

Just Folks.

By EDGAR GUEST.

AT THE DENTISTS.

When over me my dentist stands,
I keep my eyes upon his hands;
With conversation say he tries
To hide his work in sweet disguise.
But 'tis himself he merely fools,
I keep my eyes upon his tools.

In ordinary times I can
Enjoy a joke with any man;
I like a laugh and fond I am
Of every well-turned epigram.
But in my dentist's chair, I find,
A jest is furthest from my mind.

"Now, how's your gall?" he says to me
Imagining that talk will be
A soothing topic. Poor pretext!
I'm wondering what is coming next.
And sadly unto him I say:
"But 'tis himself he merely fools,
I keep my eyes upon his tray."

Oh, dentist, you might whisper low,
Deep secrets that talk will show;
Night after night, I should know
The inside history of the great.
But in that hour of pain and dread,
I'd never heed a word you said.

I have no ear for mirth or truth
When you are scraping round my
Tooth.
Discuss whatever news you will,
My mind is centered on your drill;
And when at last you turn me out,
I don't know what you've talked about.

A Sturdy Race

NEW YORK TIMES—Around the subject of population there has been a growth of popular legend hard to remove. Great Britain illustrates the urban legend. It has been generally assumed that England, as the classic land of industry, of "materialism," of the widest contrasts between wealth and poverty, of the famous White-chapel and Limehouse slums, is the land of depressed well-being for the masses. But judged by her success in safeguarding child life, England stands very near the top. Her death rate of 11.6 per thousand of the population in 1923 is very near our own, and not very far behind that in the great open spaces of her Dominions. Great Britain, with a population of 38 per cent, urban shows an incomparably higher level of health than France with an urban population of only 46 per cent.

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Skeleton of Whale is Found Inland

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 9.—(C.P.)—The skeleton of a prehistoric whale has been discovered 24 miles inland from the North Sea coast, imbedded six feet down in a bog off North Schleswig.
Experts of the Institute for Geological Research at Copenhagen have taken charge of the excavations for the skeleton, hoping to find an answer to the puzzle of how the sea mammal got so far from the sea. They advance the theory that some great tidal wave may have swept the whale inland.

Canada Has New Shipping Conference

MONTREAL, Dec. 10.—Formation of a new conference by Canadian shipping interests known as "The Canadian Trans-Atlantic Conference" has been consummated, announcement to this effect being made by Major P. A. Curry, President of the executive committee of the new organization and General Manager in Montreal of the White Star Dominion Steamship Line. The new conference will have jurisdiction only over eastbound Canadian and American freight from the St. Lawrence route and Maritime Province ports to United Kingdom and Europe. It will not have jurisdiction over westbound freight or cattle rates, and all passengers' traffic will be dealt with from across the Atlantic.
Although the body will in no way be connected with existing North Atlantic conferences, Major Curry pointed out that there was no ill-feeling. It would be necessary for the working of the North Atlantic conferences to be studied carefully for the advantage of shippers through Canadian ports. It would be useless for the new conference to quote higher rates than those in force out of United States ports.

"Through the growing importance of Canada as a maritime nation and of Montreal as its principal port and premier seaboard grain port in the world, it was found necessary, for shipping interests here to form an association to deal with rates on commodities passing through the port and other important matters," said Major Curry. "Then again, some bitter criticism was levelled at the Canadian Steamship companies during the rates inquiry held in Ottawa during the summer, to the effect that they were being imposed upon by European interests. Though there was no truth in these implications, the suggestion was one of which cognisance was taken, and it was seen that the Canadian companies could better serve the interests of the Dominion if they united to consider problems that were continually cropping up for solution."

"The conference will welcome all applications made to it by shippers for consideration," concluded Major Curry, "and will be glad to meet representatives of the export trade who have questions to discuss with them."
The executive committee of the Canadian Trans-Atlantic Conference are: Major P. A. Curry, White Star Dominion Line, Chairman; J. W. Nichol, Furness, Withy and Company; W. T. Marlow, Canadian Pacific Steamships, Limited; W. A. Coates, Robert Reford Company.
Members of the Conference: The Anchor-Domestic Line; Canadian Pacific Steamships, Limited; Cunard Line; Furness, Withy and Company; Manchester Liners, Limited; Head Line; Inter-Continental Transport Services, Limited; Thomas Line and the White Star Dominion Line.

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Marine Department

INVESTIGATING DISAPPEARANCE OF PILOT LACHANCE.

QUEBEC, Dec. 11.—There has been no delay on the part of the authorities at Ottawa in deciding to make an early investigation into the mysterious circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Pilot Jules Lachance and the grounding of the freight steamer Alredale off Coudres Island, about 55 miles below Quebec.

Alexander Johnston, the Deputy Minister of Marine, sailed from Quebec to-day on the icebreaker Mikula for the scene of the Alredale mishap.
It is understood that the Deputy Minister is at present carrying out a preliminary investigation into the details of the accident which has caused a great deal of commotion in the ancient capital due to the disappearance of Pilot Lachance, which so far is unaccounted for.

Tax Reductions

Sure of Passage

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—(A.P.)—Senate leaders to-day laid plans to clear the road for early consideration of the Tax Reduction Bill as indications increased in the House that it would be disposed of there by the end of next week.
General debate on the measure was again the order of business in the House to-day. Despite some attacks on its provisions from the Democratic side, the Bill, by virtue of its non-partisan character, now appears virtually certain of passage without material amendment.

Chairman Snoot of the Senate Finance Committee, has announced he will call the committee together Jan. 4 to take up the Bill with the hope of getting it before the Senate by Jan. 15, and enacted into law by March 1.
The Bill as a whole has been endorsed in the House by leaders of both parties, all of whom, however, have taken exception to some of the provisions.

STOP THAT COLD WITH MINARD'S LINIMENT.

League Breaking Down

OLD SECRET DIPLOMACY.

"It was under trying conditions of distrust and enmity that the league began its operations," Senator Raoul Dandurand, president of the League of Nations, told an audience of 1,300 people in Convocation Hall, speaking on the subject, "The League and its Influence."

"The league will be what great nations make it," he asserted. "It may be felt and said that the recent Greco-Bulgarian mediation is not a true test of the moral force of the league, and what of the days when the big nations will be in conflict? When there is a true consensus of opinion among the great nations and a basic spirit of co-operation, then the success of the league is secure."

"To-day all our hopes are centred in the League of Nations—we have no other hope of salvation. Has anyone set up a scheme which can be as capable as the league? As an organization it is splendidly built; it works smoothly and rapidly. The assembly is doing its work in an admirable manner. Most parliaments would sit six months on questions which the assembly disposes of in four weeks. I have been 27 years in politics at Ottawa, and I believe that most parliamentarians should go to Geneva to learn how to act with despatch," stated the senator.

"The league deals with the right to live—the problem of immigration and subsistence, among other things. As it becomes universal, it will be its duty to guide humanity into a state channel. The league has eliminated secret treaties; all international conventions are now registered with it, and the new open diplomacy clears away suspicion. The rights that the various peace treaties, were guarded by the league, said the speaker, a government which was oppressing a minority was always notified of the complaint, and it usually felt the necessity of justifying itself, for it knew that at the same moment representatives of all the nations had a report of the same complaint before them."

The speaker denounced the imperialistic tendencies that were to be seen emerging, particularly the economic imperialism that many people recognized in the United States, as in her use of her navy in the capacity of industrial asset, insuring her commercial interests in China and the Near East.—Toronto Star.

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Well, Little Reader, here we are again, you and I, making believe we are in Rabbittland. Didn't we hear Jimmy Jay talk in poetry in the last story? Of course we did, as sure as bills come on the first of the month and mosquitoes bite. And the little rabbit, our dear little bunny boy, was holding a conversation with this handsome, mischievous bluejay, who was complaining because some one had made disagreeable remarks about him.

"But have you bad habits?" asked Little Jack Rabbit, wondering how so beautiful a bird could be anything but a good feathered citizen.
"Well, I may have eaten a couple or more bird's eggs last spring," he admitted, "but I've saved many a life by warning people of coming danger. Even if my bright eyes have discovered a few well-hidden eggs, they have also spied Danny Fox sneaking about. I have warned the shady Forest people many a time that this old robber was near at hand."

"But you haven't told me who made the disagreeable remarks about you," went on the curious little bunny.
"The Farmer, of course," snapped Jimmy Jay. "He said that my cousin, Professor Jim Crow, and I were a couple of robbers."

"Dear, Oh dear," sighed the little bunny. "What a dreadful thing to say. Is it true?"
"Perhaps," answered Jimmy Jay, hanging his head. "I'm mighty fond of fresh eggs, but if careless lady birds can't take time and care to hide their nests, I'm not to blame."

"Don't you do any good deeds?" asked the poor, bewildered little bunny, shocked at Jimmy Jay's admission of guilt.
"Of course I do," replied the handsome little blue Jay. "My cousins, the crows, and we blue jays destroy a lot of caterpillars and other pests. But why the Farmer at this time of year, when there are no nests filled with eggs, should make such dreadful remarks about me is beyond my understanding."

"Maybe he is making plans for next spring," suggested the bunny boy. "The Yellow Dog Tramp told me yesterday that he saw a scarecrow in the toolhouse."

"Ha, ha!" laughed Jimmy Jay. "Much good that will do. Professor Jim Crow isn't fooled so easily as that. As for me, I don't give a fig for a scarecrow."

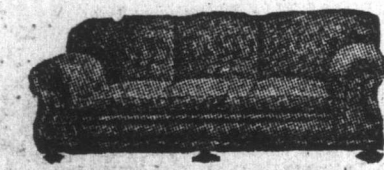
Just then who should come by but Professor Jim Crow with his Wisdom Book under his wing. "What are you two talking about?" he asked, looking over his spectacles.
"The Farmer is calling me bad names," snapped Jimmy Jay. "He says I am a destroyer of little birds and eggs."
"Listen to me for a minute or three," answered the wise old crow, "and you will see that the Farmer is right. The Sovereign and royal persons from other lands have figured in his list of members. British members have generally been peers of the highest class. Only now and then was it awarded to those not of the bluest of so-called blue-blood. Now it goes to the commoner, son of a screw maker, who has had nothing but merit to advance him."

Buckingham Palace, where the Foreign Secretary became a Knight of the Garter—the highest distinction a British subject can attain—and Mrs. Chamberlain was granted the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. The conferring on Mr. Chamberlain of the Garter suggests that the old order is changing in the matter of distinctions, too. The Garter has been an exclusive honor. The Sovereign and royal persons from other lands have figured in his list of members. British members have generally been peers of the highest class. Only now and then was it awarded to those not of the bluest of so-called blue-blood. Now it goes to the commoner, son of a screw maker, who has had nothing but merit to advance him.

By his gracious act in conferring knighthood upon Mrs. Chamberlain, His Majesty also gave public recognition to the part played by her in the great war, and to the place of women in international diplomacy. To Mr. Chamberlain as to the Foreign Secretary is due the success of the negotiations for the Treaty of Locarno, which, what is more, is a golden age of peace.—Sentinel.

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