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THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1923.

Putting It On Real Thick.

Conservatives of Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto tendered a dinner to Hon. Arthur Meighen on Wednesday night. The Ottawa correspondent of the Mail and Empire felt, of course, that he should do something out of the ordinary about it, so by way of an advance notice he brought out the fact that above all else Mr. Meighen desires to "subordinate partisanship to a calm, dispassionate, constructive analysis of the grave problems which confront the country."

A little farther on we come to more of the "grave problems," as follows: "Experienced in administration, with a full, comprehensive realization of the grave issues before the country, he has been willing to sacrifice party for country."

Is it possible that there are two Mr. Meighens at Ottawa? Is the Mail and Empire referring to the man who right at the very start of this parliament, in 1922, arranged to have his deskmate move an amendment of a most trivial sort, with the idea of defeating the King government? Is he the leader who sought in his between-session speeches to embarrass the government as much as possible in its handling of Canada's position on the Near East question? Can this be the man who threw slurs at Sir Henry Thornton when he was trying to get the Canadian National Railways in a position where they would take less money from the people of Canada?

If Mr. Meighen's work has been of a constructive sort, it has not appeared on the surface. Mr. Meighen is a smasher, no doubt a keen and a capable critic, but the qualities of constructive suggestion are not to be numbered in his goods or chattels.

It was the lack of constructive leadership that caused his following in the House of Commons to be reduced from 120 to 50 in the last election. Mr. Meighen is a good debater, a relentless critic, and well versed in the rules of parliament. But he is not constructive, neither has he arrived at the stage where he seeks the good of the country even at the expense of his party.

The Mail and Empire, in spreading its political bread, generally uses a knife. This time, a knife not being handy, it reached for the first thing it could get, and landed on a trowel.

The Obstructionists at Toronto.

The province of Ontario wants redistribution. The government has promised that it shall be given, and has named a very fair way for the carrying out of the work in order that the members elected to the Ontario Legislature shall fairly represent the people of the province.

The Conservative group in the legislature is determined that there shall not be redistribution. Col. J. A. Currie, letter snatcher, contributed four hours to the obstruction. He was followed by W. H. Price of Parkdale. These two Conservatives burned up four hours with addresses, the logic and reason of which could have been easily written on a postage stamp.

If the time is so ruinously wasted that there can be no redistribution brought down, the blame for the plot will be placed just where it belongs, right at the door of the Conservative leader.

The Very Large Farm a Loser.

There seems to be a certain fairly well fixed point at which a farm becomes too large to be profitable. Mr. Robert Forke, leader of the Progressive party at Ottawa, stated to The Advertiser some weeks ago, when discussing this point, that some of the trouble in the west was due to too large farms. The owner found that he had to buy a lot of machinery and hire a great deal of help. In this way he built up a large overhead expense that it was very hard to control, and in times of poor crops very hard to curtail.

The same thing can be applied to Ontario. The question was put to Prof. A. Leitch of the O. A. C. at the hearing of the committee on agricultural conditions at Ottawa. His answer to the query is interesting:

"In businesses other than farming, the larger the business the lower the cost of producing the goods, up to a certain point. That is true in every business, but that point is reached in farming long before it is in other businesses. The reason is that you cannot hire for money the care and service that the average farmer and his family render for themselves. If it were possible to take half a township in Ontario and combine it into one big farm, there is not a man in the world with brains enough to run it."

There have been numerous attempts at farming on a big scale in Ontario, and more particularly in the west. For the most part they have not been successful. The western farm that is going to succeed will be fashioned more on the line of the Ontario farm. It will be of such a size that the work is more within the compass of the farmer and the members of his family, and perhaps one hired man. It will be more of the mixed farming sort than specializing in grain. It will produce more of the things that the farmer needs in order to live well, and if one crop is a failure he will not be cleaned out for the year.

Prof. Leitch is on pretty safe ground when he swings the whip on the jumbo-size farm. He can probably bring a good many facts and figures and actual cases to prove his contention.

Walks Were Made to Walk Over.

We have with us again the people who persist in cutting over the corners of lawns, running down embankments, and doing all the damage of which their feet are capable.

One thing of which London can be proud is its appearance in summer. Lawns are well kept, flower beds, shrubs, etc., grow in profusion. There is not a person in the city who does not enjoy these things. They are a pleasure to those who walk past and look at them, and they are an inspiration to others to go out and see what can be done.

Just at this season it is possible to undo a lot of the damage that has been done. A fine lawn can be seriously injured by cutting it when the ground is soft. Corners can be a bare because it is two or three steps farther to the walk.

Thoughtlessness accounts for it. No person would

intentionally damage the property of a citizen who is trying to keep his place in good shape.

And this is courtesy week, too. So, as the little painted signs on the grass say, "Please."

Vote of the People Made the O. T. A.

Mr. J. M. Donahue, of London, announces that he will be a candidate in the forthcoming provincial contest, and that the reason for his appearance at the polls will be to urge the reform of the Ontario Temperance Act.

Mr. Donahue states that he is not a "wet" candidate, but would favor the open sale of beer, with other liquors under government control. So if Mr. Donahue is not a wet, he can hardly claim to be a dry.

In announcing his decision to run on the basis of "reforming the O. T. A.," Mr. Donahue is quite within his rights.

Voters are also quite within their rights if they refuse to vote for him.

No government has any right to seriously alter or amend the O. T. A. It was brought into effect and force because the people voted for it. The only body or court competent to amend that act is the vote of the people.

Changed His Mind Too Soon.

Philip Orien, aged 20, was accused in a New York court of theft. While the jury was out the prisoner changed his plea, from "Not guilty" to "Guilty," being sure that the jury would find him so.

In order to test the mind of the jury, the judge in the case asked each juror and found that the prisoner would have been acquitted had he held his peace.

Not a very comfortable thing to think about, is it? One can hardly hold back the question as to how many other cases there are of a similar nature. This man was guilty, but according to the evidence as brought out in court the jury was convinced that he was innocent.

There probably always will be such cases, but the public faith in court is not shaken, because such cases are very much the exception rather than the rule.

Sugar Prices Were Manipulated.

The Massachusetts commission on the necessities of life has handed out a report on sugar prices. It has found there is no sugar shortage, nor is there likely to be one.

The recent rise in price is declared to have been due to manipulation in the New York Sugar Exchange.

The old story of supply and demand has been found to have nothing to do with the situation. This story is generally told for the purpose of keeping people quiet while some grafter operates on their pocket.

Canadians who have been paying through the nose for sugar will have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that they have been paying tribute to manipulators situated at New York.

Meanwhile U. S. officials have not done the one thing that would end the gouging of the public, viz., lift the tariff and flood the country with sugar.

The big stick that is supposed to be swung on price-raising combines seems to be made of green cheese.

Note and Comment.

The short skirt has gone, and with it a lot of object lessons of the danger of learning to walk too soon.

Oh, boy! Eighty-two in the shade at Calgary. And just to think we're buying coal from that country now.

A preacher north of here has been presented with a vacuum cleaner. So he will surely be able to dust off the sinners in his district now.

Horse meat is being sold in Berlin for ten cents a pound. The regrettable feature is that the ex-kaiser moved out before they came to this diet.

List of animals in a bankrupt circus places the giraffe at \$3,000 and an elephant at \$1,700. Having lots of neck pays in the animal world just the same as any place else.

Pittsburg steel mill paid \$500,000 for armament that the U. S. government paid \$8,000,000 for. That was not turning swords into pruning hooks; it was turning armament into a loss.

If Hon. Howard Ferguson wants some planks for his platform he should apply to some of the political favorites to whom he dished up timber limits in the northern part of the province.

Danish moving picture stars announces that the custom of wearing wedding rings in Europe is becoming obsolete. Why under the sun can't they cart over a movie star from Europe who will talk about something sane, wholesome and decent?

LEARNING MORE ABOUT BIRDS.

Some birds mate for life. Jack Miner tells us that if a wild goose will lose a mate, the remaining one will wait and pine away for months afterwards. Other birds will lose a mate and have another within a few hours afterwards. Jack Miner of Kingsville, Ontario, banded four ducks in the summer of 1912. One was shot shortly afterwards in the lake. The other three returned to Kingsville again in 1913. In 1914 only two returned. They again returned in 1915 and 1916, but Uncle Jack says one got its head a little too far forward and got the end of its bill shot off. He took particular care of this wounded duck. The bill healed up, and the duck has remained with Uncle Jack ever since. The other duck returned to Kingsville every year up to 1918, or for seven consecutive summers. Jack Miner has banded hundreds of ducks and geese since then, and besides putting his name and address on the tag, he now incloses a verse of Scripture, and he says anyone who shoots his birds gets the blame of Scripture, whether he heads it or not. Mr. Miner says that he now gets the credit of being the first white man to use the fowls of the air to carry the Gospel message to the far north where missionaries cannot go.

On April 11th, 1922, a buff-head duck, sometimes called a butter-bell, was caught in a fish net in Branch Fort, New York. This bird was banded and given its freedom. On April 17th, 1922, six days later, this same little duck was again found entangled in a fish net, but this time below the water's surface and drowned in the Georgian Bay, near Collingwood, Ont., about 500 miles distant from where it was banded six days before. Mr. H. S. Oiler, of Toronto, banded a blue-winged teal on September 24th. Two months and seven days later it was killed by a hunter in the island of Trinidad, off the coast of Venezuela, South America. The flight made by this bird in those 67 days was close on to 3,000 miles. This may seem a remarkable flight, but less marvellous than that of the Arctic tern or the American golden plover that breed in the northern part of North America and migrate to the southern part of South America during our winter.

DIBS AND DABS

—BY HARRY MOYER



"The Ten Books I Have Most Enjoyed"

Today's installment of this interesting feature gives the mental autobiography of one of the most celebrated women writers. For decades Anna Katharine Green, in private life, Mrs. Charles Rohlfes—has had a following equalled by that of few authors of our period. Famous mystery stories written by her include "The Leavenworth Case," "The Step On the Stair," "The Mystery of the Hasty Arrow," "The Millionaire Baby," and "The Filigree Ball." In addition to the present contribution, The Ten Books I Have Most Enjoyed has presented the selections of the following since publication of the series started exclusively in The Advertiser a week ago: William Allen White, Irvin S. Cobb, Gertrude Atherton, William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Dreiser, Cass Gilbert, William S. Hart, Hendrik Van Loon, Gilda Gray. Today's choice follows: "Pilgrim's Progress" (Bunyan), "Little Robinson Crusoe of Paris" (by a forgotten author), Shakespeare, "Les Misérables" (Hugo), "History of Ancient and Modern Literature" (Schlegel), "The Three Musketeers" (Dumas), "The Cloister and the Hearth" (Reade), "A Tale of Two Cities" (Dickens). The list must remain a blank. The Bible.

GROWING OLD

By ANNE CAMPBELL. Is growing old like this, I wonder? This happiness in quiet things; This willingness to stop and ponder Upon the joys that living brings. This thankfulness for warmer weather; This walking slower as we go; This worry when we're not together; This heart, so steady now, and slow.

Is growing old like this, I wonder? This fondness for the printed word? This waning zest for worlds out yonder. This love for tales and songs we've heard? This joy in home and children's laughter; This sense of tranquil brotherhood; This hope of life to follow after? It is? Then growing old is good! (Copyright, North American Newspaper Alliance, 1923.)

Caught. The village postman, being an inveterate gossip, could never resist reading the postcards, entrusted to him to deliver, and then communicating the news thus gained to others.

The doctor was much bothered by this, and one day, in writing to a friend, whence it was collected and taken to the postoffice and sent out for delivery. The postman stamped up to the house with the card and knocked at the door.

To the surprise of the good lady who opened the door the postman handed her a postcard and exclaimed angrily: "He's a liar! I don't read 'em!"

Always Walking. Lady—Why did you become a tramp? Hercules—The doctor's fault, mum. He told me to take long walks after meals, and I've been walking after 'em ever since.

Your Health

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN YOU GET SOAKING WET. By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M.D., United States Senator from New York, Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.

This is the time of year when it rains on occasions. You are bound to get wet once in a while. Some folks worry every time this happens, for fear they will take cold. The same folks are afraid of fresh air, and especially currents of air. They wear skull-caps and night-caps. They are scared if they feel a draft. They are afraid of wet feet. They think they must begin to snuffle and sneeze after the least exposure. I sometimes think this speedy effect is psychic, but it exists and must be considered.

Getting wet is a common experience. I do not approve of going out with the deliberate intention of getting wet, but clean water never hurt anybody. It really makes no difference whether it is taken internally or applied externally, either intentionally or inadvertently. No one need worry over a good wetting. There is nothing harmful about wet clothes. The danger comes from living in damp garments for hours with consequent chilling of the body. If you get wet, go on briskly with your work or walk. So long as you are exercising, so long as your heart is doing its full duty, you are just as safe as you would be in the surf or lake.

Everybody knows it is unpleasant and unsafe to stay too long in the water. Likewise, if you are in wet clothes too long, you get the same physical ill-effects. There must be proper reaction after such exposure in order to ward off possible danger. Go home, rub yourself vigorously with a rough towel, clothe your body in dry garments, and you are just as safe and will be as invigorated as if you had had a dip in the surf at Atlantic City.

Make sure that your hair is thoroughly dry, and especially that your stockings are free from moisture. The extremities, for some reason or other, are more sensitive than the body. Don't stay indoors because it rains. Put on your rubbers and walk forth in raincoat or under your umbrella. Let your skin rejoice in the moisture it will receive. It softens its texture and cleanses its pores.

In England and Scotland nobody pays the slightest attention to the weather. Shoes and clothing are made with reference to whatever may come. Of course, you will not be foolish about it and stay in your wet shoes and garments. Every business man and woman should have suitable clothing at the business place, so that proper change can be made. If you follow this rule you will rejoice in the experience of getting wet and will suffer no ill-effects.

ANSWERS TO HEALTH QUESTIONS.

MARGIE. Q.—Kindly tell me whether it is all right for first cousins to marry. A.—Statistics seem to show that where first cousins marry one out of four or six children may be affected, even if slightly. These marriages are not very fruitful as a rule.

G. E. F. Q.—My baby 2 years old, is very fond of apples. I have been giving them to her peeled and cored but I have been told this will harm her. Will you please advise me? A.—It is best to give a very young child steamed fruit. Give her the apples baked soft or as apple sauce part of the time and the raw apples less often.

M. E. Q.—Will you please tell me what to do for a foul breath? A.—This condition may be due to constipation, indigestion, nasal catarrh, decayed teeth or diseased tonsils. An examination by your physician is necessary to find the cause of the trouble. After the cause has been found he will prescribe the proper treatment.

J. N. R. Q.—What is the cause of sore spots appearing on the inside of