

THE AGENT NUISANCE

Like men in all other walks of life, those who go to make up the class that can be put in the "agent" category are composed of various temperaments, so I will not include them all in this criticism, but I'm going to go on record as claiming that a goodly share of those who follow the trade of a door-to-door salesman of anything from pins to pianos have more than the proper share of nerve, gall, or whatever you like to call it, that should be allowed any single individual. Honesty is a lost art to many of them and persistence is their slogan. Add to this impudence and resentment (when they fail to make a sale) and you have a fairly good pen picture of the make-up of these traveling gentry. There has been a regular flood of agents for some time past, due probably to the unemployment situation, and while no doubt a share of them are honest men trying to make an honest livelihood, there are others who ply the trade who by their "gall" not only frighten many housewives but give a bad name to all their fellow-agents. It is a common thing for some agents to literally force their way into a person's house when the door is opened to their knock, and many women find the easiest way to get rid of them is to buy their wares whether they want them or not. Last week saw one of these chaps who asked himself in, by a misrepresentation of giving something for nothing, and then tried to force a sale before he went out again. How often must credulous people be stung before they learn that getting something for nothing isn't in style any more? These fellows who are demonstrating somebody's goods or working their way through college may be stating the truth, and as far as it goes we can let it go at that, but when they get insulting then it's time some husky husband appeared on the scene and did a little demonstrating on how to teach manners. Many housewives are partly to blame for the existing conditions. If they would have the courage to buy only from the worthy agents, the unworthy peddlers would automatically be forced out of business through lack of patronage. These persistent fellows know that half their business is obtained from those who haven't the courage to say no.

And, by the way, if hucksters have to pay a license to enable them to do a door-to-door trade in necessities, how is it others are allowed to sell in this manner unessential at their own sweet will.—Glencoe Transcript.

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DOGS, HENS AND FLOWER BEDS

(Kingsville Reporter.) We thoroughly sympathize with the views expressed by our correspondent last week who is so unfortunate as to live near people who selfishly allow their chicken's to run at large over their neighbor's vegetable and flower gardens. No one should be deprived of the pleasure of owning chickens or dogs, provided both are kept in their place, but to us it does not look consistent to say that either should run wild. It is not worth while to compare their destructiveness for either unrestrained becomes a nuisance and a constant source of annoyance, as well as loss to those who have flower beds and gardens. Chickens destroying gardens can be stopped. The best way is to appeal to the neighbor to shut them up, and, if he is a reasonable being, he will do it and see that they are kept shut up, but if he does not, then a complaint can be lodged against him and he can be compelled to take care of his fowl and pay damages. A gentle reminder to the chickens or dog that they are not wanted in one's garden can be found in almost any home in the form of a broom stick about three feet long. When this is propelled with sufficient force at the offenders, quick results follow. This remedy is only recommended in extreme cases. We have said before, and repeat it now that dogs should not be permitted to roam the streets uncontrolled any more than should sheep or pigs. In fact a town by-law says they must not be at large unless in charge of some one, and that all must wear tags. Notwithstanding this, one can any day see a pack of half a dozen dogs cutting up all sorts of pranks on the four corners of our town, contrary to by-law. Some towns, realizing that dogs are a nuisance running at large will not allow a dog on the street. Dogs, chickens, hogs, cattle, sheep, etc., are all right in their place but that place is not on the street of any town.

FATHER WALSH ON DIVORCE

The Rev. Father Walsh a Dominican friar who recently preached a sermon at Toronto on the subject of divorce gave out some important advice on domestic problems. Race suicide, selfishness and meddling mother-in-laws were apportioned a share of the responsibility for the frequent household disasters of the day. He emphasized the doctrine of the Roman Catholic church that death alone could sever the marriage vow, a doctrine which protected women. He said that there was a wave spreading throughout the country for easy marriage and easy divorce and pointed to the case in the state of Washington where there were fourteen separate causes for which divorce could be granted. There was found one divorce for every two marriages.

The speaker strongly condemned marriages of convenience where the woman marries for a home—where she sells herself to a man and puts herself in a position as bad as that of a slave.

"One of the worst inventions of the devil is race suicide," he continued. "He who will destroy the temple of God, him will God destroy. Go down through history and find what God has done to this type of offender since the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. Marriage does not mean merely a husband and wife; it means children as well. The ideal husband and wife naturally wants them.

"Christ and our soldiers in the great war laid down their lives for mankind. The soldier is filled with love of country, parents, and home. The wife who has this type of love will choose the role of a mother rather than remain childless. The woman who truly loves her husband will make all the sacrifice necessary to make a real home," declared Father Walsh. "Mind your own business," is his advice to mother-in-laws, "if your daughter comes to you to air petty grievances against her husband send her home; your son-in-law did not marry you."

The speaker considers mother-in-laws one cause of divorce in a large number of cases where they interfere too much. The ideal Catholic woman is the one who resolves to rise above these sins of the world and decides to keep her marriage vows both in the letter and in the spirit.

"In marriage a woman either makes a man or breaks him. Which will you do. Think it over," concluded the speaker.

ABOUT SCOTCHMEN

(By F. D. Reville) A Scotchman has been defined as a man who keeps the Sabbath and everything else he can lay his hands on. Most people are aware of the Scot who remarked that London was a terrible place; he hadn't been there but a few hours before "bang went a saxepee." Then there is the story of the three Scoties who went to a church where they understood there was no collection. Finally, when ushers started round with the plates, one of them, with great presence of mind, promptly fainted and the other two carried him out. And that other Scotchman who took no comfort out of his pipe because, when it was his own tobacco he worried over the expense, and when it was borrowed tobacco the bowl was packed so tight that it "wadna draw." Likewise there is the narrative that at a wedding the best man, noticing that the groom looked worried, exclaimed "What's the matter Donald? Has ye lost the ring?" "Naw" replied Donald, "but I've lost ma enthusiasm." The expense of the manoeuvre was evidently what bothered him. Of the Scotchman and the Irishman who went into a bar for a drink and came out without having one because the Emerald Islander had left his money at home, we all know, and also that gulls will not follow a Scotch ship.

Many other stories are told in like regard but they are all libels.

Of course, when a Scotchman does loosen up he performs the thing in proper style. Just look at Carnegie who has literally cast libraries around the world in volumes.

There is this also to be said for Sandy. Some men when they put a band in their pocket and find money there know that they must have another man's trousers on. A son of Scotia always has some bawbees to come and go on.

The bagpipes are known as the national instrument but in reality that weapon of woe was used by the ancient Hebrews as well as the ancient Greeks and by many other subsequent nations who, in turn, cast them into the discard when real instruments commenced to develop. Shakespeare in his Macbeth does not even mention the pipes, unless the exclamation of the second witch "I'll give thee a wind" had remote reference to them. It may thus be safely inferred that the land of the heather hadn't appropriated the concentrated anguish in the days of the Bard of Avon. In the time of mutual cattle raiding when Scots foraged from the Lowlands, a man often got the idea that the bag of the pipes of some other Scot had been formed from the skin of one of his missing animals. This feeling together with the alleged music, led to frenzies which constituted what is now known as the highland fling. In reality as the gravelly substance called haggis is to the self respecting tummy so also is the skirl of the pipes to the self respecting musical mind.

After all is said Canada owes much of her greatness to Scotchmen and they are well able to stand all the fun that is made of them by humorists.

THE DOG

I've never known a dog to wag His tail in glee he didn't feel. Nor quit his old-time friend to tag At some more influential heel. The yellowest cur I ever knew Was, to the boy who loved him, true.

I've never known a dog to show Half-way devotion to a friend, To seek a kinder man to know Or richer, but until the end The humblest dog I ever knew Was, to the man who loved him, true.

I've never known a dog to fake Affection for a present gain, A false display of love to make Some little favor to attain.

I've never known a Prince or Spot That seemed to be what he was not. But I have known a dog to fight With all his might to shield a friend And, whether wrong or whether right To stick to him until the end.

And I have known a dog to lick The hand of him that men would kick. And I have known a dog to bear Starvation's pangs from day to day With him who had been glad to share His bread and meat along the way. No dog however mean or rude Is guilty of ingratitude.

The dog is listed with the dumb, No voice has he to speak his creed. His messages to humans come By faithful conduct and by deed.

He shows, as seldom mortals do, A high ideal of being true.

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TED NEWTON WINS GOLD MEDAL

Competing against the pick of the collegiates and high schools of Western Ontario in Brantford Friday Ted Newton of Sarnia collegiate institute, carried off the gold medal and trophy in the finals of the oratorical contest of the Western Ontario secondary schools association. George B. Woods of Listowel, won the silver medal for second prize. The Sarnia student spoke on Peace, the same subject that won for him over the Petrolia high school representatives here last week.

Six speakers from different parts of Western Ontario, the survivors in the different district competitions, met in Brantford in the finals. Besides the winner and runner up Fred Minkley of Woodstock, G. Flahill of Paris, Milton Meretsky of Windsor, and Arch. T. Kendall of Dutton took part in the competition.

The Sarnia speaker's intimate knowledge of his subject, his clear cut, forceful manner of putting his facts before the audience and his eloquence won for him the gold medal which he retains, and the school shield presented by the Canada Club of London, which is held by the Sarnia collegiate for a year, until the next winner is declared.

The judges were W. B. Race, principal of the Ontario School for the Blind, and W. G. Raymond, M. P., of Brantford, and Prof. H. W. Audeh of the Western University, London.

The winner is a son of Rev. F. G. Newton, rector of St. Johns Anglican church, Sarnia. He is one of the foremost athletes at the local collegiate as well as active in the different branches of school activities. He was born in Warwick Village when his father was rector of Warwick and Wisbeach.

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