

## The Wayside Philosopher

ABRACADABRA.

All legal responsibility assumed by author.

### PRESBYTERY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Having been told that the procedure in Presbyterian Assemblys and Presbyteries was so exact that Judges had visited them to observe the practices there followed the writer held high opinion of these proceedings.

Some time ago he happened to be in a local Presbytery meeting. Kitsilano Presbyterian Church matters came up for discussion. One clergyman remarked that this had been dealt with in a technical manner and must therefore be so handled then. A few minutes later a Corresponding Elder with only honorary privileges on the floor, made a motion in this matter and with this dictum still in their ears it was voted on without question by the meeting.

At another meeting Rev. G. A. Wilson moved a very proper resolution. A member of Presbytery, without even the courtesy of rising to address the chair, interjected a remark. Another member, also without rising, replied to the interjection and in a few minutes a tangled situation of resolution and interjection resulted.

Again on an important committee of Presbytery a party not regularly a member of Presbytery was appointed to act.

Is this mere looseness which can and should be immediately rectified or is it true that "politics" have become a large and important factor in Presbyterian church circles?

### THE "AMERICA" CUP RACES.

As these lines are being penned the last of the American Cup races for 1920 is probably being sailed. The result is, therefore, still undetermined but all Canadians will wish the "Shamrock IV" success.

Whatever the result there must be dissatisfaction for all true lovers of pure sport at the action of the Regatta Committee in calling off the race of Saturday, July 24th when the only sailing breeze available for the contest was blowing.

Looking only at the brighter side we have two yachts costing thousands of dollars to build and rig with waterline dimensions which should carry them around the world unable to face a breeze in which a fishing boat 14 feet in waterline 16 feet over all can carry full sail. If those yachts built at such enormous cost cannot gain any speed after 15 knots (roughly speaking 17 miles per hour) has been reached by the wind they are of all sailing craft the most useless and have no lesson for builders or sailors. The expense lavished on them becomes criminal waste.

The other excuse as to losing men was even more absurd, if possible. If such an event as men going overboard were anticipated there would be no difficulty in taking proper steps to safeguard their lives. Leaving loss of life out of the question the crew are exceptionally poor sailors if they couldn't handle yachts of that size satisfactorily in a heavy wind after losing a full quarter of the crew overboard, a situation almost beyond the bounds of possibility.

There is another explanation of the Regatta Committee's action, a darker one, yet, probably, a truer one. It is this. In such a breeze there was, in theory, a good chance that the cup would be lost to America for the time being. The stakes placed would be lost. This was an even greater consideration. No chances must be taken. The race had to be postponed.

Lipton should have followed Dunraven's example and refused to race any more. His protest took too mild a form. It raises the question, an ugly one in respect to a British

sporting man, as to whether he was not hampered in his action by commercial considerations.

Whatever Lipton's success or course of action the Regatta Committee's behaviour has removed the American Cup contest definitely from the list of sporting events. Led by commercial motives built around the advertisement of his teas, etc., Lipton may keep up the farce by challenging again if he loses the present series but the interest will be from a gambling, not a sporting, point of view. The committee's evident intention to save the cup to America at any sacrifice of sporting honour will dissipate the heretofore sporting interest in these races.

We welcome the newest journalistic baby "The Western Idea." Success to the venture. But why the Western "Idea?" Is it to represent the Western idea that seeks to gull tenderfeet out of their coin? Surely not! Is it then to represent the more common Western idea that hot air and breezy confidence can supply the place of value and merit in "making things go?" Assuredly not! We have no Western type of character—except in so far as we are rough and undeveloped. We have no Western type of thought—unless it be in the imagination of green sprouts, or sprigs, or humanity, who have not yet learned to see and weigh things. The Western "Gazette," Western "Critic," Western "World," Western "What-not?" Any number of names must occur to the publishers. Let us hope for a change of name. Be that as it may here's to wishing the new journal "the best of everything."



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