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In answering advertisements mention Canadian Courier

The Patronage System

PATRONAGE impairs the efficiency of all Canadian governments. It does more. It impairs the efficiency of many municipalities. The other day, Alderman E. Lariviere appeared before the Royal Commission which is investigating the civic affairs of Montreal, and part of his evidence is reported as follows:

"Is it not patronage that is the cause of all this?" Mr. Perron asked.

"I think that until we get rid of the patronage we can't have a good civic administration."

"How does the patronage interfere with the good administration of this city?"

"Well, it is a regular steeplechase between the aldermen to get work done in their divisions to the detriment of the general need of the city. Our aldermen are elected for a term of two years. The first year they get acquainted with their new positions and the second year they do their best to secure as much patronage as possible in order to be re-elected for another term."

"What is the result of this system?"

"Well, if the aldermen are influential enough, that is if they have friends among the other members of the Council, they get good contracts for the sidewalks in the small streets and lanes of their division, while the central part of Montreal gets nothing."

"Then would it not be a good thing if the aldermen were to be elected by all the citizens of Montreal?"

"Certainly, it would be the only way to stop that competition between aldermen to get work done only in their divisions."

Literary Notes

MISS L. M. MONTGOMERY, the Canadian novelist, author of the highly successful *Anne of the Green Gables*, whose short stories have appeared in the pages of the *Canadian Courier*, is writing a new "Anne" book entitled *Anne of Avonlea*. This story will deal with Anne's experiences at teaching school.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw, whose troubles with the censor of late are now a matter of history, the other day expressed his opinions of censors in general:—"I think the censorship should be abolished because of my abhorrence of anarchy. The censor is a species of anarchy. A magistrate stands for law and order, but who can follow the chaos of a censor's mind?"

An American writer claims that Mr. Frank Harris, editor of *Vanity Fair*, who only knew Chicago life for a month during a hurried visit to the United States, has written in "The Bomb," a novel better than anything all the Native writers have ever been able to produce.

Mr. W. H. Clawson, lecturer in the English Department of the University of Toronto, has just published an analytical study of the ballads and legends of Robin Hood, entitled the "Gest of Robin Hood." The work is a scholarly and illuminative contribution to an interesting subject and no doubt will find due consideration from college men.

Mr. Richard le Gallienne has announced another volume of poems.

An American writer recently recalled an interesting story of the eminent poet:—

When Richard le Gallienne first visited this country he was introduced at one of the clubs to a gentleman who delights in elaborate fun-making, and does it all with an intensely sober face. After the first formalities were over the humorist asked the poet abruptly:

"Well, Mr. le Gallienne, how is the poetry business?"

Mr. le Gallienne surveyed the face of his questioner, and seeing nothing in the countenance to enlighten him, replied with dignified seriousness:

"I should hardly speak of poetry as a business."

"Why not?" said his interlocutor.

"The grocer sells groceries, the merchant dry goods, and you sell rhymed stuff. The market rates you obtain vary with conditions and the quality of the article offered for sale. The grocer is complimented when inquiry is made as to the conditions of the grocery trade. Why not the poet when asked about his business—his sonnets, lyrics, ballades, and other forms, which are often sold at a ruinous sacrifice?"

Mr. le Gallienne stared, still perplexed at this harangue, when the half-suppressed laugh of the listeners cleared the air and the humorist himself smiled. The poet woke up and said with an air of great relief:

"Oh, I see! You are joking."

Upon the top of all this talk concerning authors' and publishers' pecuniary problems, comes the startling announcement that Mr. Hall Caine is to pocket £14,000 for the English and American stage rights to his latest novel, "The White Prophet."

Mr. W. J. Locke, whose "Septimus," "The Beloved Vagabond," and other fascinating novels, have delighted thousands of readers, is contributing serially his new story, "Simon, the Jester," to the London, England, *M. A. P.*

Mr. George Barr McCutcheon has just finished "Truxton King," another Graustark yarn, which Mr. William Briggs will handle in Canada. It is interesting to note that a recent statement of the publishing houses imparts the information that 672,000 copies of Mr. McCutcheon's Graustark have been sold.

Mr. Louis Joseph Vance's story, "The Pool of Flame," which is said to be as exciting as his other efforts, will shortly be ready.

Mrs. Post has written a novel, "The Title Market," which reveals the real lives of the Dukes and Princes which so often trouble the dreams of the American heiress.

Agnes and Egerton Castle have collaborated on a new novel, "Diamonds Cut Paste."

A lady who styles herself Suzanne Marny, well-known in the circles of Ontario's capital, has written a volume of short stories, "Love Among the Ruins and Other Tales of Old Toronto," which Mr. Briggs will issue in the fall.

Mr. Winston Churchill has completed the novel on which he has been working for the past year. It is simply a love story and Mr. Churchill is said to be this time at his best.

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