

The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 25, 1910

A PROFESSION OF HOUSEKEEPING.

Before the Royal Commission on Technical Education at Hamilton recently, a Mrs. Lyle expressed the hope that housework would be lifted from its present anomalous position and become skilled labor. She compared housework with nursing. There was a time when nursing was a branch of household work. Every woman was supposed to know something about it, and the supposition was never erroneous, for that matter. Still, it was discovered that if a woman desired to be a first-class nurse it was necessary that she should be specially trained for the work.

Mrs. Lyle hoped to see the process extended to other branches of housework, and Dr. Bryce agreed with her that it would be a great work, indeed. To make every woman in the land a first-class housekeeper should not be an impossibility. It should not be a greater undertaking than to give every man, woman and child in the country the elements of an education. Nor would it be a less important service.

One of the reasons for the absence of Canadian standards of home life in American cities, the Mail and Empire points out, is the incapacity of women to make comfortable homes on limited incomes. Others who are not incapable of the task rebel against the monotony. The result is a generation of people living in restaurants and hotels. There is in Canada a tendency to imitate the Americans in this respect and about the best way to combat it would be to raise housework to the dignity of a profession, and to remove from it the monotony that every woman has to endure who does her own housekeeping.

Girls should be taught to look upon housekeeping as a worthy career for any woman. The idea that it is "servant girl's work" must be corrected. Perhaps the education should begin with the fond mothers who plan to have their daughters relieved from the drudgery they themselves have experienced. In many homes the chief obstacle in the way of the girls becoming good housekeepers is supplied by the mothers, who prefer to have their daughters learning to play the piano, or do burnt woodwork.

Good housekeeping is better than most of the frills commonly regarded as accomplishments, and a girl cannot spend her time to such good advantage as in learning to be an expert in the art of making a happy home. The name of that art is housekeeping.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS.

A large part of Mr. Balfour's recent speech before the Scottish Conservative Club was devoted to what bids fair soon to become a burning question in British politics, the payment of members of Parliament. That the leader of the opposition is himself emphatically opposed to that innovation, he made perfectly plain in his speech; but he did his best to make comfortable the position of any members of his party who felt differently upon the subject.

What has made the question acute is, of course, the Osborne decision, rendered some time ago, which forbids the employment of trades-union funds for the payment of members of the House of Commons; in consequence of that decision, as is recognized on all hands, there will be very great difficulty in securing the service of members of the wage-earning class as representatives in Parliament.

Mr. Balfour expresses an earnest desire that such representatives shall continue to be found in Parliament; he thinks their presence is "a gain to the House of Commons." But he does not want the Osborne decision reversed; on the contrary, he thinks the subsidizing of members by trades unions is in the highest degree contrary to public policy. He quite understands the feelings of those men of his own party who are convinced that the only alternative to a reversal of the Osborne judgment is the establishment of legal pay for members, and who accept this alternative as a choice of evils.

For his own part, however, he refuses to admit that this is the only alternative; and he thinks that payment of members would lead to such deplorable results—chiefly through the office being sought for the sake of the salary, by a class of men less fit, and placed in a less desirable relation to their constituents—that he rejects both propositions. Mr. Balfour admits that the matter cannot be left alone—that something must be done, but does not offer any remedy. He rather naively suggests on the other hand that it is not the business of the opposition to find a solution for every knotty problem that may present itself.

REMINISCENCES OF DICKENS.

Lovers of Dickens will learn with a feeling akin to personal interest that his eldest surviving son has arrived in England from Australia, where he lived for 45 years, and has arranged to tour the country with a "lecture entertainment" entitled "My Father's Life and Works."

Mr. Alfred Tennyson Dickens—Tennyson was his god father—bears not the remotest resemblance to his father as far as personal appearance is concerned. He is described as a thick-set man of 66, with grey hair and mustache. He is, as a matter of course, thoroughly soaked in Dickens lore. "It was at my father's wish," he told a newspaper representative, "that I undertook the journey to Australia in the days when transit was not so easy as it is now. My father considered that I was, then, then looked upon as a new world lay endless possibilities of worldly progress. My brother came to join me—for we were in the stock and station line—but he unfortunately died about nine years ago.

"What led me to take up lecturing? It happened that about 1888 I was approached, quite unexpectedly, by the Bankers' Institute, and asked to speak on the life and works of my father. I was unused to lecturing, and naturally had misgivings when facing my first audience of seven hundred persons. I outlined the leading incidents in my father's career, and limned him as he was in the very zenith of his popularity; when he had carved a name for himself; and when a host of distinguished friends clustered around him."

The lecture proved tremendously successful. In fact, Mr. Dickens was persuaded to tour the Commonwealth with his engaging stories of the creator of these most popular works. "Are the works of Dickens popular in Australia?" he was asked. "More than ever," was the reply. "The leading firm of Australian booksellers assured me before I embarked for England that there was not the least diminution in the demand for my father's works. From a trade point of view Australian readers seem to place in order of merit:—David Copperfield, 'Oliver Twist,' and 'A Tale of Two Cities.'"

Mr. Dickens has a wealth of material quite new to most lovers of the great author. He commenced his tour at Chester on Oct. 4, and may continue it indefinitely. Possibly a series of lectures will be arranged to be held in London during the spring. Mr. Dickens is booked to lecture on this continent before returning to the Antipodes.

A CASE FOR INTERVENTION.

The London Economist and the New York Evening Post are of the opinion that Great Britain should enter a protest against the policy of oppression which Russia is exercising in Finland. They believe the czar's advisers would be compelled to listen, apparently on the theory that St. Petersburg is much more sensitive to outside opinion today than it was before the czar crossed bayonets with the Mikado in Manchuria and before Russia was shaken by a revolution, the causes of which have not been removed, although the iron hand crushed out the popular insurrection.

The Post says that moral forces are not without effective influence upon international questions is strikingly indicated in the discussion by the London Economist of Russia's Finland programme as affecting the future relations between Russia and England. Some weeks ago it declared that the execution of that programme would "make it impossible for the foreign office to maintain the Anglo-Russian entente;" and this statement by a paper so sober and weighty as the Economist, has excited the most widespread and earnest attention in Russia.

Recurring to the subject in its current issue, the Economist insists that its view is correct, even on the supposition—the truth of which it does not admit, but which it accepts for the sake of the argument—that Sir Edward Grey, the foreign minister, is wholly without sympathy with "the struggles and anxieties of small nationalities, even where their liberties are founded on historical guarantees and solemn compacts." But although his sympathies are entirely with Russia, Sir Edward Grey, says the Economist, "knows that his policy must ultimately be swayed by parliamentary opinion, and it declares that, strong as are the ties of party discipline, they would be almost sure to snap under the strain that would be imposed by a carrying out of the Anglo-Russian entente in the face of a carrying out of the programme of suppression of the Finnish nationality."

What the Economist looks for is the making of such representations to the Russian government as will convince it that the loss it would incur in the good will of England and of other western nations by the execution of its purpose "would be greater than it could safely invite. Such interposition in behalf of a people threatened with despotic wrong would be in line with the best traditions of British diplomacy."

SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

In his ninetieth year Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., retains all his life-long pride in Canada and all his certain belief in the splendid destiny of the Dominion. Interviewed by The Standard of Empire in London, he prophesies that the present generation will see the population of Canada surpass that of the British Isles.

Growing reminiscent, he recalls his own part in the making of the country—"It has been a source of unbounded satisfaction to me, that all the great measures in which I was permitted to take part have practically been solved in the direction of my exertion. The confederation of Canada, the binding together of the various provinces by steel bonds, and the opening up of that great granary between the Red River and the Rockies, which, under a policy of Protection, Canada was able to achieve, enable me to look back with great satisfaction upon the settlement of the questions with which in my public life I was occupied."

The vigorous old knight, as the Toronto News points out, does not place too high an estimate on his own contribution towards the nation's progress. Future historians will accord him high rank amongst the constructive statesmen of British North America and the Empire.

Mr. Pugsley's valued organ, the Times, now suggests he may have been guilty of a felony. What next? \$35,933?

Current Comment

(London Free Press.)

Ottawa has a rumor that A. K. Maclean, formerly M. P. for Lunenburg, N. S., will succeed Premier Murray in Nova Scotia, and that the latter will go to the Senate. A. K. Maclean is chiefly remembered at Ottawa as a member of the famous "blocking brigade," and for his defence of the North Atlantic Trading Company, when that shady transaction came before the Commons. The premier has not forgotten that band of stalwarts who were able to swallow anything in the public accounts committee. Alex. Johnson, "the best Grit in Canada," became deputy minister of the marine department; E. N. Macdonald was selected to accompany the premier on his Western trip, and it may be presumed that the Liberal leaders at Ottawa are quite in touch with developments affecting the premiership of Nova Scotia. They have their reward.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Speaking at St. John, Mr. Louis Coste, consulting engineer of the Department of Public Works, is reported to have said that to him there were only two great ports in Canada, St. John and Montreal. He is a wise man who sometimes refrains from telling the truth. The fact will probably be drawn to Mr. Coste's attention.

(Ottawa Journal.)

We are willing to believe that Burbank, Jordan and other western plant wizards, can accomplish almost anything, but we really have to draw the line at the American despatch which tells how Burbank has grafted the strawberry to the milk weed, in order to obtain strawberries and cream from the one plant!

(Brockville Times.)

The Catholic Register blames the Masons and the Socialists for the revolution in Portugal. King Manuel, nevertheless, seeks refuge in England, where Masons and Socialists are as thick as bees in summer, but where somehow they don't cause revolutions.

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The Standard's
Old Reporter

Grogan was putting the finishing touches to a pair of half-soles for Mike Calloway's youngest when Harrigan entered the cobbler's shop last night and helped himself to the only chair in the place.

"Good evenin' Grogan," said the visitor, and, after a pause, "Well, Oi see that there is to be somethin' doin' at Courtney Bay right to wance. The Telegraph this mornin' had a story that th' fraht borin' was to be made right away. On the site of the new docks. My, but ye won't know that place when Docther Pogsley an' th' Telegraph an' th' Times New Reporter gits thru wid it! What's this borin' anny way?"

Said Grogan—"What an ye tell me ye don't know what borin' is, man? Man, was ye never in th' town when there was an election comin' on, an' Docther Pogsley is lookin' for a pair of new half-soles to his political shoes? That's whin ye see the borin's. Let some shpaker arise in his place an' ask impertinent questions av Docther Pogsley sich as 'How do ye feel after yer glorious victory in th' exchequer court whin ye fled to cover an' agreed to pay almost \$10,000 to a man whom ye said ye didn't owe, an' th' docther gives a shmile sich as wud crack a plate an' replies to ye in this fashion:—'Oi can't answer yer question jist now, me young mon, but Oi can tell ye that Oi am about to have the finest crop of borin's started in Courtney Bay next week that ye ever saw. Fer further particulars see the 'Telegraph.'"

"That's what borin' is fer. There's mighty handy things to have aroun' th' house when sum fellers butts in to ask ye why ye ain't paid yer subscription to th' Sons of the Sea yet th' last four years. Jist show him a borin' an' th' chances are he will be so tickled he will ferget to ask ye fer th' money. That's th' way it is wid the Telegraph, whin it gits too hot an' people are askin' questions which if persisted in might lead thim somethin' th' wily editor throts out a borin' an' says, 'Look what Uncle Willie giv ye, an' that settles it.'"

"But what is a borin'?" said Harrigan.
"Don't ask foolish questions," said Grogan. "Oi never saw wan, nor Oi don't expect to."

Then It Happened



Old Mr. Higginbotham, head of the Transatlantic Shoe Peg Trust, was of a highly nervous temperament. Besides, he was worried about the revolt against the tariff. The people were protesting against paying as much for home grown shoe pegs as if they had actually paid the duty on imported shoe pegs.

Wilbur, the bright office boy, was a famous whistler. When not misbehaving the office mail he was whistling. So far, so good. Old Mr. Higginbotham had not yet heard him. But one day, just after reading on the ticket tape that Shoe Pegs Ltd. had dropped eight points on rumors of an insurgent victory in Iowa, old Mr. Higginbotham heard Wilbur whistle. Goodbye, Wilbur!

The End.

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Joliette, P. Q.

"During August last, I went to Montreal to consult a specialist as I had been suffering terribly with Stone in the Bladder.

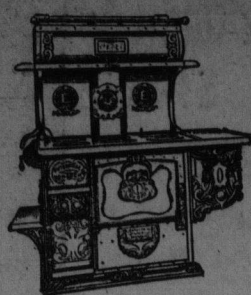
He decided to operate but said the stone was too large to remove and too hard to crush. I returned home and was recommended by a friend to try GIN PILLS.

They relieved the pain. I took two boxes and went back to the specialist. He said the stone was smaller but he could not remove it although he tried for two hours and a half. I returned home and continued to take GIN PILLS, and to my great surprise and joy, I passed the stone.

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