

summer is a season of unmixed gayety to the ladies, and of mingled work and play to the men-folks. Since the lakefront became popular the expenses of "seasoning" there have gone up, and this has forced those who are not able to spend much in holidaying to look elsewhere. They, however, find no difficulty in getting equally delightful places to retreat to within easy reach of Montreal by rail and steamer. On the opposite side of the St. Lawrence, beginning with Laprairie, there is a succession of little towns running down as far as Sorrel which are largely patronized; while there are many as equally interesting villages along the Ottawa river as far up as Caxillon. Other Montrealers prefer to send their families to the country; and thousands leave the city to spend the summer on the farms in the eastern townships—the most picturesque district in Canada, I believe.

Add to these the families who go farther afield—to Europe, to American watering places, to the Maritime Provinces—and some idea can be had of the loss which Montreal sustains when the thermometer begins to get up past theseventies. Literary, musical, artistic, and social Montreal is dead for four months; the leaders in these fields are all away, recharging their exhausted nerve batteries for another season. But commercial Montreal goes steadily on; it knows no rest and no stoppage. Day after day in blazing July, as in arctic January, the great factories, foundries, refineries, warehouses, and the thousand-and-one establishments which go to make Montreal's greatness, grind out wealth. For the workers in these there is no visit to seaside, lake, and farm. They live in small houses, in narrow streets, in low-lying parts of the city where the sun heats even the cobble-stones until they burn the feet, and they toil from early morn until late at night. Yet, even for them there are opportunities for outings. The Montreal Sunday has always, to visitors from your good City of Toronto, appeared shockingly free and easy; yet, without desiring to assert a principle applicable elsewhere, it is unquestionable that the running of cars and boats has been an incalculable boon to the city's poor. I have seen, on a Sunday evening, a thousand families, many of them from the poorest parts of the city, picnicing on Fletcher's Field and the upland stretches behind that reach up to Mount Royal Park; and the sight was an unanswerable argument for the righteousness of our system. Montreal is an exceptionally solid city; and in its poorer parts houses are jammed together so that not a foot of space is lost. With narrow streets and lanes, not too clean, for our scavenging arrangements are a weariness to the flesh and an offence to the nostrils, the conditions of life in these districts is morally brutalizing and physically deteriorating. An afternoon among the trees and grass of the mountain or on the wooded terraces of St. Helen's Island to men and women and their babies, immersed in the week days in the environment of the slums, is a benefit beyond easy expression in words.

In certain other respects, which are by no means admirable, our Sunday differs largely from that prevailing elsewhere in Canada. The smaller newstands, ice cream parlours, and fruit stands are open and do a rushing business; while variety performances are given in some of the cheap theatres and in pleasure parks. The most remarkable of the latter is Sohmer Park, which has an auditorium capable of seating five or six thousand people. An excellent brass band, under the charge of Ernest Lavigne, the best band master in the city, plays selections, many of them classical; while singing and gymnastics usually supply the rest of the entertainment, which is given twice, afternoon and evening. In another part of the building is a menagerie, where there is a very good collection of animals. For a year or so the sale of four per cent beer on Sunday was permitted; but the Legislature at its last session put a stop to this; as the non-intoxicating liquor belied its pretensions, and drunken scenes became common. Sohmer Park has enormous audiences on Sunday, afternoon and evening. Montreal also has a Sunday paper—the only one in Canada outside of Victoria and Vancouver where the morning papers publish editions on Sunday instead of Monday. Altogether, our Sunday is largely continental in its nature; and while it would be well if certain of its offensive features could be removed, this is not likely ever to be accomplished, the French Canadians regarding the day as one which it is proper to devote to amusement after the morning devotions. And the French Canadians in municipal matters are the city's rulers.

Letters to the Editor.

THE CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—It is evident from the number of letters now appearing in *THE WEEK* and other journals, that the people of Canada are, at last, alive to the fact that the present "emblem" is not what it ought to be as a denotative badge on the national ensign; and, while the majority are no doubt inclined toward almost any change from the "gorgeous spread" to something simpler and more appropriate, it is but natural that we should find different people favouring different devices. At first thought, we may fancy this or that idea, but, after mature consideration, we see that there are objections to what we conceive to be the proper thing to represent our country on the flag of the Mother Land, and we change our views accordingly. (At one time I believed that a beaver should be the emblem; but when I studied the matter carefully I came to the conclusion that the rodent with the big tail was scarcely fitted to be "our emblem dear"!) And so I trust it will be with those gentlemen who advocate the "star" for a device. I am aware that there is something very charming in the design: the North Star, suggestive of steadfastness, and were it not that we should be considered to have followed the example of our neighbours the idea would appeal to us very strongly. But the thought of copying the "starry banner" must be repugnant to all patriotic Canadians; for, remembering the saying that "Imitation is the sincerest flattery," our American cousins would not be slow to boast that we were obliged to borrow a portion of their flag! This is the chief reason why I dislike the star; and I feel confident that the people of Canada will protest emphatically against its adoption. It has been claimed that an extra "point" could be added whenever a new province is taken into the Confederation; as several of these are likely to come in, in the future, our little radiating emblem would then have the appearance of a cog-wheel, or, perhaps, be mistaken for the Japanese chrysanthemum! Seriously speaking, I do not think the British authorities will permit of another change to be made—after this; otherwise, there would be no end of trouble every few years; for in event of a change in the Colonial ensigns, every consul, governor, and commander (chief officer) of a man-of-war must be notified. But why, O! fellow-countrymen, should we be looking about for an emblem when we have had one, and a good one, too, for so many years? Is there a civilized land in all the world that does not associate the Maple Leaf with Canada? Does not our best known patriotic song tell of that "emblem dear"? Are we to lose a quarter of a century's advertising—if I may so speak of the popularity of the dear old Maple Leaf? Surely not. I believe that the action of the Canadian Club, of Hamilton, will be endorsed by nearly all Canadians throughout the whole Dominion.

When the question of a new cognizance on our standard was first discussed by that organization, at a meeting held on the 12th of April, 1894, a resolution was passed to the effect that a device of one or more Maple Leaves be substituted for the present badge of arms on the Canadian national ensign; and a committee was appointed to consider what would be the most suitable device. At the last meeting of that committee, June 11th (last week), it was moved by the president, seconded by the ex-president, that design No. 1 (of those exhibited)—consisting of a green Maple Leaf, veined with dark green, on a white disc—be the choice of this committee; and that the proper authorities be memorialized to make use of the design as the Canadian emblem on the Dominion (British) flag. This motion was carried; and I, as chairman, have forwarded a copy of it to the Secretary of State at Ottawa. It may be mentioned that the "white disc" is not an innovation; they are used by nearly all of the Australian colonies. New South Wales has for its distinctive badge, a red cross with a line in the centre, on a white disc; Queensland shows a blue Maltese cross with crown in centre, on white disc; Western Australia has a black swan on a light yellow disc, etc. These are all neat devices; and have an appropriate significance—indigenous as pertaining to Australia, or loyal in British-Empire sentiment. Doubtless, many designs will be offered, good, bad, and indifferent; but I trust that the emblem which finally receives the approbation of the Government and the sanction of the Imperial authorities, will be that which ornaments the covers of *THE WEEK*—our cherished Maple Leaf of Canada.

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