

The Evening Times and Star

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WANTED—A CLOSE SEASON FOR BOYS

About every other day a boy has been reported shot by some companion in the hunting field in one corner or another of New Brunswick; and it is not a particularly good year for boys at that. That is to say, the woods are not exactly full of them, an assertion that will be fortified by a glance at the census returns.

But even if we had so many boys that we could afford to use them up in target practice, it would still be shocking to look over the record of the last week or two. New Brunswickers are supposed to know about as much about a gun as any people in the world, man for man, because they come of a pioneering race which used to be accustomed to the handling of firearms as a part of the business of the day.

We argue from the casualties of the last two weeks either that the boys are less sensible than they used to be, or that the parents, uncles, big brothers, guides, philosophers and friends of the boy of this generation are not so wise as they were thirty years ago.

Nearly every boy wants to carry a gun before he can safely be entrusted with it. Nearly every boy wants to go into the woods before he has sense enough to know that he must not shoot every time something moves behind a bush, and that he must not look into the muzzle of a gun to make sure that nothing is coming out of that end in a hurry. So it falls to the lot of the average parent, or uncle, or whoever is in loco parentis, to get the boy and the gun together and go through a little preliminary target practice, and a little sensible schooling, with the idea of cheating the coroner and the undertaker of some portion of their fat harvest.

Often it is better for the parent to wear plate armor during the preliminary sessions, but, by loading with powder alone for a day or two, and gradually teaching the boy that three and one-half drams of powder is an explosive more dangerous than a fire-cracker, and that it actually pains a neighbor's boy and the whole community to fill the aforesaid boy full of a duck shot at point blank range, the parent will succeed in gradually establishing certain basic rules which tend toward safety.

There is an old saying that a gun is dangerous without lock, stock, or barrel, and there is a whole lot of truth in that. Crown men are responsible for most of the accidents, not only because they actually bring about some, but because of the gross carelessness and ignorance which they exhibit in handling firearms in the presence of others. When a man goes off into the woods alone and shoots himself up in some secluded portion of the forest, the incident is sad, but at least it has this cheerful aspect, that he did not shoot one of his neighbors or enable them to point to him ever afterwards as a man who had shot somebody else "in a moment of weakness."

If we are going to continue to be a gunning people, we must take the small boy in hand, and teach him that the butt of a gun is not the end which exhibits the funny-looking little round hole. Along with gun knowledge there must be inculcated some sense of ordinarily decent sportsmanship. Some of our methods of hunting deer, moose, and even birds, are a shame to a savage people. Let no man think these are trifling matters. A first class sportsman comes pretty near to being a good all-round man. And it is a great thing to get that into the busy head of the small boy before he gets out of the stage of receptivity.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES What the people of Canada do not know about the people of China would fill a very big book. We are to have soon in St. John a great meeting in connection with the laymen's missionary movement, and it will be well if at that time Sir Andrew Fraser and some of his colleagues succeed in bringing the people of this city into closer touch with actual conditions in the foreign lands to which our missionaries go. Also, we have some doubts.

The other day some Chinese soldiers were drawn up in line and compelled to look on while the executioners beheaded a group of revolutionists who had been taken in a skirmish the day before. As a rule the Chinese have looked upon death with remarkable stoicism, and the average Chinese has been able to regard the most cold blooded atrocity without experiencing, or, at least, displaying, any emotion. But this beheading instead of strengthening the loyalty of the troops to the Manchu dynasty, produced a very different feeling. This regiment promptly went over to the rebels.

In this incident some observers discern one more sign of the change that is coming over the scene in China. We did not understand the old China; we know even less of the new. It has often been said that in English-speaking countries, and particularly in Canada and the United States, we are accustomed to think of China as peopled by a race of men just like the Chinese laundrymen we see in our cities. With few exceptions the Chinese who come to America are drawn from one or more of the greater Chinese cities, and are of the middle class. They no more represent China than a thousand Canadians all drawn from

some single walk of life here would represent Canada. China is a land of philosophers as well as of coolies. It is a thoughtful country, and it had civilizations that rose, and flourished, and tottered, and fell, before the Anglo-Saxons, or the forerunners of the Anglo-Saxon peoples, had discarded the skins of wild animals which they formerly wore on fall dress occasions.

As the average Canadian knows little about China, and is, perhaps, not over-anxious to learn more, his attitude toward Canadian missionary effort in the Far East is not the conspicuously intelligent. We hear confusing reports of the results gained by missionaries there. Of the merit of the movement, of the good coming from unselfish effort to benefit the foreigner, of the general soundness of missionary endeavor, few men entertain any doubt. But doubt does enter when we come to discuss the actual net results achieved by our missionaries during the last generation. Accounts on this point are so conflicting as to mislead and confuse the anxious seeker after truth who is too far removed from the field of events to judge by the evidence of his eyes and ears.

A service of no little value would be done if Sir Andrew Fraser and those who accompany him would, when they come to St. John, present in compact and convincing form such evidence as may be available to remove, and prevent, the doubt and confusion which so many earnest men must have encountered when they began to ask themselves about foreign missions.

Speaking of sanitary slaughter-houses, when is St. John going to take the bull by the horns and establish a modern municipal abattoir? As the melancholy Mr. Carton remarked, "It is the only way."

Hon. F. D. Monk's son having been married to a Protestant in an Anglican church, Mr. Borden will be urged again to hurry up and settle this vexed question of mixed marriages. Love is a mad way, and vexes even statesmen—particularly if they are sew to the work.

The high cost of living in Europe is giving a boom to the cause of municipal trading. Berlin is buying fish in great quantities and retailing it to the people. Seventy branch markets under municipal control are to be established, and it is proposed to sell other supplies than fish. A number of smaller German cities have already set an example, and Budapest, Hungary, is going extensively into the produce business as well as planning milk depots, abattoirs and market gardens.

The parliamentary correspondent of Le Devoir, writing of the matter of naval defence, says: "Doubtless the British admiralty, indirectly, will make its propositions of which Mr. Borden spoke in his London speech. This will be done in all probability in the course of the next Imperial Conference. The admiralty will define clearly, according to his view, the best means for us to take part in the defence of the Empire if we decide to participate. After this conference it seems to us, Mr. R. L. Borden will submit the proposals of the admiralty to the Canadian people, either at a general election or by referendum. In any case the Canadian people will give a definite verdict, and the majority will rule."

As the next Imperial Conference is not due until 1915, this is a proposal to shove the whole matter for four years. The appearance of this suggestion in Le Devoir is in itself meaningless; but it is quoted, apparently with approval, by the Toronto News. The problem, of course, cannot wait that long. It must be dealt with, and at once.

NEW CROWN FOR KING AT DURBAR

Report Says One Valued at \$325,000 is Being Made—Kohi-noor May Be In It

Calcutta, Oct. 20.—It is understood on high authority that orders have been given for the construction of a special crown for the king when he attends the Delhi durbar, and that the value is estimated to be about \$325,000. The design was prepared by a prominent firm of London jewelers, who at present have the execution of the order in hand.

Whether or not the king will decide to wear the Kohi-Noor in his crown at Delhi remains to be seen. All India knows the legend: "He who holds the Kohi-Noor holds India." Since the annexation of the Punjab, the Kohi-Noor has been one of the chief jewels of the English crown, but Queen Victoria never visited India, and King Edward's coronation durbar was held by Lord Curzon. India has thus never yet beheld the Kohi-Noor on the head of an English emperor.

At the coronation the great Indian diamond—the chief jewel of the crown of the queen, the great Star of Africa being the central ornament of the king's crown. It has been reported that the queen would wear the Kohi-Noor at the Durbar, but nothing definite is known on this point.

HORRIBLE EXAMPLE Bilgely fell off the water wagon last night with such a bump that his head aches like sixty this morning. "Did he drink whisky?" "What induced him to do that?" "He saw a moving picture of a drop of water in which bacilli were magnified 40,000 times."

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LET SOMETHING GOOD BE SAID

(James Whitcomb Riley). When over the bar of friend or foe The shadow of disgrace shall fall, instead Of words of blame, or proof of thine and so, Let something good be said.

Forget not that no fellow-being yet May fall so low but love may sit his head; Even the cheek of shame with tears is wet, If something good be said.

No generous heart may vainly turn aside In ways of sympathy; no soul so dead But may awaken strong and glorified.

At something good be said, And so I charge ye, by the thorny crown, And by the cross on which the Saviour bled, And by your own soul's hope of fair reward, Let something good be said.

IN LIGHTER VEIN



"A GOATEE."



QUITE OFTEN. Sunday School Teacher—Willie, do you know what becomes of boys who use bad language when they're playing marbles? Willie—Yes, miss. They grow up and go!

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. RHEUMATISM. BRONCHITIS. DIABETES. BACKACHE. NUMBER 23 THE PHARMACY.

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For the Fall Wedding. Our stock is thoroughly equipped with every article in Jewelry that one may wish to purchase, or the Bride delight to receive. Silverware and Cut Glass in all the essentials of a well appointed household. Diamonds of Real Merit at very moderate prices. FERGUSON & PAGE, Diamond Importers and Jewelers, 41 King Street.

PERFECT GEMS, ALL OF THEM. You will agree, when you view our collection of jewelled Rings, Brooches, Scarf Pins, Earrings, etc. There is a beauty of quality as well as one of appearance. If you plan a gift to another or to yourself, you'll do well to select here. A. & J. HAY, 76 KING ST.

Ladies' Fall Weight Walking Boots. We invite you to see our fine Calfskin Walking Boots. The soles are extra thick and the new short vamp styles and perfect fitting qualities commend these goods to ladies who dislike rubbers. Tans, \$4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50. Black, \$3.50, 4.00, 4.50.

Francis & Vaughan, 19 KING STREET.

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UNREASONABLE. Clerk—"What's the matter with your room?" Guest—"Well, if you want to know there's a ghost up there walking every night."

What do you expect him to do for \$2 a day? Cake walk.