

THE HAMILTON TIMES

SATURDAY, NOV. 6, 1909.

WOMEN AT MEN'S WORK.

We have been accustomed to hear a great deal about the degradation of women in free-trade England, and protectionist orators have been accustomed to ring the changes on the employment of female labor there in lines usually reserved to men. The spectacle of women working in cutlery manufacturing establishments, screw works, and other like mechanical industries, has been fearfully dwelt upon and held up as an object lesson of the terrible effects of a policy of free trade. It may interest our readers, however, to know that not only in England, but in Canada and the United States are women crowding into the mechanical industries. A Chicago despatch in the New York Herald says that some of the biggest plants in that city employ women machinists, and that they are being utilized in situations that have taxed the powers of the men. It proceeds to say:

"You may see them drilling holes in plates and cutting bars of iron where the sparks fall in showers of fire all around them. They stand at the machines with collars turned down and sleeves rolled up like their hardened brothers. During the day their hands are literally saturated with machine oil and covered with iron filings, but after work you can hardly tell them from the stenographer or filing clerk of the office. Ample use of soap and towels effects a transformation not known to the members of the other sex."

As yet the native United States women seek to avoid the dirtier and heavier jobs. The wages, too, are exceedingly low. Many of these women workers among oil and soot and noise receive for their hard week's work from \$3 to \$4.20 while piece workers sometimes make from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day. It is said that probably 5,000 women are employed in Chicago machine shops, many of them being girls in their teens. Their number, too, is constantly increasing.

"They like the work," said a foreman of a department of fifty girls in a factory on the south side making hardware specialties. "You can't drive them away with a stick after they get in here and they break their necks to get a job with us. They are a bit nervous when they start out, as a rule, but they become 'broke in' quick—quicker than men. They don't loaf any, but put their minds to the work. That's why they learn the trade so quickly."

"Of course we keep them at the lightest work as far as we can. Some of them work at the punching machines, but most of them are on the saws, the bending machines and things of that sort. We hardly ever put any of them at the planing machines or lathes."

"If you want a good piece of work to come out of those big machines, though, you put women at it. There is something in her hands that makes those lumber lathers of ironwork almost talk like humans."

It is not to be doubted that women can be trained to do much of the lighter work in machine shops; but it is a pity to find them entering such industries while thousands of able-bodied men are, willingly or unwillingly, walking the streets in idleness. It appears to be a reconstruction period in our social economy. Doubtless, it will all work out right enough in the end, but old-fashioned people will not become used to it without a wrench. They will cling to the idea that if our social economy were properly adjusted there would not be hordes of men existing as parasites upon an industry, while mothers, wives and sisters were forced to desert the homes in order to earn a livelihood. And they will not readily find a solution of the problem in either free trade or protection.

THE QUESTION OF ATHLETICS.

We have recently heard so much discussion about athletic contests that the recent tabulated statement of football casualties of the year in the United States becomes of special interest at this time. A record of nine fatalities and 118 disabling injuries among notable contesting teams makes it quite plain that football as an athletic sport is not a game for weaklings, even after the "reformation" to which it has been recently subjected. Hardly have the facts been given to the public when reports of three fatalities, at West Point, N. Y., at Philadelphia, Pa., and at Kansas City, are announced. The West Point accident is followed by an intimation that for the rest of the season football will be abandoned at the Military Academy. This, however, is as a mark of respect to the memory of the cadet killed, rather than for any other reason.

Much is said for and against athletics, a good deal of it beside the real question at issue. We take our sports far too seriously. There is a laudable and healthy love of athletics; there is also an untemperate devotion to such exercises that is to be condemned. Gentlemen's contests lead to little harm; but the athletic "rough" is to be discouraged. Rarely would any serious accident mar a contest, if the proper spirit prevailed, and the players used ordinary discretion. When, however, every fine feeling and kindly consideration of one's fellows and their rights and persons are subordinated to the desire to win at all costs, then athletic contests are degraded into characterless struggles, and their moral as well as physical effects become evil. This is not to condemn athletic sports, but their abuse. The man—we use the term by courtesy—who deliberately "slugs" or sets about disabling a member of an opposing team in a severely contested game of football on other sports, does not bring discredit upon the game, but upon himself. Such fellows sometimes play football, as we know. They should get a taste of the punishment meted out by Judge Winchester, at Toronto, to a brutal lacrosse player.

That sort of remedy would have a good influence on athletic sports. The man who coolly plans such assaults should be sent to penitentiary; the player who cannot keep his temper in control in the heat of a game should never play.

As to the effect of strenuous athletic contests on the health of the young, it is to be feared that it is sometimes injurious, as excesses always are. Long distance racing probably ruins for life many youths. The strain imposed on vital organs is unnatural. Some, of course, endure it better than others; but the excess indulged in demands its toll of life. The athletic sports which may be indulged in with safety, perhaps with benefit, by one man, may cause the death or serious injury of another. Clement Dukes, physician to one of the largest schools in England, and an advocate of athletics, is a strong opponent of indiscriminate athleticism and unregulated indulgence therein. He says the exercise should be suited to the individual. There should be, he says: (1) Thorough physical examination; (2) individual apportionment of exercise based on that examination; (3) medical control over all severe exercise, so that even the physically fit shall submit to examination and proper training. Sir Clifford Albutt and Sir James Barr favor duly regulated athletic games in the schools, but insist on the importance of medical supervision and moderation.

The evils of athleticism may or may not have been exaggerated; but on one point all are agreed: excesses are to be condemned. Excesses are evil from the physical point of view; they are doubly so from the moral point of view. Play the game, young man, but be clean, manly and moderate.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

And does Doc. Hopkins think his dear old plug hat would improve by making it a mayoralty beehive?

The metering of the larger water services will be a distinct gain. In course of time the metering of all services will doubtless be brought about.

It is a terrible commentary upon the people of New York that is contained in the returns showing that 153,843 votes were cast for W. R. Hearst for mayor.

They have fitted a gyroscope to the aeroplane. Wonder if some such device could be fitted to certain Hamilton aldermen? It is said to have a steady effect.

The Hamilton Herald announces that "there is a strong feeling against Mayor McLaren." There doubtless is—under the Herald's hat. He is not a man to be bulldozed by its ravings, and that does not make its "feeling" less.

But it is very inconsistent of the Hamilton Herald to attack the School Board for paying more for a contract to a Hamilton man than to an outsider, while it is doing its best to get the city to pay more to an outside concern for power!

The British House of Commons, by a vote of 319 to 54, refuses to accept the Lords' amendments to the Irish Land bill. Unless their lordships climb down their attitude on that measure will not help them in the struggle over the budget.

A Berlin despatch hints at a movement toward an Anglo-German understanding which is believed to have the favor of the German Chancellor. How sad it would be if the enthronement of common sense should blight the hopes of the naval expansion enthusiasts!

Canada's trade commissioner in Japan notes that there is to be extensive railway building in that country next year, and suggests that Canadian steel manufacturers should have a representative on the ground. There would seem to be no reason why Canada should not share in Japan's steel purchases.

Having failed to terrify Mayor McLaren by its threats, the Herald is now exercising its bulldozing tactics upon Ald. Forth, Applethorpe and Ryan. We very much mistake these gentlemen if they can be driven into sacrificing the interests of the city by terror of the Hydro dog whip wielded by the Herald.

The Hydro-Electric municipalities will be very foolish if they offer objections to Hamilton joining the scheme for even 1,000 horse-power, with the protective clause asked. Hamilton is to be stuck for \$115,000 as a beginning for the transmission line. They are not likely to want to throw away that assistance.

An illustration of the usefulness of the Dominion Railway Commission in protecting the rights of the people is afforded by a recent Ottawa case dealt with. The city's legal representative was ready to consent to a railway entering by a level crossing. The Commission, however, held that such a crossing was undesirable, and refused to ratify the scheme. The Commission is more protection to the ratepayers than are the municipal authorities.

The case of John Stewart Kennedy, multi-millionaire, of New York, who died on Sunday last, presents two strange features. He died of whooping cough at the age of 80 years, and he left by his will \$25,000,000 in gifts to churches and charities. About \$35,000,000 will be distributed among his family, relatives and employees.

While the U. M. W. members are still conducting a strike at Glace Bay, the P. W. A. members have renewed their working agreement with the Dominion

Coal Company for two years, some classes of workers obtaining an increase of wages. This is much better than conducting a wasteful labor war. Why should not a settlement between the U. M. W. and the company be arrived at?

The delectable Herald affects to be very much exercised about the "insinuations" made by the Times about certain touters for the Hydro-Electric scheme, to which it has so diligently sought to betray the city. Let it make its mind easy. The worst the ratepayers could know of some of these men are the plain facts of their course in regard to the matter.

The man who is always ready to act never stops to think.—Dallas News.

Our Exchanges

A PENSION SYSTEM WANTED.
(Toronto Star.)

Canada has no pension system for the benefit of those who get seriously injured fooling with Cobalt stocks.

THE DEVIL WAGON.
(Life.)

"That wealthy young broker has given his motor to a well-known actress." "Yes. He says his father taught him to hitch his wagon to a star."

WILLIE'S ANSWER.
(Boston Transcript.)

Mr. Caller—Taking music lessons, are

you? I suppose you can tell me what a flat is?
Willie—Yes; it's three rooms and a bath.

MUNICIPAL HOUSEKEEPING.
(Harper's Bazar.)

Knicker—How do you manage while your wife is away?

Bocker—I get the fire department to water the plants and the police to shut the windows.

SHOOK IT UP.
(Puck.)

Mistah Johnson (anxious to please)—I didn't know dat you was gwine to hab whipped cream wid dis refreshment, Miss Jackson.

Miss Jackson (dead cold)—I didn't maself, Mistah Johnson, till you dun fell on de flo' upstairs during dat last waltz.

THE MODERN BOND.
(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

"They are unhappily married, I understand."

"Yes; they quarrel incessantly."

"Then why do they not separate?"

"Well, they have a rubber plant."

SUNDAY THOUGHTS.
(Exchange.)

The great secret of eloquence is to be in earnest.

No man knows he is honest until he has been tested.

All true greatness consists in being great in little things.

A judicious silence is better than truth spoken without charity.

Half the secret of human intercourse is to make allowance for each other.

It's good to put a bother away overnight. It straightens itself out in the morning. No man ever went to heaven



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without learning humility on this side of the grave. Life is not long, and too much of it must not pass in idle deliberation how it shall be spent.

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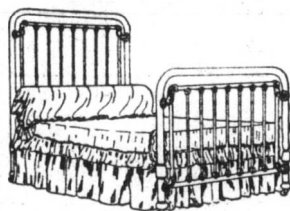
The furnishing of a home seems a tremendous undertaking to the average person. And it IS, where cash is paid in full. It means skimping and saving—depriving the family of everything but mere necessities. Our plan avoids all these hardships. It gives you immediate possession of all the furnishings you need in your home. It requires only the smallest sum at the time the purchases are made and leaves you plenty for other expenses. It requires so little to keep up the weekly or monthly payments that it cannot interfere with your other plans. It is refined and dignified credit service, wholly different and far superior to that given by any other merchants in Hamilton today. It's decidedly the most generous. No other credit plan approaches it in helpfulness. You can't, in justice to yourself, select furnishings anywhere until you've learned of the BETTER SERVICE which is given to the people by this great "nest building" institution. Step in and let's talk it over.



Chiffoniers

Made of selected solid oak and highly polished. They have five large drawers of expert cabinet work throughout and have large French beveled mirror. Price... \$22.55

Iron Beds



40 Iron Beds, with brass caps and knobs, three coats of enamel; stands 57 inches high, all sized, with mattress made of fibre and heavy thickness of cotton on both sides. "Walker's" Leader spring. Bed complete—

\$9.75



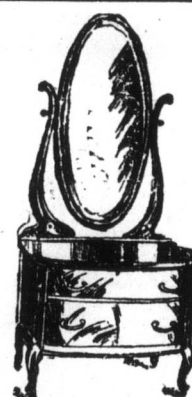
\$7.25 to \$34.50

Brass Beds



8 Brass, the best English lacquer, full size, 4x6, heavy posts and number of heavy fillers. While they last at this special price—

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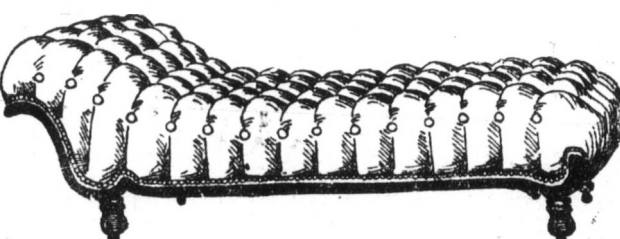
Princess Dressers

Made of selected solid oak, brilliantly polished and handsomely carved; made with full serpentine fronts and extra large oval French beveled mirrors. Can't be duplicated elsewhere. Price... \$20.95

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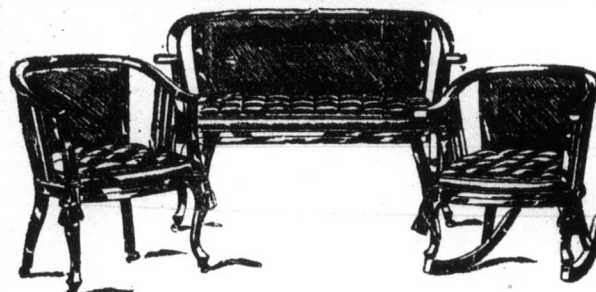
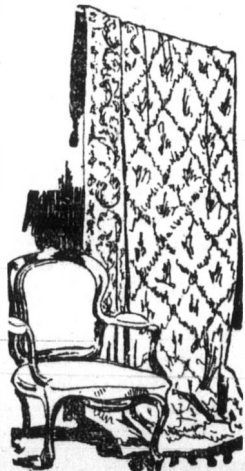


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