

"A Little Nonsense Now and Then"

She (romantically)—The man I marry must be willing to go through fire for me. He (in Boston Transcript.)—Then I'm your man. The boss has fired me for telephoning you so often.

The Caller—Smith and Banks have employed me to collect the bill you owe them.

The Impecunious One—You are to be congratulated, sir, in obtaining a permanent position.—The Lamb.

One broiling August day an aged "cullud gemman," who was pushing a barrow of bricks, paused to dash the sweat from his dusky brow; then, shaking his fist at the sun, he apostrophized it thus: "Fo' de Lawd's sake, war wuz yuh last Janooary?"

At a dinner party recently a man refused a cigarette and was not even tempted by a cigar. "Don't you smoke, Mr. Gordon?" asked his host. "No," he replied, "I have given it up as an effeminate habit."

Mistress (in Boston Transcript)—Norah, my husband is raving over those lamb chops you sent up. He says they are raw, and he is acting like a wild man. Norah—Then shure, mum, if he's acting like a wild man, raw mate is just the food for him.

Little Lydia had been given a ring as a birthday present, but, much to her disappointment, no one of the guests at dinner noticed it, says the Youth's Companion. Finally, unable to withstand their obtuseness or indifference, she exclaimed: "Oh, dear, I'm so warm in my new ring!"

Mrs. Youngbride—"Our cook says those eggs you sent yesterday were quite old."

Grocer—"Very sorry, ma'am. They were the best we could get. You see, all the young chickens were killed off for the holiday trade so the old hens are the only ones left to do the layin'."

Mrs. Youngbride—"Oh, to be sure! I hadn't thought of that."—Omaha News.

Sandy had just met his girl at the end of the street, where she was waiting for him. She was looking into a confectioner's window when Sandy made his presence known by remarking:

"Weel, Jennie, what are ye gaun to have the night?"

She, not inclined to ask too much, replied:

"Oh, I'll just tak what you'll tak, Sandy."

"Oh, then, we'll tak a walk," said Sandy, as he led her away.—Pearson's Weekly.

"John, you ought to get in the aviation service," a York man told a negro last week. "You are a good mechanic and would come in handy in an aeroplane. How would you like to fly among the clouds a mile high and drop a few bombs down on the Germans?"

"I ain't in no special hurry to fly, Cap," the negro answered. "When wese up 'bout a mile high, s'spose de engine stopt and de white man told me to git out an'crank?"—York News.

The destroyer Jacob Jones had been sunk by a German U-boat.

Those of her crew who had survived were swimming about. Among them was Lieut. Commander Worth Bagley, last to leave the vessel.

A seaman, battling with the waves, recognized his commander. He spat out a mouthful of salt water and grinned impudently.

"Say, Cap," he yelled, "where do we go from here?"—New York World.

A well-known broker-lawyer, who is a member of the draft board in his district, tells the following:—

One applicant, in filling out his questionnaire, stated that he was 27 years old, and a wheelwright, blacksmith, bricklayer, carpenter, bookkeeper, stenographer, chauffeur, cook, waiter, plumber, machinist, cashier, telegraph operator, paper hanger and nurse, whereupon the broker-lawyer, his curiosity excited, queried, "but how were you able to become experienced in all these lines?"

"Well, you see, sir," replied the applicant, "10 years of my life were spent in a house of correction."—The Wall Street Journal

GOOD IN EVIL.

A very interesting sidelight upon the question of war and crime is contained in a contribution to the London Daily Mail by Mr. Edwin Pugh, in which he refers to a recent official announcement that 7,000 out of 15,000 convicts and misdemeanants in the British Isles had been allowed to volunteer for military service. Out of the number 530 had been killed in action, 49 had died of wounds, 13 had died of sickness and 1,530 had been wounded. But the point of greatest significance is this. Three had received the V.C., 25 had been recommended for the D.C.M., 20 had been mentioned in dispatches, and eight had been given commissions. To so great an extent, therefore, the war may be regarded as a redemptive factor in the realm of criminology.

MANUFACTURERS' LIFE.

Practically all life insurance companies of the first class have reported the largest year's business in their history, and the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company is no exception. The insurance issued and reinstated last year amounted to \$16,485,403, an increase over 1916 of \$2,856,190. The report presented at the annual meeting last week shows an increase in premium income of \$298,915. The premium income was \$3,672,513, and the interest income was \$1,436,496. This shows a total income of \$5,109,000.

The assets now amount to \$24,585,000 on the valuation of the Dominion Insurance Department, and the return to the company on this huge sum was 6.52 per cent.

Although war losses are beginning to affect the figures of all the insurance companies, the Manufacturers' Life mortality was again more than 25 per cent below the amount provided for.

MUTUAL LIFE OF CANADA.

The Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada closed a most satisfactory year. The total of new assurances for the year was given as \$20,124,563, which is \$4,748,000 above the 1916 year. An increase in income was shown amounting to \$811,242, with the current total standing at \$6,424,515. The amount paid to policyholders, at \$2,513,991, was \$57,384 larger than for 1916. Assets were increased to the extent of approximately 7 per cent, with the year's total amounting to \$32,165,432.

The increase in the surplus fund of the company to \$4,763,399 was one of the most salient features of the statement. The number of lapses was smaller than during 1916. The larger portion of the surplus income was invested in Canadian war bonds, and the total now exceeds \$4,250,000. Half a million dollars were disbursed during the year to satisfy the claims of policies held by deceased soldiers.

Business in force at the end of 1917 amounted to \$123,510,899, which is contrasted with \$51,091,848 a decade ago.

FROZEN WATER PIPES.

The National Fire Protection Association has sent out the following timely bulletin on this now much-to-the-fore subject:

Many winter fires are caused by ill-advised attempts to thaw frozen water pipes.

A burning match, torch, or open flame of any description should never be employed for this purpose. To wrap the pipes with oil-soaked rags and set them on fire is worse than folly; it is incendiarism.

Pipes are almost invariably adjacent to walls or partitions where there is an ascending current of air to feed and spread a flame. Even if the flame does not start a fire its sudden local heat may cause the pipe to break and flood the premises with water.

DO THIS.

Wrap the frozen section of the pipe with cotton cloth and pour hot water upon it, even if the hot water must be obtained from a neighbor, until the ice in the pipe gives way. Rags on the floor at the base of or under the pipe, will absorb the waste water. If the freezing is too severe to yield to this treatment, send for a plumber.

Reputable plumbers always avoid running water pipes along outside walls where it is possible to do so. Property owners when building should look out for this. It may some time save both money and vexation of spirit.

NEW RECORDS

Results secured during the past year re-affirm the position of the Sun Life of Canada as the largest life assurance organization of the Dominion.

Fair-dealing and progressive business methods have given it leadership in annual New Business, Total Business in Force, Assets, Surplus Earnings, Net Surplus, Total Income, Premium Income and Payments to Policyholders.

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Capital Paid Up - - - - - 1,475,000
Life Fund and Special Trust Funds - - - 76,591,535
Total Annual Income Exceeds - - - - - 51,000,000
Total Funds Exceeds - - - - - 151,500,000
Total Fire Losses Paid - - - - - 193,774,045
Deposit with Dominion Government - - - 1,245,467
(As at 31st December, 1916.)

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Commercial Union Bldgs., 232-236 St. James Street,
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