

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1920.

PUT DOCTORS AND LAWYERS ON SALARY

When it comes to making out bills and charging us up properly for their services the physicians of Belleville are an aggregation of pliers. They will do a lot of work for us, in taking soundings, and temperature statistics, looking us over for surface indications, leaving a good assortment of white and pink tablets and two or more eight-ounce bottles of fluid and tendering us a few reams of advice that we seldom follow and then, after the lapse of two or three months, send us a bill for some such pittance as two or three dollars!

Out at Chicago they are proposing to do things on a somewhat more reasonable scale. The Chicago doctors think the laborer is worthy of his hire. A committee of physicians has submitted a list of charges to the Chicago Medical Society that looks as if the asscupians of that city were not underestimating the value of their own time.

Under the new schedule, we are told that house visits will cost during the day as high as \$15. The old fee was \$5. Night visits will run from \$10 to \$50. Minor operations, formerly listed at \$25 to \$50, will range from \$100 to \$500. Amputation of toes, formerly costing \$15 to \$50, will run from \$50 to \$200. Major operations such as the removal of an appendix, will be charged anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

That scale of charges will make of sickness a luxury. And that is as it should be. The Anglo-Saxon race has too long enjoyed poor health.

Prices for surgical operations and medical attendance have been altogether too low. Cheapness has made sickness fashionable. The man or woman who has not been deprived of tonsils or appendix, or some other excommunicable part of the body, is a curiosity and not, strictly speaking, in the set. Detailed descriptions of the operations and the marvelous recoveries are now the recognised means of entertaining one's friends.

The Ontario has long been of the opinion that in the matters of health and sickness we wise Canadians place the cart in front of the horse.

We pay the doctors, not for showing us how to keep well, but for curing us when we get sick.

The Chinese, much older in civilisation and wiser than we are, pay the physicians nothing for attendance while they are sick but pay him fees as long as he keeps them well.

Doctors, we maintain, should be paid for keeping people in good health, not for palliating pain after a man has broken natural laws, either through ignorance or through deliberate wrongdoing.

Similarly the business of a lawyer should be towards conciliation and not in the direction of damage suits.

Justice should be automatic. As it is, justice is more costly than the removal of appendices. One-half of the money obtained from damage suits goes to the lawyer. Strife, war, hate, loss of time and diversion from useful occupation follow in the wake of the attorney.

Litigation is war and war is exactly what one General Sherman said it was.

There was a time when lawyers were employed by the state and were not allowed to take fees from litigants. Nominally they are attaches of the court still but they now collect their own fees.

What Ontario should do is to retain the good and valuable services which doctors and lawyers have to give. And this can only be done by making them attaches of the state and putting them on salary.

Doctors would then find it in their interest to destroy their present business. That is to say their duty would be to keep people well and show them how to banish the demons of disease.

Every lawyer should be a conciliator. He should thrive through diffusing justice, harmony, peace, good-will and love and not through distributing their opposites, like the termagant woman distributing the dust and dirt and bacteria by violently agitating a broom.

We should make it easier for the lawyers to do what is right by making it for their interest to do so, and exactly the same thing applies to doctors. We should fix the doctor's ideal on health, happiness and usefulness and take his gaze off the warts, tumors and inflamed appendices.

People who live rightly are well and keep well. The doctor, with his special knowledge, should show us how to keep well. This he would do if his livelihood depended upon our health and not our disabilities.

This line of thought has been suggested by reading the report in Saturday's Ontario of the address given before the Board of Education by Miss Alice Sinclair. Miss Sinclair, who

has been engaged for a number of years in community and welfare work in New York and Boston, has been secured by our school board, not for the purpose of looking after our children who are sick, but for the purpose of keeping our children well.

Some people have looked upon this work of hygienic supervision as a sort of frill. The Ontario regards it as one of the wisest and most useful departures the Board has ever made.

Miss Sinclair, in her report, tells of finding 72 per cent. of the children in our schools with defective teeth and 10 per cent. with dirty hands. And she discovered many cases of itchy and other contagious skin diseases as well as a number of individuals suffering from badly enlarged or diseased tonsils, and from adenoids and other afflictions that not only affect the children's health but seriously retard their progress at school.

The high percentage of children with bad teeth is a subject for serious concern. We are only beginning to appreciate, because of recent scientific findings, how important the health of the teeth is in the preservation of the general health.

The Bowmanville Statesman, brings this out in the course of an illuminative article in its issue of last Thursday.

Probably no recent development has proven of greater benefit to humanity at large than the disease-preventive discoveries of modern dentistry in eliminating disease, brightening the mentality of the dull and bringing greater enjoyment and length of life to a large number of individuals. Dental inspection and dental clinics were introduced in all the schools of a municipality when initial inspection showed a deplorable condition, with little or no real knowledge of dental hygiene. The mouth conditions were very bad, with disease germs freely circulating. So the dentists started to work and amazing results were shown in a remarkably short time. In five years, decay in some 15,000 children's teeth was reduced to a third. The death rate from diphtheria, scarlet fever, and measles was reduced 70 per cent; and when the influenza epidemic raged some eighteen months ago, the death rate was the lowest. So much for the disease-preventive feature. The effect upon the intellect of a large number of children was even more remarkable. Children who failed to pass examinations were cut down by half; and more than 50 per cent. of the cost of re-education was saved. This is the actual experience in one centre, where accurate records were kept of the work; and gives a pretty fair idea of the actual working out in all centres that have tried modern dental inspection coupled with intelligent practice.

Miss Sinclair's appointment and the work she has done and is doing are along the lines of commonsense. Physicians should be asked to work along the same lines. A start has already been made in the appointment of Dr. Clinton as medical health officer. All doctors should be placed on the same plane of service. All should be medical health officers. The work of doctoring is now a monopoly, by authority of the provincial government. Why not place it on the same plane as the work of the teaching profession and the civil service?

Miss Sinclair, by instruction and advice, can do more than half-a-dozen nurses working the other way about. That is to say, Miss Sinclair's counsel and teaching will, by way of prevention, render unnecessary the nursing of half-a-dozen and probably many more children who would be sick, were it not for her work. The old maxim, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is pretty near the truth. The maxim makes the ratio one to sixteen.

Would it not be even so with our physicians? Would not one physician working might and main to prevent disease and keep people well be worth sixteen physicians endeavoring to get us out of trouble after we become sick?

We believe the experiment is well worth trying.

TIN CANS AND BURDOCKS

The first object in the formation of a new Chamber of Commerce is not the creation of a bigger Belleville but the evolution of a better Belleville. The theory of the Chamberies is that if Belleville becomes better the growth will follow, just as effect follows cause.

By a better Belleville we mean a more beautiful Belleville.

Beauty requires, not only that we cut burdocks, remove tin cans and paint the woodwork of our houses once every four years, but that we look well after law enforcement, cultivate a sound civic spirit, give our young people a first-class opportunity to make good morally and educationally, have plenty of clean sports

and amusements and a city, generally where there is fullness, richness and wholesomeness of life.

It is not much harder to do things right than it is to do things wrong, once you get the habit.

Right doing is a source of continuous satisfaction. It brings results. It pays dividends. Like virtue, it is its own reward.

In Belleville we have been doing many things right. We have been doing many things in an indifferent or haphazard way. Other things we have done in a way that is absolutely wrong.

We wish to talk today about tin cans and burdocks.

Tin cans and burdocks are enormously powerful. They make or unmake cities. That is to say their absence makes cities. Their power is in the main, of the destructive. They mar beauty, destroy efficiency and impede progress.

The burdock, in the season of bloom, has about it a sort of rugged beauty. But few there are who cultivate it to enjoy its beauty. Its bitter juice is said to possess great tonic properties for those in need of a bracer. But opposed to those excellent characteristics it may be said that the burdock is too obsequious. It sticks too closely. Its familiarity awakens our contempt.

Therefore when things become too commonplace, such as burdocks, mud, dirt, bad whiskey and influenza, we first endure, then pity, then try to get rid of them—or should do so.

Tin cans also have their uses. They enable the Canners to combine to geth 30c for five cents' worth of green corn, green peas or ripe tomatoes. They also look very pretty, with their bright colors, when ranged along the shelves of the grocery store.

But tin cans, emptied of their contents have little to recommend them. They are sometimes useful to tie to a dog's tail or to the rear of an automobile, containing a newly wedded couple. But, generally speaking, they are not beautiful and serve only to collect rain-water where flies and mosquitoes may rear their numerous families. And flies and mosquitoes are said to harbor about their persons the other kind of bugs that produce typhoid and malaria in the human race.

The corporation of the City of Belleville owns many vacant lots. There are also many vacant lots held (for a rise) by estimable citizens.

The present use or purpose of those vacant lots is to grow burdocks and to afford a convenient dumping-ground for has-been tin cans.

The Ontario would like to see some of those vacant lots devoted to a different purpose.

Aside from the mayor, who is the most important man in our city council?

Some would answer, the chairman of the executive, some the chairman of public works and others, the chairman of industries. In our own humble opinion, the most important man in the council, for the year 1920, is, or should be, the chairman of parks.

Properly backed up by the council, the chairman of parks has it in his power to make of this city a place that will be known far and wide for its beauty. The cost of bringing about such a result will be comparatively trifling.

In the following paragraphs we will briefly outline a few of the things we would like to see done, things that are thoroughly practical for us to do.

In the first place, we should more carefully look after the parks we have.

Victoria park and Panter's park have been growing good crops of hay for several years past. But these places were not set apart for the purpose of raising forage for cattle. The idea was to provide a convenient place where people might go for rest and refreshment in the hot weather.

Victoria park has, over a considerable part of its surface, sunk below the level of the bay. This surface should be raised by further filling. There will be plenty of material that may be dumped there conveniently from the excavations for the paving about to take place. It will cost a little more to have the refuse drawn there and dumped but the result would amply justify the small expense. It is necessary to be done.

Panter's park should be re-levelled, rolled and regularly mowed all through the growing season. It should also be extended to the south until it reaches the Canadian National railway. The present dump, that marks the southern terminus of the park, looks like destruction gone to seed. It is bad advertising. Would it not also be a good idea to change the name of the park to Riverside?

The small park below No. 1 fire station has never been restored to its former condition since the assault made upon its beauty by the construction of the railways. This coming spring the surface should be entirely levelled again, the flower-beds restored and the green-sward extended to include the railway embankment.

In a series of articles last fall, The Ontario called attention to the conditions of melancholy ugliness surrounding our pumping station and our gas plant. There are ample opportunities in both places to create an environment beautiful such as we would delight in exhibiting to strangers. Give the men in charge of each place the means and the encouragement to go ahead and they will do the rest.

At the pumping station, the useless and dilapidated coal shed should be removed and sold. The ground should be levelled along the railway, the bay shore and on the lawn to the south. Bushes should be cut away and grass, flowers and shrubbery introduced. The unsightly transformer stand should be cased in and painted. Here again the cost would be trifling compared with the results achieved.

At the gas works, there is an opportunity to create a miniature park in the vacant lot along Pinnacle street. The open ditch with its foul odors and disgusting filth should also be covered over.

Our public utilities and public buildings should be show places. They are what impress strangers for or against us. Who would want to take a visitor, either to our pumping station or to our gas plant, with surroundings as they are at present?

The Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways should also be approached to see if they cannot be induced to make improvements in the grounds about the union passenger station. The present weed-grown area is bad advertising, both for the railway corporations and the city. The tidiness maintained around the Grand Trunk station is in pleasing contrast.

Park reservations should at once be made in several other parts of the city. There is, for instance, for a park in West Belleville in the vicinity of Holloway St. Church or on Yeomans street. The vacant land will soon all be built upon and then reservation will be much more expensive and difficult.

The same applies to Coleman's flats and several sections of East Belleville.

These do not necessarily need to be large in size but there should be a number of breathing places and an occasional reservation large enough for the boys to play ball upon.

A few odd angles and corners should be laid out, here and there, to grass and shrubbery and seats provided. They form a much appreciated convenience in the summer season to tired wayfarers and to mothers and young children in need of fresh air.

We have briefly outlined a program that will make the chairman of parks a busy man this coming season, if he rises to the occasion, as we hope and believe he will do.

We would also like to see the Forum committee of the Chamber of Commerce take these matters up at once. We are now nearing the season when the fancy of the people lightly turns to thoughts of spades, garden-rakes, seed catalogues and springing flowers. It is the psychological season to press the campaign against tin cans and burdocks, to press the campaign for a more beautiful Belleville.

The moral support as well as the pertinent suggestions coming from the 380 influential men who compose the membership of the Chamber of Commerce will do much to strengthen the hands of the chairman of parks in carrying out a comprehensive scheme of improvements. The chairman should insist on having an adequate appropriation for his work from the council.

In addition to what has been suggested, a series of prizes might be offered in the various wards or subdivisions for the best kept lawns, most presentable street fronts and best vegetable and flower gardens, work in every case to be done by the property holder, thus excluding the plutes and workers-by-proxy from competition.

For we should try to encourage each individual citizen to get this beautiful Belleville idea into his system, to make it a personal crusade, so to speak. Then by team-work and the all-together pull we can make of our city a fairer place that will attract the beauty-loving stranger from afar and hold him here, once we get him.

A large immigration into Canada from Poland is expected this year. The Poles are good farmers, and if they are not settled on the colony plan they should speedily become good Canadians.

OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS

CHEAP MOTOR FUEL.

"The manufacture in Canada with out the restrictions now imposed, of tax free industrial alcohol, may be permitted if the plans of the Canadian Research Council are carried out."

This significant statement appears in a Canadian Press despatch sent out from Ottawa a few days ago. Newspaper correspondents are well aware that the Research Council has been doing its best to induce the government to allow it to provide a cheap motor fuel for the Canadian consumer, but so far efforts have been fruitless.

Industrial alcohol has been hailed by scientific men as the motor fuel of the future, and in his annual report on the activities of the Council, the Administrative Council Chairman, Dr. A. B. McCallum, pointed out that Canada was wasting enough industrial alcohol daily to provide for all wants in the way of motor fuel.

The Research Council has made urgent representations to the government on this subject and there is a possibility, says the Canadian Press, of legislation being introduced at the coming session to remove the restrictions. The recommendations of the Council, if given statutory effect, would permit industrial alcohol to be made at any distillery or other licensed plant for that purpose.

In Canada, industrial alcohol could be produced in great quantities from the waste by-products of the lumber and pulp industries and millions of gallons are being annually burned in the form of mill waste or poured into rivers in the form of sulphite liquor from the pulp mills. — Oshawa Reformer.

CANADA'S JUST DEMAND.

Among all the peoples of the world the friendship of no one is more needed by the United States than that of our neighbors to the north, the Canadians. Their territories joins ours along 3,000 miles of border. The Canadians now number 10,000,000 and within the lives of those now living will number 50,000,000. They are now a great nation and destined to be a greater one. Closer to us in every respect than any other people, it would be a crime against the future to provide any basis for complaint. It is probably not going too far to say it is more important to have Canada's esteem than to join the league. It is thus not good statesmanship to put a sort of stigma on Canada by saying she is not good enough to sit with us on terms of full equality in the assembly of the League of Nations. To have it appear that we voted Canada's just aspiration for honorable recognition, would work a grave injury to our own country. What counts is not what the British think or the Irish think about Canadian representation but what the Canadians think. We cannot afford to have Canada out, even though they were willing to stand aside. An American sense of fairness would not find it easy to answer a Canadian friend who might say to him: "You put Cuba, Panama, Haiti, Santo Domingo, your dependencies, in the league, but you were unwilling to trust us. Why?" — New York Tribune.

A Pill That Is Prized.—There have been many pills put upon the market and pressed upon public attention, but none has endured so long or met with so much favor as Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. Wide-spread use of them has attested their great value, and they need no further advertisement than this. Having firmly established themselves in public esteem, they now rank without a peer in the list of standard vegetable preparations.

Money

PRIVATE MONEY TO LOAN ON Mortgages on farm and city property, at lowest rates of interest, on terms to suit borrowers. F. E. 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. 329-wit.

WHALECK & ABBOTT, Barristers, Etc., Office Robertson Block Front Street, Belleville, East Side. B. B. Fraeek. A. Abbott.

County and District

Oshawa Expects to Have First Week of June

CORNWALL'S NEW IN

Much Sickness Is Prevalent Among Kingston Children

Sold His Property in Carleton Place

Harry Thom has sold his fine new home at Collingwood, in the Bay of Quinte, a mile of beautiful country. It is near his birthplace and he intends to take the lessons of life from the Carleton Place. Mr. Thom has secured a plot of ground around his house and he intends to take the lessons of life from the Carleton Place. Mr. Thom has secured a plot of ground around his house and he intends to take the lessons of life from the Carleton Place.

Carnival Coming in July.

The South Ontario Agricultural Society have booked the Sheesley Shows to hold a gala week celebration Fair grounds in Oshawa on the 9 of July next. The show is one of the biggest kind on earth carrying 30 male and 20 female and 30 cars to carry their exhibit. — Oshawa Reformer.

May Have Contracted Small Pox.

B. Derbyshire a young man in Malory Row, Simcoe St. contracted smallpox. The Health authorities with their usual carefulness endeavored to source of the disease and place where it is thought to have contracted same. In the case where it is said smallpox had origin in pool room would not be surprising if a lot of health were to take action. — Oshawa Reformer.

Was Committed For Trial.

Tuesday morning the city was charged Monday with a quantity of cigarettes by the Imperial Tobacco Co. to a Kingston dealer was committed for trial. A witness stated that he had received a list of accused and has been asked a price for the goods. — Oshawa Reformer.

Cornwall's New Industry.

By a vote of 516 to 30 the owners of the town hall on Saturday carried a loan of \$40,000 to the Cornwall and Oshawa Limited. The purpose of the loan is to build a new town hall. The Cornwall and Oshawa Limited is managing direct Co.

Want Curfew Bell.

Woodstock, Feb. 26. Woodstock branch of the Council of Women are taking initiative to keep the boys of Woodstock in their homes reasonable time in the evening. The council will enforce the curfew law in the city. The council will enforce the curfew law in the city. The council will enforce the curfew law in the city.

Perth Woman Severely Burned

On Friday morning fire in the home of James Perth. Mr. Graham and Mrs. Graham were in bed, and Mrs. Graham started downstairs with a lamp. She fell and the lamp broke. She was badly burned about the head. Mr. Graham who is her assistant was badly about the hands and his face. — Oshawa Reformer.

Much Sickness Among Children

There has been an unprecedented amount of sickness in Kingston the past three weeks among children. The sickness is scarlet fever, measles, and diphtheria.