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Canadian Penitentiary Reform

Canada is fortunate in having at the head of its penitentiary system two such enlightened and sympathetic men as Gen. W. S. Hughes, superintendent of penitentiaries, and Judge A. P. Archibald, Dominion parole officer. These two men are gradually reforming the methods of handling Canadian criminals. Their annual report, which has just been issued, shows the progress which is being made in dealing with the unfortunate in Canadian prisons. Some sensible suggestions are made which should be acted upon by the authorities.

The report points out that the old idea of penitentiaries as places for punishment has long passed away. Penitentiaries are now regarded as places where criminals can be reformed as well as punished. The object of penitentiaries today is to turn out good citizens, reformed and fully qualified to take their places in the world of work. The superintendent of penitentiaries urges two things, work for the inmates, so that they will not live in idleness, and segregation of the hardened criminals from newcomers in crime. The report adds:

"If properly managed penitentiaries can change a man's character so that he will never again commit crime, they will have accomplished a very great financial saving. Far greater, however, than this will be the changing of a life from sorrow, failure and distress to one of happiness, success and usefulness. Such reformation will add largely to the material wealth, but will add largely to the moral greatness of our country. All this may be accomplished in our penitentiaries if they be given sufficient Government work and segregation. To greater incentive could be desired than the moral reformation and material wealth possible if this be done. The work be furnished by the Government, the penitentiaries can easily be made self-sustaining and the cost paid to the inmates for their labor as well."

Another proposal is that more care should be taken in looking after discharged prisoners. Judge Archibald makes the following recommendation, which is concurred in by Gen. Hughes:

"There should be a parole officer employed in each prison area whose duties would be to become fully acquainted with every inmate in the institution; to make a full and exhaustive inquiry into each case, not only of the inmate himself, but of his record, habits, associations, environment and life in general in the community in which he lived, thus arriving as nearly as possible at the reason for his downfall. It would also be the duty of these officers to get fully in touch with the employers of labor in the district and seek out situations suitable for those to be paroled. They should also visit as often as possible the paroled men and receive reports from employers and the parole officer should have authority to cancel any parole and return the man to the penitentiary on receipt of an adverse report from the area parole officer, after investigation."

Gen. Hughes, in commenting on these proposals, says that there should be an honest attempt made to assist the inmates on discharge. They go out into the world feeling anxious and discouraged as to their future. Then is the time they require a helping hand, moral support and a friend. Work should be provided for them and an interest taken in them until they become re-established in society. Gen. Hughes adds:

"A man's conduct may be improved in prison, but you will not know how he will act when at liberty. Therefore, all inmates on discharge should be guided and assisted so long as they require a sympathetic hand. The parole officer in the community, which will assist, encourage and strengthen them in resisting temptation, they will seldom reform. They must not only be prevented from returning to their former courses, but helped and directed into better ones."

Reforms in Civil Service Act

The Dominion Government has introduced a bill which will take from the civil service commission some of its powers in regard to appointments and promotions in the civil service. The bill proposes to remove from the commission power to appoint three classes of employees—manual laborers, postmasters, whose remuneration in whole or in part is a percentage of receipts of their offices, and professional, scientific and technical officers.

The Free Press believes in and has supported the abolition of patronage. Patronage, as it was practiced in the old days, was demoralizing to public service and to the government. But in the past to carry out an election promise the old Union Government went further than was wise and further than public opinion demanded. As the law stands now the civil service commission, consisting of three men living in Ottawa, is all-supreme from Halifax to Victoria. They make all appointments and control all promotions in a service of 60,000 men. It stands to reason that the work cannot be done satisfactorily or well. If a half-dozen manual laborers are needed by the London post office

they have to be hired by Ottawa. It is overcentralization carried to absurd lengths. The same is true of the thousands of rural postmasters throughout Canada. Scientific and technical men, from the time the civil service commission was first given such broad powers, have been dissatisfied with the system. As an example, the Ontario Hansard staff needed two men recently. The vacancies were advertised for. Men went, at their own risk and expense, to Ottawa from all parts of Canada to write on the examinations. It was unfair to these men and unfair to the editor of Hansard to pick men in such a manner. No business house requiring men of experience and technical skill would choose them in such a manner.

Another change proposed is in regard to promotions. At present promotions also are in the hands of the commission. Whatever may be said in regard to appointments being in the hands of the commission, the idea of promotions being in their hands is preposterous. Only the minister, deputy minister or official in charge of departments know the work of their employees. The principle of placing all promotions in the hands of three men, with no knowledge of the workings of the various departments, is wrong and cannot be defended. It is placing too much power in the hands of a small group of men. It is bureaucracy, which is a worse evil than patronage. Much of the unrest and dissatisfaction in the civil service at the present time is due to the excess of centralization of control and the growth of red tape which is the natural outcome.

The present bill must be safeguarded to see that there is not a wholesale return to the old patronage system, but the changes which are proposed will tend to improve the morale of the service.

Congratulations to Major Cronyn

The persistence of Major Hume Cronyn, member for London, is being at last awarded. Ever since his election as a member of Parliament he has consistently and vigorously advocated the encouragement of scientific research by the Canadian Government. He succeeded in having a committee of the House appointed, of which he was made chairman, to investigate the whole subject. This committee heard much evidence, all of which went to show that Canada was not keeping pace with other industrial nations in the development of scientific research, that there was a pressing need for such work, that the best scientists went to the United States, and that if the Dominion was to hold its own in the race for world's markets something must be done. A report was brought in recommending the establishment of a national research institute.

Securing this report and recommendation was one thing, but translating it into legislative action was another matter. Major Cronyn for the past few years has been camping on the trail of the Cabinet and carrying out a campaign of education through the country. He has secured for his proposed support of all interested scientific bodies in Canada and of most leading commercial organizations. Now he has at last obtained the ear of the Government and a bill, sponsored by the ministry, has been introduced and stands for a second reading. This bill provides for the establishment at Ottawa of a national research institute, which will have charge of researches undertaken with the object of improving technical process, developing new processes and fostering new industries. This is a time when the strictest Dominion economy is necessary, but in this case expenditure will in the end be a real saving of money.

The New Oxford Dictionary

This age above all others, recorded, is the age of speed. Everything is set to whizz-bang tempo with accelerated beginnings and shortened endings, so it is quite a marvel to read of a work just finished which has taken forty years to bring to a state of completion! Sir James Murray, the editor-in-chief of the Oxford Dictionary, is the guilty person.

For forty years Sir James and his coadjutors have followed out a broad and judicious survey of the English language; and this to the end that every man who speaks the English tongue may turn to a volume of need, to find an authoritative for the meaning and pronunciation of the words that make up "the weal of English undefiled," and those later comers, bred of circumstance and necessity, which have been included "in the catalogue."

The modern process among "dictionary makers" is broad inclusion; a reversal of the old system that was based on elimination; so that one is likely to find included in the new work many words which we may be surprised to find have stood the acid test of those who desire to keep our loved tongue to a high standard.

Turning over the pages of the new Oxford Dictionary will be a real adventure for those who love words and for those who find pleasure in them for their own sake. For those, too, who believe it a duty to watch languages change into ways of foolishness.

NOTE AND COMMENT

There's no Pollyanna like a monopoly.

Canada is going to be as spendthrift of her daylight as usual this summer.

France wants her "Dove" not only with an olive branch but with olive branches.

Now, if it weren't for Alberta and Saskatchewan, Mr. Rowell Canada could also say: "We are seven!"

Investors read, mark . . . and practice. "Not to buy what you can't pay for, and not to sell what you haven't got."

By isolating the "suspect cases," Shoreham, a small suburb of Milwaukee, has reduced disease 70 per cent. in the public schools.

Long ago a great Italian wrote: "Beware of him who has nothing to lose." That is what Europe fears for and of Austria.

Writing editorially, The World's Work is of the opinion that the United States policy since the Armistice "has exercised a malevolent influence upon the course of human existence."

The butterfly won't come in for so many jibes now that it is said to provide a remedy for tuberculosis. Some-one warns the humming bird to hum low!

The Third Column

STRENGTH.
A little mirth, a little care,
A burden now and then to bear.
A passing smile, a fleeting tear,
These mark the days of every year.
And life is good or life is bad,
According to the faith we've had.

Life rests us that we may endure;
There is no door that is secure
Against despair and hurt and awe.
All these the richest man must know.
And at the last his worth is shown
According to the strength he's shown.

Nor gold nor fame can keep away
The tempest when the clouds grow gray,
All that can live until the last
Are memories of the happier past.
Thus life is good or life is bad,
According to the faith we've had.

—Edgar A. Guest.

TALK.

We'll all agree that talk is the cheapest thing in the world, unless we except the air.
But at that, talk sometimes costs a great deal. I recently read a new story about Abraham Lincoln. It illustrates this talk, as well as the light on the marvelous understanding mind of Lincoln.

It was during a law case, Lincoln's opponent had been talking to the jury for hours. He ranted and raved, abused, thundered and lightened—and damned everybody and everything. The jury was tired and sleepy and worn out with Lincoln's raving and ranting.

"Gentlemen of the jury," said Lincoln. "I have concluded to adopt the tactics of my opponent and submit this case with argument."
The jury decided for Lincoln.

Talk is a wonderful medium. But when it has been developed to an extraordinary high value it should be used sparingly. For brief talk is very powerful.

In a discussion the thinker says the least.
I remember that when Marshall Field died one of the papers gave a summing up of the valuable points that went to make up his great business career. One sentence has never left me. This is what it was: "He talked little."

If you have anything important to say, say it! And the great ends of history and literature will make note of it. It will not be lost. Many people have things in their system that should come out and be recorded—but more folks say things that should have been kept on the closest shelf.

In his great play, "Lightnin'" Frank Bacon, who takes the title role, replies to a boastful fellow who threatens all kinds of things:
"Oh, no you won't."
"How do you know I won't?"
"Because you talk too much about it!"

The silent man is the one who puzzles us. The talker's measure is soon taken.
—George Matthew Adams.

JOY OF LIFE.

It's pleasant to be living when spring-time has the floor, and nature's kindly giving the best she has in store. The blue birds and the red ones their lays triumphant sing; I'm sorry for the dead that as who can't enjoy the spring. It's pleasant to be tramping along the dewy world, at early morning, lamping the beauties manifold. Oh, there are times when seasons when woe my soul exhaust, and I have divers reasons for thinking like a frost; when "winter winds are shaking the chimney and the door, and rheumatism's making each passing hour a bore; when autumn rain-storms drizzle as though they'd never quit, I feel that life's a fizzle that ne'er will make a hit. But springtime makes me grateful that I am here to see, and any guest is hateful who doesn't prance with me. The people leave their couches to greet the smiling morn, the kickers and the grouches, the sickly and forlorn; the hungry and the fed ones, they form a merry ring; I'm sorry for the dead that as who can't enjoy the spring. But maybe they are knowing a spring that never dies, where clouds are never blowing across the spangled skies; and maybe they are giving some thought to us, and say, "We're sorry for the living—their spring must pass away!"

—Walt Mason.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTEBOOK.

Yesterday after supper I wanted to ask pop if I could go out. I didn't dare to on account of him being mad at me for falling down on my way home from the cigar store and handing him 4 broke cigars and 2 hole ones instead of 6 hole ones, me thinking, G, I wish I could make him laugh or something and then I'd ask him while he was in a good humor.

And I peeked in the setting room and pop was in there reading the paper with an expression as if it would take a hole lot to make him laugh, me thinking, Heck.

Wich jest then I had a good idea, thinking, G, I know wat, I'll dissize myself in pop's hat and raincoat, and come up and leave him see me and he'll left like anything and then I'll quick ask him.

Wich I went down and put on pops raincoat and his new straw hat and started to wawk up stairs, wawking careful on account of the raincoat coming away down further than my feet and the hat coming down to my nose, me thinking, G, I bet I look funny as the dooce.

Wich I bet I did, and jest then I almost tripped and didn't, and I got up to the setting room, door and pop was still setting there reading and looking even less like laffing than wat did before and I sed, Look, pop, and started to wawk in, and jest then I almost tripped agen and kepp on tripping and the straw hat came off and fell under me so I had to fall on top of it, and I heard something make a funny noise like straw breaking, thinking, O gosh, I bet this aint making him laff.

Wich it wassent, and he jumped up and pulled me up by the back of his raincoat and saw how diffrent his new straw hat looked, saying, I think youve fallen on enuff of my things for one day, now I think its time something of mine fell on you."

Wich it did, being his slipper.

—Lee Pape.

HER MOTHERLY CONCERN.

Pianist Rachmannoff told in his New York flat the other day a story about his boyhood.

"When I was a very little fellow," he said, "I played at a reception at a Russian count's, and, for an urchin through Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata pretty successfully."

"The Kreutzer," as you know, has in it several long and impressive rests. Well, in one of these rests the count's wife, a motherly old lady, leaned forward, patted me on the shoulder, and said, "Play us something you know, dear."—New York Sun.

The Bird Bulletin

Contributed by the Meliowath Ornithological Club

The fish hawk or osprey has appeared at the pond. It is a big bird with white underparts and a large expanse of wings. Its food is fish only, and varieties found in shallow water that are of little use as food to man. This slippery prey causes the bird very sharp curved talons as the bird drops suddenly to the water. The third toe is reversible so may be swung around to oppose the first and second. Wintering in the Southern States and nesting from Muskoka northward to the limit of trees this bird is usually seen twice a year, so is called a spring and fall migrant.

The yellow-throated vireo ends the April procession. It somewhat resembles the warblers in habit, but it is slower in its movements. Its bright yellow throat and breast easily disguise it from other vireos. It frequents the high trees of the woods, where its nest is built. The phrases of its song are given much less frequently than are those of the more common and better known red-eyed vireo.

J. F. CALVERT.

MELBOURNE CITIZEN EXPLAINS.
Editor Free Press:—As your issue of the 23rd inst. there appears an account of the capture of two rum cars near Melbourne, containing 82 cases of whisky and the content of three men. In this article reference is made to an alleged attempt by a number of "thirsty souls" to remove a case or two for personal use, while Officer Palmer was waiting in Melbourne for assistance from London. No such attempt was made or even contemplated by any of the Melbourne citizens, and I wish to most emphatically deny the charge. Had any of the "thirsty souls" so desired, they could easily have removed any quantity they pleased while the cars were standing on the road about half a mile west of Melbourne, and while the officer and his three captives were in Melbourne telephoning. On the other hand, several of the Melbourne citizens assisted the officer in the arrest and the bringing of the "bogie" back to the village to await the London officers.

I am, yours truly,
MELBOURNE CITIZEN.

Melbourne, Ont., April 23, 1921.

Note.—The information upon which the story mentioned above was based was furnished to The Free Press by Constable Palmer.

WHO SAID

"Fools make feasts, and wise men eat them."

Fools squander their money in extravagant social affairs, invitations to which the wise accept, said Poor Richard many years ago, and his contention is as true to-day as it was in the year 1733, when it was published.

"Poor Richard" was none other than Benjamin Franklin, the dean of American scientists, and the man who, as the representative of the United States in those days when the young republic was struggling to live, did much to convince the court of Europe that the "American Experiment" was a very real affair and that the baby nation was destined one day to be a power in the world.

Franklin began his career as a printer and despite his success as a scientist and as a statesman he preferred to be known as a printer to the time of his death. The following epitaph, written by himself for himself, gives an interesting insight into the pride he took in his calling as a printer:

"The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer (like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out, and stripped of its lettering and gilding) lies here, food for worms; but the work shall not be lost, for it will (as he believed) appear once more in a new and more elegant edition, revised and corrected by the Author."

At the age of 17 Franklin experienced some difficulty with his brother, a printer and publisher of the New England Courant, of Boston, and to whom he was apprenticed, and he set out for Philadelphia. The story of his journey to Philadelphia and of his landing there practically penniless, and of how the woman who later became his wife stood in the doorway of her father's house and laughed at him because of the odd appearance he presented as he walked along munching a big roll, which was "his breakfast," is entertainingly told in his account of his life.

Franklin is one of the United States' foremost heroes and to him the States owes much for his services during the troublous times of the revolution.

—Wayne D. McMurray.

PRESS COMMENT

NOT TOO PERSEVERING.

Which reminds us that a new Lackaye story is going the rounds—the story of Mr. Lackaye in a London actor-manager's dressing-room. Enters a friend of the actor-manager, who says, "Mr. Lackaye is the fifteenth time I have seen this play, Mr. Lackaye. You in America do not go to see a play as often as that, do you?" "No," answered Mr. Lackaye. "If we don't get it about the fifth time we give up."—New York Globe.

MR. CHURCHILL'S COMING BOOK.

Some men are gluttons for work. One of these is Winston Spencer Churchill. This remarkable man has hosts of admirers and hosts of critics, but none who will deny his energy and versatility. I notice that Sir Henry Lucy (the famous "Toby M. P." of Punch) tells his readers that Winston has practically completed an historical work on the Great War. He has been engaged upon this work in his spare time—"in his spare time," mark you—since the armistice. The manuscript is in the hands of the printers.

Mr. Churchill will receive the sum of \$500 in advance upon publication. And in paying this exceptional sum the publishers, writes Sir Henry, are confident that the book will equal in circulation Mrs. Aquinas's Diary.

"Cases where a Parliamentary debater of the first class is gifted with supreme literary talent are rare," he adds. "Gladstone was a notable instance of negation. An orator unexcelled, whether in Parliament or on the platform, his writings were labored and often involved."

In reading, years ago, Winston's brilliant "Life" of his father, Sir Randolph Churchill, I remember being struck by the casual fairness and freedom from personal and political bias displayed by the author—a rather surprising feature in view of that author's peculiar political characteristics.—Vancouver World.

THE BRITISH WAR FINANCE.

Sir William Davidson, M.P., asking what was the total amount of the loan from the United States to Great Britain was paid off in equal shares by the two Governments last autumn. No loans were made by the United States Government till after the entry of the United States into the war, and no loans made by the United States Government to allied Governments were ever guaranteed by us. Our debt to the United States Government stood at \$4,277,000,000 on May 31, 1919. It now stands at \$4,197,000,000, exclusive of interest since that date. Our loans to allied governments before the entry of

the United States into the war amounted to \$282,000,000; and after the entry of the United States into the war and during the period in which we were borrowing from the United States Government we lent a further \$297,000,000 to the allies, making \$1,725,000,000 (about \$8,000,000,000 in all).

DR. LOGAN HONORED.
HALIFAX, N. S., April 30.—Dr. J. D. Logan, a former Toronto and Montreal journalist and now lecturer in Canadian literature at Acadia University, has been elected a fellow of the American Geographical Society.

Correct Corsetry
is the foundation of a woman's appearance

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