

The Scrap Book

A Hot-Weather Broil.

TRULY a hot weather quarrel this recent war between the pen and the city fathers of Edmonton—all over a brick of ice cream. The journal editor is quite wrathful. It seems that in Edmonton stands an institution called Happyland; surely there is nothing remarkable in that. What town in Canada to-day is minus its Elysian Happyland, or Dreamland wonderful banishers of dull care; outside a maze of coloured lights; past the doorkeeper smiling and effusive in his brass buttons the glorious strains of "Has Any One Here Seen Kelly" breaking on the ear? "All for a dime, ten cents," barks the florid proprietor. The performance is served up. You watch Jeffries floor Sam Berger, and while you are figuring out his chances with the Big Smoke, the scene abruptly changes. Exit the fighters; the fleeting pictures are now revealing the awful vicissitudes of Bertha, the Sewing-Machine Girl.

But Edmonton's Happyland, according to press descriptions, has none of these features extraordinary. It is merely a plain unvarnished booth—object to sell ice cream. Charitable mission to the parched throngs these days! For many weeks this booth has dispensed the chill confection on every day in the week. Especially on the seventh day did the cones and the sodas disappear—horrible thing! thought someone trailing home from church one Sunday morn. The city council got wind of it, there was a pow-wow, the chief of police was dispatched to the scene—and Happyland on Sunday sells no more ice cream. Exclaims the *Journal*:

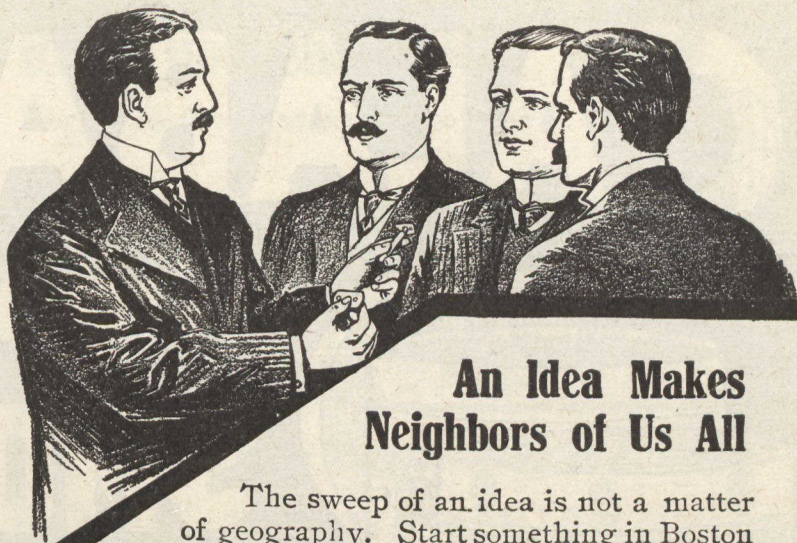
"Even in Toronto the good, where the desire to restrict the freedom of the individual runs rampant, the courts have given interpretations to the Sunday observance ordinances which prescribe ice cream as food and admit the right of dealers to sell and individuals to buy the same on Sunday."

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REPLYING to the statements of Professor Osborne, the brilliant young Manitoban who has been criticising the Church in his new book, "The Faith of a Layman," "Presbyterian Minister" writes in the *Canadian Magazine* (July):

"After eight years' experience in the ministry, the present writer is able to read Professor Osborne's indictment of the Church with a sorrowful acquiescence. It would be a difficult matter to confute the majority of his statements. There is considerable apathy among the laity, and a reflex deadness in the pulpit. The average layman will not go to prayer-meeting, will not pray or talk in devotional meetings, is careless as to Bible study, private prayer and meditation, in country districts is disgracefully stingy, and yet with all his spiritual torpor, we believe there never was a time when the church member was so human, so sincere, so generous, or so lovable as he is to-day. We prefer him infinitely to a layman of the John Milton type, holy, austere, censorious, pig-headed, or even to our sanctimonious grandfather, solemn, fervent in prayer, but not a desirable man to live with, who wouldn't even allow the dishes to be washed on the Sabbath."

"But take him all in all, the minister of to-day is a far better example in every respect than the fox-hunting parson of Wesley's time, or even the high-browed, straight-laced, long-winded zeal-of-the-land busy type, the puritanical divine who flourished in the days of the Commonwealth."



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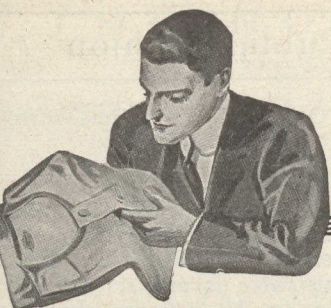
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