

MR. F. E. O'FLYNN GIVES HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CALIFORNIA

To the Editor of the Ontario. It is a great treat to receive regularly by mail your interesting paper and it keeps me in close touch with our "Home Town."

When I read your splendid Editorials and the many graphic descriptions of California sent you by your correspondent — I hesitate to write feeling it is with difficulty for me to add anything of interest and yet having promised I feel I should do my best to fulfill the promise.

This is the first of a series and I will endeavour to give you an idea of some of the many things I am privileged to enjoy:

"It is good for a man to take his lass

In the shade of the wise and ancient trees To lie by a stream that has danced along

Since the world began with its right and wrong.

And spend some time with the constant things.

That have outlived Empires and Crowns and Kings.

"It is good for a man when the spring comes back

To get away from the beaten track To quit the hurry and fret and grind

Of the daily tasks, and rest his mind In the fields and woods where the air is clean

And ponder a while on what has been."

It was something like the idea expressed by Edgar A. Guest in the lines I have quoted that induced me to leave our beautiful "City of the Bay" and seek the land of continual spring and flowers on the shores of the Pacific ocean, in the State of California, and escape the rigors of our Canadian winter.

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We were reminded occasionally of bygone years when gold was discovered in California in 1849 and so many persons made the same journey across the great Rions Mountains and Plains with saddle horses emigrant wagons and ox carts.

We thought of the differences in the method of travel the privations endured and the time necessary to make the journey then and now, and it gave us some idea how far this western world has made progress in seventy years.

Then it took many months and sometimes more than a year to make the journey, now it could be made in four days. Then the traveller had to undergo the greatest of hardships, now one could take the journey surrounded by every luxury and comfort, then a large number failed to reach their destination and died on the way, now, every traveller was carried forward to the end of the journey in safety.

While we were crossing the great deserts, vast uplands, and arid wastes it was easier to understand why so many in those early years died during the journey and it is a great tribute to the energy and activity of the Anglo-Saxon that so many reached their goal.

The many stories I have heard and read of the great perils from flood, fire, lack of water and disease these early pioneers passed through not only became possible but also probable.

It is not surprising that California is so great a State that one remembers that it was founded by such a sturdy race and brains, where once it was a land of forest, mountains and unproductive plains,

market day to give us a "merry send off" with many good wishes which not only created a "warm glow" in our hearts but has continued to give us pleasure through our trip.

Our Journey from Belleville to Chicago on the International Limited and from Chicago on the Southern Santa Fe Route to Los Angeles was one of great pleasure and comfort. The forests have been displaced by fruit trees and groves, the mountains have been overcome by graded and paved roads and the arid plains have been brought under cultivation by irrigation and are now covered with orchards of oranges, lemons and other citrus fruits, interspersed with alfalfa fields and gardens of vegetables and flowers.

We had a splendid opportunity to compare the great cities through which we passed — the agricultural condition of the different States and the varied personalities of the residents of the districts through which we passed.

Everywhere there was evidence of great energy and activity and these coupled with the great natural resources of the country explains the wonderful growth of this great republic.

The people believe in their country and value their liberties and when they arrive at the conclusion that anything stands in the way of its progress they at once proceed to get rid of it.

One of the best illustrations of this is their method of dealing with the great question of temperance and the zeal and thoroughness with which they grapple with the enforcement of prohibition has already shown splendid results.

We have been two months in this country and have not seen one drunken man during that time nor have we seen one under the influence of liquor so that as soon as we noticed it is admitted by the vast majority of the people that the country and people have been greatly benefited by prohibition.

I have found a kindly people extending a welcome to the Canadian and displaying a courtesy that I have not found surpassed in the different countries I have already visited.

Although there are many things to admire here there are many reasons why I would prefer the Province of Ontario to the State of California as a home.

F. E. O'FLYNN.

BRIDGES OF BAMBOO

Natives of Java Erect Unique Structures

The natives of Java have a bridge-building technique which utilizes to the limit their slight resources for work of this character. Of raw materials they are acquainted with but two, and one of these is really a product of their own ingenuity.

They have no nails, no iron, no true wood; they are forced to rely entirely upon bamboo for the structural parts, and upon a rope of their own manufacture to effect the junctures.

The span is almost 150 feet, and the width of the roadway some four feet. The bamboo columns at either side of the stream are built up of a double length of from fifty to sixty bamboos, tied up with rope and firmly pressed together by forcing a quantity of wedges between rope and bamboos. Such columns are found to be of remarkable strength and elasticity.

The original element which the Javan natives have brought to the construction of these bridges, as remarked, is the rope. This is made of a fibre taken from the native arec-palm, which grows all over the island.

It makes a rope that resists effectively the heavy "decaying" action of the hot and damp tropical climate with its legions of fungi; in fact, it lasts for many years without any indications of rotting. So between this rope and the bamboo the natives are able to achieve a semi-permanent structure for which it would be hard to find a peer on the ground of cheapness and durability. Perhaps the most surprising feature of the whole thing is the degree to which has been approximated the best type of bridge arch. How does an ignorant savage know that a bridge ought not to be built perfectly flat?

A FAITHFUL CAT FRIEND

Some people contend that a cat has no intelligence, such, for instance, as a dog sometimes displays; that it has no instinct beyond mousing; no affection except overt love inspired by appetite; that it is selfish, lazy and greedy, an ungrateful creature to its friends and a nuisance to the neighborhood. Such people have never learned the real nature of a cat.

As a matter of fact, "Tommy" or "Tabby" has character, intelligence, patience and real, genuine affection equal to that of Carlo or Teddy. Feline instinct is developed to a high degree, sometimes uncanny, and numerous are the stories the ages have produced, since Bast of Egypt controlled a dynasty thirty centuries ago.

One of the best of the revelations of Tabby's intelligence, has been vouchered for by the criminal records of France, which relate to the sensational identification of a murderer by the victim's pet cat.

In the early half of the last century there dwelt in one of the suburbs of the city of Lyons an old maiden lady, relic of the "ancient regime," which had been supplanted by the followers of the French Revolution.

This ancient dame, still known as the "Countess," lived alone in a small cottage, her only companion being a large white Angora cat. It was known, however, that as a list relic of her former grandeur she possessed a handsome necklace composed of diamonds and emeralds, which she had managed to save from the wreck of her estate, and which had been a family heirloom for a couple of centuries.

One morning, however, the pair failed to take their daily stroll to the butcher's and the baker's, nor did they make their appearance during the entire day.

Thinking perhaps the little old neighbor was ill, a kindly disposed couple called at her home. Receiving no response to his knock, and finding the door locked, he secured the aid of a neighbor and entered the house through a window.

Then to the horror of the investigators they found the body of the Countess stretched full length on the floor, with her throat cut from ear to ear.

On the top of a near-by dresser was the white Angora, her fur bristling, while she emitted low growls as she viewed the neighbors examining the body of her mistress.

Every effort to induce Tabby to leave her place was unavailing. She refused all food and consolation, but grimly sat the death watch over her murdered mistress.

Then the great French detective landed in his dragnet a couple of villains who were missing from Paris at the time of the murder, and in accordance with police methods of that day, the suspects were brought to view the remains of the victim.

Chosen by Booth to be Missionary

Large family. He refused to give his own name or any additional information regarding who he thought the victim to be.

Religion is the romance of Scotland," said Principal Fairbairn, one of Scotland's distinguished sons. Religion and romance have been wonderfully blended in the interesting career of Brigadier Jessie McEwan, Women's Side Officer, of the Salvation Army Training College.

Miss McEwan was born at Dundee, the city by the sea famed for jute and marmalade. Her home was of the old-fashioned Scottish type, in the days when it was risky even to smile on the Sabbath. After enlisting in the Salvation Army she was for nine years a Field Officer in the old country, commanding some of the larger corps and supervising cadet garrisons. Then at a large gathering in Bolton, conducted by the late General Booth, she was called upon to pray. Almost at once came the unexpected inquiry, "The General would like to know whether you will go abroad." A non-committal reply was given — "I must go home and pray about that." Then she told the General she was "ready to go anywhere."

Trained Dutch Women. South Africa was Brigadier McEwan's first overseas destination, where she was engaged in training Dutch women-cadets. Later she was in charge of the training garrison and corps at Johannesburg. On the outbreak of the Boer War, President Kruger ordered her out of the country. After being conveyed to the border she had to leave the train and tramp for miles, carrying her baggage to the British lines — the railway experiences also included work as a Pioneer Officer at Bulawayo, Rhodesia.

The United States was Brigadier McEwan's next field. Six years at the Chicago Training Garrison was followed by several years in New York, Detroit and New Orleans, occupied in work among women prisoners in American goals; travelling over a vast territory to visit the many penal institutions.

A chat with Brigadier McEwan is genuine education. Her familiarity with life in widely-different climates, and her knowledge of human nature in its darkest phases, all regarded from the standpoint of one whose dominant aim throughout has been to help, makes her story as it comes from her own lips fascinating and instructive to a rare degree.

Death Leap to Icy Ottawa in View of Crowd

Unknown Disappears in Swirling Waters Leaving Blue Cap as Only Clue

Ottawa, Mar. 8. — In plain view of a large number of pedestrians crossing Chaudiers Bridge an unknown man committed suicide by jumping into the icy waters of the Ottawa River shortly before eight o'clock Thursday night. Nothing could be done to prevent his rash act as no one was near enough at the time to grab him.

His body immediately disappeared in the rushing water and has not been recovered. He first struck the icy banks of the river and then rolled into the water.

Mr. Louis Perrier, watchman at the Hull yards of J. R. Booth Co., was the nearest onlooker. He noticed a well-dressed man, of about middle age, crawling over the iron rail along the sidewalk at the fourth end of the bridge. The man seemed to pull his body over the rail with his hands. Tumbling over, he hit the ice about 35 feet below, and then rolled into the water. The rushing stream immediately carried him out of sight. Mr. Perrier said that the victim did not appear to be intoxicated.

He yelled to "Billy" Swanson, an employee of Dominion Bridge Co., to notify the police, and in a short time several constables were on the scene. The man's cap had fallen from his head and was found by the police on the ice below. It had no marks about it that would help to identify the owner. The cap is a blue one with fur ear flaps.

One onlooker said he believed the man lived in Hull, and had a

FOUND UNCONSCIOUS ON SWIFT'S DOCK

Mystery Surrounds Case of Ben Segel, News Agent

Kingston, Mar. 8. — Ben Segel, the well known news-agent, was found unconscious Saturday morning at Swift's wharf by some men

Plants Can See, Touch and Taste

Plants possess at least three senses — sight, touch and taste. Though their manner of expressing their emotions is very modest, they are far from being inert. A very brief microscopic study of their life shows that they possess a sentient existence which, though less perfect than that of the higher animals, in some cases is equal to the sentient life of the polyps and sponges.

Sight is the best developed of the vegetable senses. By this sense the plant perceives the light, though it does not distinguish objects. The earth worm the coral insect and the oyster enjoy about the same amount of sight; they have no localized visual organ, but they perceive the difference between light and darkness. When a ray of light reaches them they contract under the stimulus.

The influence of light is clearly shown by the plant kept in a room where there is only one window; the plant is eager to get the light that it crosses its stems and turns its leaves broadside to the window. This action has led students of the plants to say that plants are "heliotropic." Physiologists say that the plant bends toward the light because the side in-darkness grows faster than the other side. The simplest explanation is that the plant perceives the light and that it shows that it perceives it. The stem of the plant is perceptive, its sensitiveness of perception goes as far as its root, but the root shows its perception in a different way. If the stem is heliotropic the root is negatively heliotropic. The stem shows that it perceives the light by turning toward it, the root shows that it perceives the light by turning from it. Just as persons with weak eyes turn from the light and seek the shadow when the light is strong.

A sense equally well developed in plants is that of touch. The sensitive plant is the exemplary case; the lightest touch causes it to curl its leaves and eventually it droops them toward the ground. Naturalists have explained this action by saying that a touch so influences the leaf that it drives the water to the depression in the stem and that the leaf immediately wilts for lack of internal moisture. Even if that is true, the plant is influenced by the contact of something outside itself.

When an animal is influenced in the same way the result is due to the animal's sense of touch.

The sense of taste is an endowment of plants of the lower orders, also among others. When particles of different kinds are thrown in the water among the algae, the plants make a choice at once and cling to the objects they can assimilate; and if they are capable of perceiving the savor of their ailments and of choosing certain kinds out of a mass of different kinds, they may be said to be endowed with the sense of taste. Among the higher plants the sense of taste is less common and less easily distinguished, but in many cases it is undeniably present.

If an insect is set on the leaf of one of the drosera, the tentacles of the plant fall upon the morsel at once. If a non-nutritive substance is set on the same place, the plant gives no sign of recognition. The microscope shows that the tentacles quiver as if with delight when they close on an agreeable morsel, and that the plant secretes a special sap at the moment which it does not secrete at any other time. At such times the plant is comparable to the gourmand whose mouth "waters."

Plants possess, then, the senses of sight, touch and taste. They have given no evidence of other senses, but some branches of the algae sensibly have two microscopic organs which may be called granules which move incessantly. The two organs are remarkably like the organs of hearing of mollusks, worms and other low forms of animal life. The creatures of the vegetable world have a remarkable sense of direction in space. If a root growing vertically is set in the earth horizontally, it begins at once to turn the end of its root toward the centre of the earth.

Drunk Was Helpless, Carried to Cell

Lindsay, Mar. 8. — It was like history repeating itself and a reversion to old time conditions when men reeled and staggered on our streets intoxicated, to see two men barely able to keep their balance stagger out of a hotel yard supporting a comrade in distress. The merry trio had not proceeded very far when Constable Conquerood and Constable Parkes here in sight and took the paralyzed one in charge, literally carrying him to the lockup.

Friday morning, before the Magistrate, the man denied any knowledge of the affair, or any possession of liquor. He claimed that the little bit of liquor he had at home had been given him by a local doctor for the flu, but his claim was quashed by the doctor's testimony that he hadn't attended the man in the last two years.

The court, decidedly unimpressed by the man's attitude, imposed a fine of \$16.70, the leniency, the Magistrate explained, being on account of the man's wife and children.

Train Graduates for Teaching

HON. MR. GRANT MAKES NEW ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNIVERSITIES

All Graduates in Arts Entitled to Take Course

Toronto, Mar. 8. — Arrangements have been completed by Hon. R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, with the authorities of the University of Toronto, Queen's University, McMaster University, and the University of London, which, it is hoped,

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IN HIS MAJESTY'S SURROGATE COURT OF THE COUNTY OF HASTINGS

In the Matter of the Estate of George Nelson Britnell, late of the Township of Thurlow in the County of Hastings, Farmer, deceased.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Trustee Act, Sec. 54, Chap. 121 R.S.O. 1914 that all persons having claims against the estate of the said George Nelson Britnell, who died on or about the 21st day of December A.D. 1918 are requested to send by post a statement of their claims to the undersigned solicitor for the Executors of the estate on or before the 1st day of April A.D. 1920, their names, addresses, and descriptions and a full statement of particulars of their claims and the nature of the securities held thereon, having regard only to the claims of which they shall have notice.

Dated this 1st day of March A.D. 1920.

C. Mikel, 28 Bridge St., E. Belleville, Ont. Solicitor for Alexander Moore and Daniel Poucher, Executors. m4-47w



THE proper glasses bring a new dawn to the benighted eyes that have lost their powers of perfect focusing accommodation. Our optometrist is skilled in the science of examining eyes and will prescribe the lenses that we make to cure your eye troubles.

ANGUS McFEE OPTOMETRIST MFG. OPTICIAN

National Monument

In Honor of SIR WILFRID LAURIER

Subscriptions Received at the Ontario Office

All those desirous of subscribing to the fund to erect a suitable National Monument at Ottawa to the great Liberal Leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, may leave their contributions at The Daily Ontario office, 168 Front Street, where subscription lists have been opened for the convenience of those in the Belleville and Bay of Quinte Districts.

Any amount, from 10 cents to \$5 will be gladly received. No subscription larger than \$5 will be accepted from any one individual.

Lists will finally close on Wed., March 17th, 1920.

These subscriptions are being taken up all over Canada and it is hoped by March 17th to reach the objective of \$100,000. The campaign opened on Dec. 17th last and a large part of the desired amount is already in hand.

It is to be hoped that the many ardent admirers of the Great Chief in the community about Belleville will record their admiration in this practical manner. Parties who so desire may send their subscriptions direct to Mr. H. H. Horsely, P.O. Box 540, Ottawa, Ont.

ENGLISH MARROWFAT PEAS

for boiling

1 lb. . . . . 20c

2 lb. . . . . 35c

CHARLES E. BISHOP AND SON 192 Front St. Phone 283

Money

PRIVATE MONEY TO LOAN ON Mortgages on farm and city property, at lowest rates of interest, on terms to suit borrowers. F. P. WALLBRIDGE, Barrister, Etc. Cor. Front & Bridge Sts. Belleville (Over Dominion Bank)

G. H. Kingsley, Auctioneer, Crystal Hotel, phone 324. Farm and Household Sales a Specialty. 129-wit.

WYBRALECK & ABBOTT, Barristers, etc. Offices Robertson Block Front Street, Belleville. Post Office. F. E. Pralick. A. Abbott.