

lation when addressing the house is a lesson in that art. To say that the Liberals of the eastern provinces respect him would be too weak a word. It would be scarcely an exaggeration to say that feeling is more akin to idolatry. He is without doubt the most popular man the Liberal party in Canada has ever had.

Among those who will accompany Mr. Laurier is Mr. Charles Hyman, ex-M. P. for London, Ont. During a recent visit to Eastern Canada, I had the pleasure of a couple of hours conversation with him. I can only say what has been remarked a dozen of times already—he is a perfect gentleman and a thorough Canadian. Mr. Hyman has the distinction of being the first Liberal ever returned to the House of Commons from London, Ont., having defeated Hon. John Carling at the general election of 1891. Mr. Hyman was unseated, and at the subsequent by-election claims to have again received a majority of the bona fide votes; but was deprived of the position, and Hon. John Carling took his place. During the one session Mr. Hyman sat in parliament he acquitted himself creditably.

Victorians, irrespective of party politics, would do well to extend to the distinguished visitors a hearty welcome. THE HOME JOURNAL leans in the direction of the Conservative party; but it will on this occasion drop party long enough to say to Mr. Laurier and the gentlemen who accompany him "caed mille failthe."

Truly this has been an age of manifestations and wonderful discoveries. Ignatius Donnelly has called Bacon forth from his resting place and proclaimed him the author of what have these many years been accepted as the works of Shakespeare; some one else has proved conclusively that Philip Francis was the author of the Junius letters, and the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the French people. While here in Victoria we have not done anything which should be placed in the above category, we have at least added a little to the list. The mystery surrounding the identity of "the editor" of this province has at last been solved. He is one A. H. Scaife, a resident of this province some two years. At the meeting in the City Hall, Mr. Scaife, with that modesty characteristic of the insurance agent, came forward and acknowledged that he was the man. He declined, however, to state whether or not he was the author of that wonderfully expressive ballad, "One of his legs was longer than it really ought to be."

And now a word about the meeting. Mr. Scaife has been accused of endeavoring to boom a publication. I do not care

a cent whether the object of Mr. Scaife was to bring the paper in which he was interested prominently before the public, or to draw attention to the bad condition of the water supply; but I am free to confess that he has rendered an invaluable service to the public in giving his aid to the agitation for better water. Mr. Scaife has been accused of what is by some considered a crime—not being a ratepayer. It never occurred to me before until the meeting, Wednesday night, that as regards water, a ratepayer should be endowed with special prerogatives and privileges.

The Council, I am pleased to note, have already moved in the matter of obtaining an improved supply of water. Although they have not been trumpeting their actions from the house tops, it appears they have had the question under consideration for some time, and, to-night, at a meeting in the City Hall will give the public the benefit of their investigations. The opinions of experts have been received, and they will ask the ratepayers to endorse the course they have adopted so far. It is also hinted that there will be a few revelations made with regard to the relative merits of the water from Elk Lake and other places. THE HOME JOURNAL trusts that whatever is done it will be in the direction of securing good water and plenty of it for all purposes.

Just now when there is so much discussion on the subject of water, it might be interesting to learn that in London, the largest city in the world, the water is furnished by companies and is charged for by the quantity. No one has a free faucet or can afford to waste the water. Every family bargains for as many gallons per diem as it needs, and this amount is placed in tanks. Then the water is shut off. If the family uses it by noon, it gets no more until the next day unless it can borrow of its neighbor. There is no waste. The water is all-measured and paid for. With four times the population; London does not use one-third as much water as Chicago does, simply because the water is not wasted. In Chicago the city furnishes the water, and every one is free to do with it what he pleases, and the result is anarchy in water. The man on the third story has no rights the man on the second is bound to respect, and the man on the first floor cheats both of them by running water *via* the sewers into the river and lake. So long as there is disregard of human rights by human hogs this waste will continue, and those on the upper stories will suffer because those on lower stories are running water all day to cool their rooms or to flood their lawns—in other words, are letting millions of gallons run into the sewers without being used at all.

The Toronto *Empire* is evidently convinced that professional men in British Columbia are fast becoming millionaires. It says: "Professional men at the Pacific coast are represented as having a pretty good time of it, particularly doctors, lawyers and dentists. The dentists get \$10 for filling a tooth, while doctors likewise flourish. Here is evidently an opening for the Ontario Medical Council and its critics, who might go out to British Columbia in a body, bury the hatchet and think well of each other forever after."

A few years ago a young lady who desired to earn her own living found it rather a difficult task, as the field was a limited one. But at the present time they have made serious inroads in the business world, and have done it successfully, too. The great difficulty which a bright, smart girl who has to earn her own living has to contend against at the present time is the abundance of her fellow creatures who want "just a little spending money," and are willing to accept any position for any amount of wages they are offered. This works a hardship on those who have spent time and money in fitting themselves for business pursuits, and their hardest competitors are their sisters whose only ambition is to have a little spending money or else to get rid of the drudgery of household work. To master short hand or typewriting requires not only time but hard work, and after this is accomplished it is rather hard to find a hundred applicants for each and every position.

A loudly-trumpeted enterprise was that of several capitalists who engaged in the manufacture of banana flour in Central America several years ago, and who, according to some of the trade papers, were going to establish an industry of great magnitude. Of late, however, nothing has been heard about the results of the experiment, but it now appears that a similar experiment is being tried in Dutch Guiana, and the British Consul at Paramaribo says that machinery to the value of \$10,000 has been imported and set at work grinding the bananas, and that a portion of the product of the mill has been sent to Holland. The company anticipate that a considerable demand for the meal for bread-making purposes will spring up. An analysis of the meal follows: Moisture, 11.4; ether extract, 0.39; alcohol extract (per cent.) 5.94 (of which, reducing sugar 1.18 per cent., sacrose 0.08); cold water extract, 5.33; fiber and other undetermined carbohydrates, 8.15; total 100.00. From this it will be seen that the food value of the meal is minute and should be compared rather to the