prairie people on the need for better relations between the races, the religious and the social classes of Canada. "Cheer up and get together," he advises, and particularly regrets any division of French and English. As the Toronto Globe says, "these are wise words."

About the best thing that Mr. Meighen can do, putting mere words aside, for any reconciliation of our races that may be needed, is to dissolve Parliament and go to the country. The present Government, in which Quebec has practically no voice, is a standing injury to French-Canadians. But to dissolve is exactly what Premier Meighen refuses to do, much as all parts of the country desire it. He prefers to talk.

As Mr. Meighen whispers sweet nothings into Quebec's ear, the fair one seems to start back in some astonishment. "And have you loved me all this while?" she exclaims. "It was all very well to dissemble your love, but why did you knock me downstairs?" This lean and hungry look, this bitter mouth of bigotry and musty privilege wrinkling itself into the wreathing smiles of a summer vacation wooer is a great sight for the silly season.

"We should be quick to remedy injustice wherever injustice appears," says Mr. Meighen. But the ring ruling at Ottawa is anything but quick in this regard. Nothing is going to be done to represent Quebec in the government of Canada, no dissolution will right the rank injustice of a Government clean out of touch with public opinion, nothing is done to help the temperance cause in Ontario, no clearing up of the Board of Commerce muddle need be expected of Mr. Meighen and his clique. He declares that all decent citizens should stand together for "the security of property honestly earned." What does the word "honest" mean in these days apart from the sense of merely "legal"? Such talk is mere wind. The real question now is, what taxes are to be levied on whom.

Mr. Meighen says that "the war developed epidemics of unrest and disorder" and that "grievances were intensified by suffering." He should know that unrest and grievances have been intensified in this country not so much by the war. Men and women were glad enough to suffer for Canada and for justice. Unrest has been caused by the realization that the very ends for which explicitly the war was fought, justice, freedom, democracy, are not being furthered. People feel, in Quebec and Ontario alike, soldiers perceive, that they have been exploited by a selfish few, whose interests are served by the Government at Ottawa. Let Mr. Meighen do something more than talk.

"For the Lord our God is a God of might, in deeds, in deeds he takes delight." If the premier would act in the interest of the people of Ontario and of Quebec, his coaxing words would have more meaning.

MAYOR CHURCH'S IDEA.

Mayor Church writes Sir Adam Beck, "I think it is bad judgment to crawl before the Drury Government, or to allow the association to be placed in a false position by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of seeking mercy for the radials."

Surely Mayor Church requires direction. The Drury Government is above the Commission and Radials, and those who undertake to set up a power above the Government must be checked. The whole trouble arises from the Hydro Commission assuming powers it does not possess.

The commission appointed will likely iron out all these difficulties and the Hydro with all its power of all kinds be made a part of the responsible government of the country.

WATER LILIES.

"Where the very silences slumber
Water lilies grow in numbers,
Pure and pale,
All the morning they have rested,
Amber crowned and pearly crested,
Fair and frail."

Someone has endeavored to glimpse in music the still, dreaming loveliness of the water lily. All the pure, reticent beauty of its drifting whiteness, starred with centre of gold, and held like a gleaming star, fallen and kept, among the upholding pads of deep-toned green and dark coral, is whispered and softly accentuated in notes so understandingly chosen as to produce a music-poem of perfect interpretation.

I have been said "one feels like being silent where the lilies are, in fear of disturbing their dreams," and yet they are in very essence flowers of the morning and wonderfully minister to early-day moods. With a gleam of night-dew upon the tips of their petals, and hidden like pearls in their golden hearts, there is at the same time, all the wonder of young dawn in their white glory. As day falls in golden silence, there is that wide star-like hint of dreaming in their stillness and demure aloofness in caressing waters, that rests tired eyes

and quiets thought to perfect relaxation of mind and body.

"Except for the earth she is nourished by
Could the soul of the lily have climbed to the
sky"

one wonders, with the sense of detachment revealed in its lovely floating fragrance, which has been called "a perturbed whisper of welcome" to birds and insects.

Water lilies are said to be so simple of culture the marvel is that they have not a place in every garden as a lure and drinking fountain for thirsty feathered songsters. They could never come to be looked upon as any but charmed visitors, nevertheless, from the very mystery of their sustenance and water setting and a bit of the loveliest and most remote of nature's wild blooms is worth imprisoning for "every day's most common need."

To chance upon hundreds of water lilies in some sheltered, tree-shaded, woodland lake or cove, as one's canoe slips silently along the lapping and resisting lily-pads, is to worship them at their best. Here perhaps one happens upon deer, with all their grace of poise, drinking and feeding on the rare delicacy of lily growth, and the picture is one that is long in the mind when vacation is over and woods-loitering part of an unforgettable dream.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Just now it's a rough, rough way to Tipperary.

Nobody seems able to take the ire out of Ireland.

Quebec has been flirted with so often she will not fall before the wiles of Meighen.

Local merchants report a great demand for magnifying glasses these days. Possibly the average citizen finds a use for one in scanning the minute remains of his week's wages every Monday morning.

DO YOUR OWN THINKING.

[Vancouver Sun.] This is the age of mental laziness. Men purchase thoughts from others as they purchase groceries. The language and mannerisms of others are imitated. Mental processes seldom get further on the road to originality than a quotation. What-forever offered to mind is rejected, forgetting that life's riches can only be grasped through the intellect.

Think for yourself. Read, learn, study—but think. Education is only a cargo; your own thoughts must mark out your course.

Every unfinished thought, every sentence that divides into nothing, is another contribution to life's waste and to intellectual deterioration. Think your mind is charged with possibilities. Your brain is dynamic with power.

A MATTER OF "X'S."

The Kitchener Record lists Hon. Arthur Meighen as "prime minister and secretary for external affairs." The Record is an "X" short, but then there are those who say that Mr. Meighen himself will be short many "X's" when the next lot of ballot are counted.

THE GYPSY LIFE.

[London Daily Express.] To lie in the long grass on a summer's night, with the open sky above; to sit about a fire while the evening meal smells gratefully to the heavens; to have the home influence and the training of the career of ordinary life—which of us does not envy, at least a little, the care-free gentry? What if some of them do have their little weaknesses for robbing barnyards and stabbers? They have the courage of their own lack of convictions, and the only wonder is that they do not make converts of more of us.

HOME INFLUENCE.

[Fortnightly Review.] It is useless to go on talking of the platitudes about the home, and keeping young people out of the streets. The home influence and training is more needed than ever, but it, too, must be adapted to the needs of the times. It must be a training for independence. We must give up our belief in restriction and punishment and the old-fashioned social evil. We must learn to believe in life. It is the desire for a full and free life which is at the bottom of so much of the wild and foolish conduct of the young. The only way to do it is to provide channels for the expression of that life, not to repress it. We cannot keep the young out of the streets; we should not wish to do so, but we can make the streets safe for them; we can see that the places of recreation which they find vent for their superfluous energy or their desire for a fuller experience of life are kept sweet and wholesome. Our aim should be to make a full and free life possible for all, in the streets and places of amusement as well as in the homes of the people.

AT THE VOICE OF THE BIRD.

[Minneapolis Journal.] "And he shall rise up at the voice of the bird," said an ancient Hebrew poet concerning the old man who can't sleep after daybreak on a June morning. This touch of insomnia and the bird in his doleful list of the ailments of the aged. A twitter of a sparrow outside the window, a distant robin piping up the dawn, and the old gentleman is stark awake. Sleep is fled beyond recall. Poor old man!

It is not yet four o'clock. Three long hours before the city wakes. Three hours to listen or to lie and think. Thrice best is this old man if he is a bird lover, or has friendly thoughts with which to commune through a sleepless morning.

At the city's border, where trees and waters and little wet meadows meet, the voice of the bird is a dominant sound at half-past three on a morning. The whole chorus choir, from tree-top to swamp edge is in full cry—chorus, solo, obligato, trill, catch and roundelay—the air is dense and the music, with song, a melody of all the joys and sorrows of the bird kingdom. A good many persons not yet decrepit will wake in the midst of a concert like this, smile a drowsy blessing on the birds, and sleep again.

If the old man must lose two hours of good morning sleep, he has yet this compensation: Let him wrap a quilt about him and sit at the open window. The whole world outside belongs to him and the birds. In the light of dawn it is a dream world, the disembodied spirit of this same world, whose corporate body we touch at high noon.

A thin blue dew-dampened haze, the remnant of yesterday's dusk and smoke, lightly veils the distant wood. About the little marshes, willows stand waist-deep in quiet ponds of fog. A cool dusk blends dwelling, shrub and lawn tree. Just the highest points of these begin to reflect the little rim of grey dawn. And from out this light-tipped world of pleasant gloom rises the swelling matin of the birds. For more than half an hour the whole world is given over to the pleasure of the old man watcher and the winged singers.

A widening glow of pink in the east, and the landscape softly folds its twilight curtains; the silver ground fogs in the little hollows melt into the larger atmosphere. A swelling chug-chugging up the country road from an early motor car, followed by a farmer's noisy truck, shifts the night of dreams to the day of work. The bird chorus dies away or blends with the ruder noises of the day. The old man hears his morning prayer and dresses to go down and hoe a few rows in the garden before breakfast.

The big boy grumbles himself awake at the whirr of the alarm clock. But at the dawn it is a dream world, the disembodied spirit of this same world, whose corporate body we touch at high noon.

BIRD PROTECTION.

[Hamilton Times.] Within the past few years bird protection has become a live question in Canada and in the United States. The needless slaughter of the feathered tribes that was carried on for years was having its natural result; many races of birds were being exterminated. Everybody who had a gun went out to shoot and slay, and great was the slaughter thereof. Now a better sense of the value of bird life prevails, and instead of a shotgun many carry a camera with which to take snapshots of their bird friends.

THE MIDDLE TEMPLE MURDER

A Detective Story by J. S. Fletcher.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

An Old Newspaper.

As soon as Spargo unfolded the paper he saw what he wanted on the middle page, headed in two lines of big capitals. He lighted a cigar and sat down to read.

"MARKET MILCASTER QUARTER SESSIONS."

"TRIAL OF JOHN MITLAND."

"The Quarter Sessions for the borough of Market Milcaster were held on Wednesday last, October 3, 1919, in the town hall, before the recorder, Henry John Campenown, Esq., K.C., who was accompanied on the bench by the Worshipful the Mayor of Market Milcaster (Alderman Pettiford), the Vicar of Market Milcaster (the Rev. P. B. Clabberton, M.A., R.D.), Alderman Danks, J.P., Colonel Fludgate, J.P., Captain Murrill J.P., and other magistrates and gentlemen. There was a crowded attendance of the public in anticipation of the trial of John Mitland, ex-convict, charged with the murder of a fellow-townsmen whose family had for generations occupied a foremost position in the life of the borough. That fellow-townsmen was charged with the murder of a fellow-townsmen who had been a member of the bank of the town and neighborhood, including a considerable number of ladies, who manifested the greatest interest in the proceedings.

"The recorder, in charging the grand jury, said he regretted that the very pleasant and gratifying experience which had been his upon the occasion of his last two official visits to Market Milcaster—he referred to the fact that on both those occasions his friend, the Worshipful Mayor, had been able to present him with a pair of white gloves—was not to be repeated on the present occasion. It would be a great pleasure to him to have before him a fellow-townsmen whose family had for generations occupied a foremost position in the life of the borough. That fellow-townsmen was charged with the murder of a fellow-townsmen who had been a member of the bank of the town and neighborhood, including a considerable number of ladies, who manifested the greatest interest in the proceedings.

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