

National game hampered and thwarted by the class of men who compose the B. P. A.—men who are known to be, not only out of touch with the Canadian game, but all Canadian sentiments and institutions. The time has come to call a halt, and I would ask all Canadians and lovers of square and manly sport, to stand together and work unitedly for those grounds to be used and regulated according to the wishes of the City Council, who voted money for the grounds in the interest of athletics, and not allow the National game to be made the milch cow to supply sustenance for obsolete sports."

Thus the wordy warfare continues. The Canadians display a lamentable lack of respect for the superiority of their English "brethren."

The Lexow committee, investigating the manner of conducting the municipal government of New York City, has revealed a fearful condition of affairs. The criminal courts and police department have been found to be corrupt, even to the degree of shocking New Yorkers themselves. The manner in which elections are conducted was instanced in a statement made by Mr. Goff, the chief counsel in the Lexow Committee investigation. Mr. Goff said: "I have information which I can in the proper time put in the shape of sworn evidence that 1,500 vagrants were within a comparatively recent period picked up and sent to the Island, and of these 1,500, 800 vagrants have been released from the Island within a comparatively short period solely upon the recommendation of a clerk in the employ of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, with no judicial review. The police justices have made these revocations of their sentences without authority of law, simply by the recommendation of a clerk in the department; 800 discharges have taken place from institutions from Blackwell's Island within a very recent period."

A correspondent, commenting on the announcement made in this paper in "Music and the Drama" department, to the effect that professional musicians would in the future refrain from singing or playing at concerts free, says: "There is no doubt a plethora of concerts and entertainments in Victoria, and one result of this move will be the raising of the standard of excellence of these entertainments, or they will not be given at all, for the public will not patronize second or third rate affairs. The admission should be raised, and the public could then depend on getting value for their money."

It is difficult to understand why musicians should be expected to give their services free at concerts which are gotten

up for speculative purposes, or benevolence, for that matter. Surely the professional is worthy of his hire. Who would ever think of asking a newspaper to publish a free advertisement or notice of a concert!

The inspector of fruit pests is to be congratulated upon the diligence which he is displaying in dealing with the pests with which considerable quantities of American fruit placed on this market is infected. He has done good service in stopping large quantities of apples infected with the codlin moth, and I trust that in every way his hands will be strengthened in carrying out the provisions of the Inspection Act.

The *Manitoba Free Press* is anxious concerning the fate of the old Fort Garry gateway. In speaking of the different schemes suggested for preserving the historic relic, the *Free Press* says that nothing has yet been accomplished. "Meanwhile," it continues, "the patient old gate, like the proverbial patience on a monument, stands waiting for protection or rejuvenation. The time-worn structure has been sadly racked by wind and weather. Another year of neglect, and all that will remain of this interesting relic of Winnipeg's early days will be a pile of mortar and crumbling stone. By the time the mortar and stone have been washed by rain into a white ground patch, some historian or antiquarian will be opening a subscription list to build a monument on the site of this ancient landmark. Should the future subscribers anathematize this generation, their wrath will be righteous. The collapse of what rests between two supports is not unexpected; but the fate of what looks to any of three guardians for protection may be yet more disastrous. It is not unnatural to expect that the Hudson's Bay Company would take some steps to preserve the old gateway from complete ruin. Nevertheless, every year sees the brick-work seamed with deeper crevices, and the ancient frame work bowed further away from the right angle. The Historical Society evinced considerable anxiety to save the old gateway from ignominious dissolution; but their laudable efforts were not successful. The citizens have never been backward in subscribing and working for any worthy purpose; but they do not seem sufficiently interested in this milestone of early provincial history, or it may be they are too busy making material for future histories, to take much thought of this needy gateway. It is well to foster patriotism; and every historic mark is an object lesson for patriotic sentiment. It is well, too, that a country provide herself with historical monuments to verify book histories. In

coming years, when Winnipeg is Canada's Chicago, if this old gateway goes to ruin, the neglect of the present will then be a matter of deep regret. Who should come to the rescue? There are many well informed old settlers who could act as rescuers; and any one earnestly going about the preservation of the gate could surely obtain the co-operation of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Historical Society and the citizens." By all means, save the Fort Garry gateway, even if Winnipeg never becomes Canada's Chicago.

Many people will remember Mrs. Cy. Robinson (Ella Damaris) the sourette of the Belmour-Gray stock company, who played a somewhat lengthy engagement at the old Imperial theatre, three years ago. Many others will also remember Harry Ripley, the character man of the Carra-Morris combination. Ripley and Mrs. Robinson were in Cordray's stock company at Portland, and the former fell in love with the latter, and *vice versa*. When Cordray's closed Harry went to Spokane and Mrs. Robinson said she was going to visit her parents in Illinois. She went to Spokane to live with Ripley. Sometime since Robinson secured an engagement at a Spokane house. He supposed his wife in Illinois. She was with Ripley. It coming to their ears that Robinson was to "play" a Spokane house the pair left that city. When Robinson discovered his wife's perfidy he sent for and forgave her. Ripley could not give her up. He returned to Spokane and pleaded with the woman to again flee with him to Kalispell, Montana. She declined and Ripley suicided—by the morphine route. Ripley left two notes on his table. One was enclosed in an envelope, addressed "Left." It reads:

"Good-by, Hal; all debts will be paid by J. C. Ripley, Hartford, Conn., manager J. H. Eckhardt company; wire him."

The other letter was unaddressed and read:

"May God bless you, Tige, and good night, and there's more in that than will reach the eye—you bet. HAL."

Mrs. Robinson is not an attractive woman further than her bright conversational powers and vivaciousness are concerned. Robinson is an easy-going fellow—as is evidenced by his willingness to forgive and forget. He even forgave Ripley, and the two were apparent friends. And such is the condition of society in certain localities on the Pacific Coast.

The idea of the institutional church seems to be growing in the east. In some of the larger cities, there are churches with reading rooms, employment bureaus, soup kitchens and various other appli-