## Current Comment

The Cigarmakers' Union has a great beneficial system. The union handled $1,[illegible] last year. To sick members it paid $127,000. To widows and orphans paid $139,000. To members out of work it paid $13,500. There are about [illegible] members of this union who pay 50 cents a week per member to keep going. In the last twenty years it has paid out over $5,000,000 in benefits to members. If a cigarmaker wants to go to some city to find employment, and is temporarily embarrassed, the union lends him $20 to pay his way, which must be paid back in instalments to the secretary of the Cigarmakers' Union in the city where he deposits his card and goes to work. There are few unions among the cigarmakers. There hasn't been a convention since 1896 in 8 years. All questions of importance are settled by a majority vote.

✦ ✦

A member of the Women's Label League says: I just thought it would be interesting to our trade unionist friends to know that we are still alive and doing very nicely. Slow, perhaps, but sure, as there are some of our members who are interested in their work; but we are anxious for more. I would like to impress on the union men to tell their wives more than they do about agitating for label goods, so that they will become interested in the work and join us. I might say our league sent two delegates to the international convention recently held at Niagara Falls—Mrs. Dorsin as delegate, and Mrs. J. Gardner as fraternal delegate. The news from the convention was very interesting. One fact was that they have twenty-seven applied members in good standing, but I'm sorry to say that the great majority of them are on the other side of the imaginary line. If we had such a good showing in Canada, there would soon be a change in the demand for the label. The work we are doing is worthy of support, and I would like to see every trade unionist's wife in Toronto do the same. Now I think I have taken enough space in your paper this time, but would like one word more, and that is the W.T.U. L.L. are holding a picnic in High Park on the hill on Saturday, July 16, and would invite all friends and intending members to be present and enjoy themselves.

✦ ✦

The Venerable Archdeacon Eyre, the vicar of Sheffield, delivered recently at that town a remarkable address. The first fact which those who had divided for tied bed to face, he said, was that they were in the minority. He was not such a fool as not to know that for as many men as were gathered in the church before him, there were ten times the number worshipping their own throats, drinking, drinking, drinking. He had seen some of them coming out of public houses. Having "boozed up" in the very last moment, and looking precious sons as they were turned into the street. He did not speak of the working-classes only. The upper classes were undermined with filth; every man stealing or coveting his neighbor's wife. It was one of the most foul things in the life of the nation. "I should suggest missions to the rich and educated," said the preacher. "Why spend so much on boys' clubs, etc., when the conversion of twenty great ground landlords would make London a happy city, with no slums, and where hooliganism could not exist!"

✦ ✦

British railways during 1900 made a profit of forty-two millions, of which fourteen millions went for labor, and the other twenty-eight millions for interest.

✦ ✦

Over £14,000 has been contributed to the Victorian coal miners on strike by the Northern Colliery Employes' Federation of N.S.W.

✦ ✦

The president of the N.S.W. Arbitration Court has ruled that local unions cannot compel members to pay strike levies, as under the Arbitration Act strikes are forbidden in N.S.W. But there was nothing, said the president, to prevent men contributing voluntarily to any strike fund.

✦ ✦

Dr. J. M. Peebles, just returned from New Zealand, says:

"I have to say, without the least mental reservation, that New Zealand is the most prosperous country I have ever seen. It is the most liberal-minded, fraternal-spirited, thrifty and advanced country in the world. I say it with all due admiration and patriotic love for my native New England.

"The New Zealand Government owns all the unsettled lands; hence there are no great land syndicates.

"The unimproved lands of landowners are taxed. The Government loans money to actual settlers at a low rate of interest to assist them in their beginnings.

"The state-owned railroads, telegraph, telephones, etc., I unhesitatingly affirm, are at least fifty years ahead of those of the United States and England.

"Though gifted with searching eyes, not a tramp did I see in the whole country; not a beggar's voice did I hear; nor did I witness in village, town or city any poor, unemployed, sad-faced souls pleading for work to keep away the wolf of poverty."

✦ ✦

Hugh Robinson assisted in organizing the Bookbinders while he was in Quebec. The printing trades are now all in line there, as the typos and pressmen are already organized.

✦ ✦

The "Sparrow," lately secretary-treasurer of the National Congress, is now Montreal correspondent of the Labor Gazette. He and a few more of his compatriots were only in the movement looking for Government jobs, so the boys say, and when they come into their reward the national movement will be a thing of the past.

✦ ✦

The trials of an organizer will likely be the title of a book to be written by Hugh Robinson when he returns from his eastern trip. A special chapter will no doubt be devoted to the Province of Quebec, where they see an organizer coming and attempt to make of him a poor Samaritan by fleecing him of his small change for hall rents. Hughy tells the story of a hold-up to the tune of $20 for a small hall for one night, in his best style, in a letter to Mr. George Sangster, of this city. Hell and damnation is not strong enough to deter the ordinary agitator from his purpose, and Hughy, in the face of the opposition, did good work in the home of the so-called "Nationals" movement. He and Bro. Arson, of the Carpenters, stormed the citadel and got a couple of unions for the international movement. Thus the good work goes on.

✦ ✦

Talk happiness. The world is sad enough
Without your woes. No path is wholly rough;
Look for the places that are smooth and clear,
And speak of these, to rest the weary ear
Of earth, so hurt by one continuous strain
Of human discontent and grief and pain.

✦ ✦

Supplying the women and children of the union miners in the Cripple Creek district with provisions and taking care of deported men are serious problems before the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners at the present time.

✦ ✦

While at Denver, Col., recently, W. D. Mahon, of the street railway employes, urged the Western Federation of Miners to affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America and be in touch with the affiliated organizations of the A. F. of L. Mr. Mahon had the pleasure of being present at the consolidation of the two Denver trades councils into one body, which means the unpleasant bickerings will be at an end.

✦ ✦

John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers, may look to his laurels. In Pennsylvania the mine workers have their Mitchell day, which they celebrate with parades, music, picnics and great pomp. William B. Wilson is the general secretary of the United Mine Workers, and is John's right hand man behind the scenes at the Indianapolis headquarters. The miners at Avoca, Pa., had a Wilson day, with thousands in the parade, banners, bands, floats and a great hullabaloo, after which they remember their officers and overwhelm them.

✦ ✦

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TORONTO


## Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

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### HER SEASON.

Fair as the breaking of the dawn,
Graceful as a fawn,
Modest, yet wise,
With downcast eyes,
A blushing cheek
Meek
Demure,
Pure
As the winter snow
And so
Cunning you can't resist her.
Say, winter,
Do you guess?
Yes!
Of course you do.
Who
Could mistake the June bride
All wool and a yard wide?
All wool, of course, in figuratively speaking.
Were we seeking
The exact truth we would say
Lawn, muslin and pique
Soft, fluffy, light as air,
The stuff that angels wear,
With sunshine spun.
And well may she bring one.
Adapt their style of dress.
As we go to press
We see no reason why
Rhyme should not. Money cannot buy
We are free to aver,
Anything too good for her.
She holds the center of the stage;
It's all the rage.
And well deserves to be.
But, let's see.
What of the June bridegroom?
Is there no room
For him?
Yes, in some corner dim
He sits subdued,
In passive mood
Knowing that he has to pay
A poor second, and that he may
Be thankful, though it jars his pride,
To be the groom of the June bride.

### Found the Cause.

Mabel was sad. She mused and meditated, but existence refused to scintillate in the roseate realm of tridescent rays, but remained dull, dank and desolate. Life seemed like an endless, boundless prune orchard.

She paced painfully up and down her apartment with impatient No. 6 feet, pausing a moment to look through the polished pane at the wabbly passers on the wet, weird street below.

"It is dark and dreary as my life," she said, flinging herself into a chair and giving her feelings a chance to take a few physical culture exercises. "Why am I so heart weary tonight?" she propounded to herself as civil service question No. 1. "I haven't eaten but three quarts of strawberries and a dozen doughnuts and should feel light hearted."

Involuntarily her fingers strayed to the lower edge of her chair. They touched something and her whole face lighted up. It was her chewing gum. As a needy widow with sixteen children flies to the county poor agent it glided to her face. Her jaws grasped the treasure, and contentment was written in six inch letters from the toe of her boot to the Grecian coil of her top hair.

### Ready Made.

She smiled so sweetly on the lad.
He thought she loved him and was glad.
He did not know the artful lass
Used drug store smiles as firm as glass.
That on her face, bright, young and fair,
The smile so sweet was frozen there.

### Blissful Ignorance.

"Do you think a man should tell his wife everything he does?"

"Certainly not. It should be his business to make her happy."

### Simple.

"What is good for a sick horse?"

"Medicine, I should think."

### PERT PARAGRAPHS.

The reformer who is ahead of his time and the foreigner who tries to speak English the first week after his arrival are both apt to be misunderstood.

Put a dollar in a balloon and it will go farther than if you put it in the bank.

Some men who pride themselves on their honesty would not hesitate to rob a slot machine.

A dog talks with his tail, but luckily he is not able to sing with that appendage.

When a man wishes he had taken his wife's advice he is careful not to let her know.

Man is unlike woman in that he does not parade his new hat around for the admiration of his companions. He is afraid they would ask him to buy the drinks on it.

A patriot is one who bleeds for his country; not one who bleeds his country.

If necessity is the mother of invention, we will soon have flying machines to help us keep out of the way of automobiles.

When in time of strife a crowd of politicians steps in to save their party it is always safe to guess that they save it for themselves.

## Humor and Philosophy

By DUNCAN M. SMITH

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### PERT PARAGRAPHS.

The first time that he tries milking a man does not see why it is said that a cow "gives" milk.

A cigar in the vest pocket is worth two in the showcase.

A man packs a trunk by throwing in a tooth brush, a collar and a pair of socks.

The seasick man has but one modest desire—he wants the earth.

Time is money, but when a man goes out for a time it is money out.

A careful search of the patent office would disclose the fact that house cleaning was not invented by man.

When it is desired that a funeral should be particularly solemn, the funeral pallbearers should be professional humorists.

The woman with a trim ankle does not mind a muddy crossing.

The man who buys a girl a five cent dish of ice cream is not apt to get a second chance to treat her.

The man who has but one suit of clothes is always dressed in his best.

Knowledge that you inherit may be all right, but that which you get by hard knocks is what makes you wise.

An office boy without a grandmother can easily invent one in the baseball season.

To the Chinaman the yellow peril appears to be a horse of another color.

To the accompaniment of the minister's sermon many a new dress is planned.

It is rubbing it in on a man after the jury has sentenced him to hang to ask him if he has anything to say.

The average sailor does not take kindly to water when on shore.

### It Is Here Again.

With dragons red and pink and green,
Comes the merry-go-round.
Comes the merry-go-round.
And every little girl's a queen
On the merry-go-round.
On the merry-go-round.

It plays a lot of ragtime tunes.
Does the merry-go-round.
Does the merry-go-round.
And all the boys and girls and coons
Ride the merry-go-round.
Ride the merry-go-round.
It takes in nickels by the peck.
And every child is now on deck.
For the merry-go-round.
For the merry-go-round.

### Fits the Description.

"What is meant by nature's nobleman?"

"A tramp, I guess. Noblemen do not work, and the tramp does not and is a special patron of nature."

### Strained Relations.

"I never see you round with Brown any more, and you used to be such warm friends. What has come between you?"

"I loaned him $10."

### His Potent Charm.

He had a charm
To ward off harm.
To keep away bad luck.
Think you I was not
A horse chestnut
Or maybe some such truck?

A charm more stout
He parked about
And ill luck from it shrunk,
And in disgrace
Sinked off the place
Before that silver plunk.

### Desperate.

"Do you think ragtime is here to stay?"

"Not unless that section of the constitution guaranteeing the right to bear arms is repealed."

### Plenty of Them.

Miss Crank—Do you believe in short engagements?

Miss Blank—Certainly. You can have so many more in one year if they are short.

### A Sealing Business.

The girl said "Yes"
And so their bliss
Was signed. I guess
With one sweet kiss.
But oh, before
The night was o'er
You bet they sealed
The bliss some more.

### Charm of Widows.

"Why do men appear to prefer widows?"

"Perhaps they like to get women already broken in to tobacco smoke and swearing."

### Had Wisdom on Tap.

"How did Solomon get the reputation of being the wisest man?"

"He probably listened to the advice of his wives."


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F. J. WILSON, President. WM. BOLAND, Secretary.

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