

# Page for the Young Folks



### CURRENT TOPICS

Many of you will, before you read this, have seen the Vancouver Island Post. It is the new Victoria paper. There are many new people in our beautiful city and more are coming. Let us wish them all and the new paper success and prosperity.

Mr. Martin Burrell has been telling the Ottawa government that it was very necessary to keep diseased fruit from coming into Canada. There are two reasons for this. Such fruit is not good for food and from it insect pests spread into our own orchards. The Minister of Agriculture said Mr. Burrell was quite right and more inspectors would be appointed.

The boat race between Oxford and Cambridge was won by the Oxford crew this year. Boys who have read "Tom Brown" will remember the description of the race there. It is not likely the young men who rowed this year differed much from Tom Brown and his friends of sixty years ago. Englishmen do not change their manners nor their customs quickly.

The ashes of the old Pemberton block were not cold before preparations were begun to build a new one, and now workmen are busy gathering material for a six-story building. This will be an ornament to the city, and already business men have engaged to occupy the rooms, and in fact, the new Victoria is fortunate in having a citizen who is as confident in his future and as ready to overcome difficulties as Mr. F. B. Pemberton.

The Emperor of Germany is to spend the time from the middle of April to the middle of May in the Mediterranean. Part of this time he will visit the beautiful island of Corfu. President Roosevelt will about the same time be reaching the shores of Africa on his way to hunt elephants and other African monsters. He goes by way of the Red Sea. When the German Emperor sets sail at Venice, the ex-President will be at Aden. It was thought at one time that they would meet, but this was a mistake.

The United States Congress is finding its task of changing the tariff a very hard one. Many manufacturers think they cannot carry on their business if the duties which keep foreign countries from selling their goods to the people of the United States are taken off. One of the discoveries made by the members who have been studying this matter is that the Japanese have learned to manufacture all kinds of silk, and that they can do the work much cheaper than is possible in the United States.

Most boys and girls have seen pictures of the caravans that brought the gems and gold, the silks and ivories, of India to the shores of the Persian Gulf or the Mediterranean Sea, in the old days before steamships were invented. Still the camel, "the ship of the desert," that carries goods over the great Eastern deserts. Now it is planned to build a great railroad more than two thousand miles long between Egypt and India. They would travel through a very hot region much more speedy as well as safer and more comfortable.

There have been several sad accidents lately in the coal mines. Men have been crushed by great lumps of coal. Some have been killed, others injured. It is only when the accident is very severe that it is reported in the newspapers. Miners say that many such accidents are the result of carelessness. Men know there is danger, but think they can work one day or perhaps one hour longer. Sometimes these reckless workers escape, but too often they are carried from the mine maimed for life. Few things are sadder than to see a strong man hurt in such a way. No one should ever run needless risk. Rashness is not bravery. Often, however, such accidents take place in spite of the greatest care and foresight. Our coal costs more than dollars.

A great meeting will be held in London next July. Men and women, noted for their wisdom and goodness, will come together from all parts of the world to see if anything can be done to lessen the terrible evil of drunkenness that causes so much of the poverty, sickness and sin in the northern countries of the world. It is to be hoped they will find some cure for this dreadful disease, and that they will discover a way to remove temptation from the weak. But few men are strong enough to conquer the craving for liquor once they have formed it. If boys only knew how much happier they are who have never learned to love strong drink the saloons would not have so many customers, and there would be fewer sad mothers, unhappy wives and hungry children.

Christians of every name met at the end of March in Toronto. Four thousand men from all the provinces of Canada and from many parts of the United States to take part in the Canadian missionary congress. The greater number were not ministers but busy men of the world. Railroad men, merchants and mechanics came together to talk over the best way of making the world Christian. They want to send missionaries all over the world and they feel that every Christian who cannot go himself should pay as much as he can afford towards the expenses of those who are fitted for the work of teaching men everywhere to become Christ's followers. Such

cattle from winter's cold and summer's heat. In those days no one knew that in the great central plain of North America, there were thousands of square miles where no trees grew, or if they knew they did not think of the demand there would be for lumber when the prairies were settled. Too late they learned their folly, and now, in many parts of the country young forests are being planted. But trees take long to grow and meanwhile every acre under scorching sun and frost is increasing.

Nowhere on this continent are there such splendid forests as in this province. The mild and damp climate causes trees to grow to a great size. Already ships laden with British Columbia lumber sail to every part of the world. Very wisely the government have made regulations concerning forest fires and careless cutting of trees that will prevent useless destruction.

During the past month many thousands of acres of timber limits have been sold to rich men from the United States. They and others offer to buy still larger tracts. These men will erect sawmills and pulp mills in the province, others want the lumber to build bridges or supply factories of one kind or another. They are willing to pay the owners here high prices for their valuable property.

There is great excitement in Great Britain, and indeed, through the whole Empire, England's title of "Empress of the Seas" so her statesmen say, is in danger. Germany is building battleships at a greater rate than she is, and it is feared that the British fleet may be unable to keep the coast waters of Britain if Germany attacks her. Though the Asquith Government only finds that England can build four big battleships this year, Sir Edward Grey acknowledges that the hope that she can do the same thing, he says that this building of great ships will, if continued, ruin Europe. Still he declares that for her safety, England must keep pace with Germany. Sir Reginald McKenna, the Lord of the Admiralty, said very much the same thing a few days ago.

It is felt by all the great colonies of the Empire that it is not fair that they should look for protection in time of danger to the Mother country and not assist in their own defence. New Zealand offered at once to send money to build a Dreadnought. Australia said that her plan was to build battleships of her own and to help the British fleet. Canada and all the members of the Opposition agreed to. In his speech, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that if ever Germany attacked England, colonial troops would come to her aid. The promise made Parliament must be fulfilled by the people of Canada. This country is rich. It has no right to expect England to protect it. It is not a soldier in this way, and he himself famous for his knowledge or for his discoveries.

Twenty-seven years since this society held its first annual meeting. The men who then sat round the table have long since passed away, and it almost seems as if a new world had taken the place of the old. The British Association for the advancement of science will meet in Winnipeg in the autumn. This association is a very wise and learned body, and one of its members who has not made himself famous for his knowledge or for his discoveries. Twenty-seven years since this society held its first annual meeting. The men who then sat round the table have long since passed away, and it almost seems as if a new world had taken the place of the old.

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Many diseases of which we scarcely hear, and other things that caused lightning, that it was dangerous, and they had learned how to produce it. But that it would carry messages over land and under water, and that it could be used for many purposes, was not dreamed of. These messages could be sent by the air and received by any vessel or building where a machine was placed for the purpose. They have made oil, for no one had yet found the oil wells which have made such immense fortunes. Much less had anyone thought that electricity could be made so steady and strong as the engines in our factories and in our homes. In England machines had only begun to take the place of the hand-workers in the great factories that were beginning to rear their tall chimneys, and in Canada spinning, weaving and carding were done at home.

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The King of Serbia had troubles of his own while the nation was in danger. The heir to the throne, Prince George, a young man of twenty-two, was very wild and wicked. He not only tried to persuade his father's subjects to go to war, but his behavior was a disgrace to the crown. Alexander, who suspected that he murdered his servant, and although this was denied, he has given up his right to succeed to his father's throne. King Peter has appointed his second son, Alexander, to be his heir. Wild and wicked as Prince George was, there seems to have been something noble about him, when he yielded his place to his brother, and yet offered his services as a soldier to his country. It is said that the Russian people are pleased at the triumph of Austria. However that may be, it is not likely that there will be further trouble in the Balkans for a long time to come.

The world's forests are growing smaller year by year. The first settlers in Canada and the United States looked upon trees as their enemies. The axe and the fire were used to destroy them. Often miles and miles of valuable timber were burned by some careless farmer, or he kindled a pile of brush and allowed the fire to run into the woods, so trees were left to shade the river's banks or to shelter the

damp grass; Wild Tulip, found in a shady place; Flowering Currant, found in a sunny place; Wild Pink May-flower, in damp, shady place; Wild Yellow Groundsel, in dry, sunny place; Maple-bud, in damp, shady place, and one I don't know what the name is.

1147 Fairfield Rd., Victoria, March 31, 1909. Dear Editor—I have found this week as follows: Wild Yellow Violet, in sunny, dry place; Wild Pink May-flower, in damp, shady place; Wild Yellow Groundsel, in dry, sunny place; Maple-bud, in damp, shady place, and one I don't know what the name is. KENNETH GRIGG.

1077 Chamberlin St., Victoria, March 30, 1909. Dear Editor—I am going to tell you what flowers I found last week: Buttercup, in a damp, shady place; Bluebell, in a dry, sunny place; Lily, in a damp, shady place; Tulip, in a damp, sunny place; Flowering Currant, in a damp, sunny place; Moss, in a sunny, rocky place; Dandelion, in a dry, sunny place; Maple, in a dry, sunny place; Star of Bethlehem, in a damp, shady place; White and Red Chickweed, in a damp, shady place; Red Cedar, in a dry, shady place; Peacock, in a damp, shady place; Musk, in a dry, sunny place; Groundsel, in a damp, shady place; Gooseberry, in a dry, sunny place; Hazel, in a damp, shady place; Alder, in a dry, sunny place; Golden Rod, in a dry, sunny place; Wild Raspberry, in a damp, shady place; Choke-berry, in a damp, shady place; Spruce, in a damp, shady place; Kalmia, in a damp, shady place; Skunk Cabbage, in a wet, sunny place; and four I don't know the names of. LYALL DOON.

1510 Fairfield Rd., Victoria, March 31, 1909. Dear Editor—I have found the following flowers in the last week on Fairfield road: Salmon-berry, in a damp, shady place; Wild Oregon Grape, in a damp, shady place; Wild Tulip, in a damp, sunny place; Star of Bethlehem, Flowering Moss, in a damp, sunny place; Red, Flowering Currant, in a sunny place; Hazel, in a sunny place; Kalmia, in a sunny place; Horse-tail, in a wet, sunny place; Spruce, and four I don't know the names of. JOHN McKERLIE.

Dear Editor—I thought I would write you a few lines to tell you how many flowers I found, and where I found them. I found one Dandelion, one dry, shady place; a Bluebell, in damp, sunny place, around the rocks; one Maple bud and flower, in a dry, sunny place; one Peacock, in a damp, shady place; one Tulip, in a dry, shady place; one May-flower, in a damp, shady place; one Flowering Moss, growing on the rocks; one Red Flowering Currant, in a dry, sunny place; one Star of Bethlehem, in the rocks; one Oregon Grape, in a shady place; a bunch of Chickweed, in a damp, sunny place; one Wild Crocus, in big field, very dry; one Choke-cherry, in a damp, sunny place; one Flowering Currant, in a dry, sunny place; one Groundsel, in dry place; one piece of Wild Forget-me-not, on the rocks; one Wild Daisy, in damp, shady place; one Hazel-blossom, and one Spruce-blossom, in a sunny place; one Goldenrod, along the road, very dry place; one Skunk Cabbage, in a damp place; one piece of Wild Gooseberry, in dry, shady place. WILFRED POLLOCK.

A Water Glass The boy who lives near any kind of water will enjoy owning a water glass. Boys and girls and grown-up people like to make discoveries and be curious about that which is not visible. The stones, shells, and growths under the water are of great interest, and with this glass one may see the bottom in twice as deep water as without one. The water glass may be made very easily by a boy, and the expense of using one made by one's own self will be greatly increased. The one used by our party was made by taking an ordinary piece of window glass, 8 x 10, and with four pieces of board sawed, slanting so that the top was somewhat larger than the bottom—possibly measuring 10 x 12. The glass was put in the bottom and the wood painted green to keep it from warping and to help absorb the rays of light. The water glass box is used by placing the glass next to the water and in looking through this many things that are hidden from the eye are revealed. Our party was making a trip in St. George's Bay in the Bermuda Islands, and with this glass the corals, beautiful shells, sea-fans, sea-eggs, mosses, and seaweeds just as nature arranged them were very interesting. Our oarsman had a fish-pot or trap in his bay and from the deep, deep water with a boat-hook he pulled this from the bottom and found three immense lobsters in it. They were of such interest to us that we took their pictures with the water glass. At the left of the glass is a sea-egg which the guide cleaned for us. He removed the animal from the inside, and scraped the hundreds of fine-line threads from the surface, leaving the shell, which is a beautiful specimen of the sea-egg or sea-urchin. Some of the party supposed that they were in the picture, but found to their dismay that they were not. Glass bottom boats are sometimes used, but while it is easier to see the bottom through these, yet there is the possibility of their springing a leak, and those only should be used which are made by experienced workmen. But a home-made water glass is always ready to keep it from warping and to help absorb the rays of light. From Nature and Science in St. Nicholas.

The Pope and the Cough-Drop Pope Leo XIII was fond of his joke. Once when he had to receive a large gathering of pilgrims he had a bad cold, for which Dr. Laponni gave him a box of lozenges, of which he was to take one now and then to soothe his throat. The doctor was present at the reception, taking his stand in a corner where he could easily watch the Pope. After addressing the pilgrims for a short time Leo grew very hoarse, and never took a breath. In order to remind him, Dr. Laponni gave a loud significant cough. Thereupon the Pope bade an attendant fetch the doctor. The pilgrims became alarmed, thinking Leo was ill. But when the doctor came up, the Pope took the box of lozenges out of his pocket and said, "We heard you cough, doctor. Will you take a pastille?" Little Folks.

Have Parrots Brains? By Henry Fischer French savants have decided that, comparatively speaking, the average parrot has as much brain as a man. Likewise that the bird's brain curvatures, where memory, speech and the ability of imitation are located, are identical with man's. This discovery does the way to the belief, often expressed, that Polly understands what he says, that he is not merely a brainless, "parrot-like" imitator. Claude Albaret, writing in the Journal Des Voyages, says:

1718 Leighton Rd., Victoria, March 30, 1909. Dear Editor—Just a few lines to tell you what flowers I have found during the week: Lily, found in a shady place; Oregon Grapeleaf, found in a dry, sunny place; Wild Mustard, found in a sunny place; Musk, found in a sunny place; Chickweed, found in a damp place; Buttercup, found in the

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"When I was studying birds and animal life in South America, my parrot lost his feathers, and consequently became very sensitive to draughts. I had a colored servant who habitually left the door open, for which negligence I reprimanded him time and again. The bird repeated and recollects the command often given to the boy, namely: 'Cierra la puerta' (Close the door), and whenever 'he neglected the formality he shouted the words after him, usually adding 'Donkey!' or another contemptuous epithet. This parrot was very fond of our house cat, until one morning Peter stole a piece of cake from him. Polly flew into a rage and called the cat every bad name in his repertoire. However, after a while he quieted down and gave us to understand that the incident was closed. Indeed, in the afternoon he called for the cat in his most dulcet tones: 'Gato, gato, querido!' (Cat, dear cat). Peter allowed himself to be bamboozled and went to the cage. Immediately the parrot jumped on him and bit his ear in two. As the scared tabby ran away, Polly cried after him: 'Ah, ah! That was good—that was splendid!' and thereafter he never called the cat 'dear' again."

"Did Polly know what he was about?" Georges Routoules, the celebrated British naturalist, put himself on record as a believer in the parrot's understanding as follows: "Whenever my wife or friends discussed the faults of one of the children Polly interrupted by crying: 'Stop that; you will make her cry. This when a girl was under discussion. If a boy, he said: 'You will make that kid cry.' Our parrot had heard us criticize a friend of my wife's who delighted in wearing trained dresses. I had remarked that her hair was good for something, i.e., to sweep the street. Some time after that my wife went out in a long trained dress. Don't forget to sweep the street, dear,' cried Polly."

Dr. Carl Noss, the German naturalist, endorsing the findings of the French savants regarding Polly's brain and brain curvatures, says: "When living abroad a number of foreigners and natives were wont to call at our house, and as I am somewhat of a linguist, I used to entertain each in his own tongue. Polly followed suit and greeted my visitors in their own particular lingo. 'Wie gehts?' to the German, 'Comment allez-vous?' to the Frenchman, 'How do you do?' to the Englishman, etc. 'Mussel' he invariably addressed in German and never failed to bid me 'Good day' or 'Good evening,' nor did he ever make a mistake by substituting evening for morning."—N. Y. American.

Did You Meet Them? Two little Tempers went their way Through town and country, one winter day. One, like a queen, wore a golden crown. And the fairy Sunshine, hat on her gown; And she satly tossed, as she danced along, A largess of smiles, good cheer and song.

The other one wore on her brow a cloud, And her voice was fruitful, and cross and loud; And people pulled up their muffers high, And said, "There's an awful wind passing by." The beverage scattered about, in the frosty air, Quarrels and bickerings, everywhere.

Both had followers in their train, Earning their wages, pleasure and pain. And Time took snapshots of each and all, And hung the pictures on Memory's wall. Sunshine shadown, gloom and cheer; Which did you walk with today, my dear? —Congregationalist and Christian World.

A Black Water In 1668 so little was tea known in Germany that a writer of that period mentions it simply as "a black wine with an acid taste"; and six years later the Muscovite Ambassador at the court of the Mogul declined accepting a large present of tea for his master, on the plea that on his way he would be only troubling him with a commodity for which he had no use. England is generally believed to have first imported it from Holland in 1669, and it is not until 1670 that it was introduced into this country. From that period its popularity increased, for even when tea was much dearer than coffee, the laboring classes, unlike their brethren on the continent, never took kindly to the latter.

Clever Detectives Birds and insects are wonderfully clever detectives. Upon one occasion a gentleman living in India observed a large flock of crows leaving a tree near his house. Shortly after they were gone violent diseases broke out in the vicinity. An English beekeeper placed a quantity of what he believed to be the best quality of sugar in his hive. From an analysis made by a chemist he learned that the man found later that the sugar was a cheap imitation. Swallows and other birds that migrate always choose as their dwelling places localities which are healthy. People, knowing this, watch these birds and build their own houses accordingly. From an analysis made by a chemist he learned that the man found later that the sugar was a cheap imitation. Swallows and other birds that migrate always choose as their dwelling places localities which are healthy. People, knowing this, watch these birds and build their own houses accordingly.

What Would You Take? What would you take for that soft little head Pressed close to your face at time for bed; For that white, dimpled hand in your own held tight, And the dear little eyelids kissed down for the night? What would you take? What would you take for those pink little feet, Those round, chubby cheeks and that mouth so sweet? For the wet, tiny fingers, and little soft toes, That wrinkle little neck, and that funny little nose? Now, what would you take? —Mrs. T. D. Prosser, in Good Housekeeping.

Juvenile Geography Here is a clever composition by a little traveller which shows quite a knowledge of things and places: I was awakened one morning by a city in China, which was perched upon a fence under my window. From an analysis made by a chemist he learned that the man found later that the sugar was a cheap imitation. Swallows and other birds that migrate always choose as their dwelling places localities which are healthy. People, knowing this, watch these birds and build their own houses accordingly.

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