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Revival of Handicraft

A Toronto exchange comments with approval on the news that a hand-made paper mill is being established in that city, and that the National Research Foundation at Ottawa is interesting itself in re-establishing the weaving of woollen fabric on hand looms in the farm houses of Quebec and British Columbia. It is significant that the demand for these native hand-made products comes from Canadian consumers in each case. Thus, while the output may be relatively small in comparison with the country's aggregate productivity, there is a social significance in the movement that cannot be overlooked. Handicraftsmanship has been a particular factor in developing the traditions of English peoples, whose guilds and crafts still flourish in the United Kingdom in spite of encroachments by the machine. In this Province in recent years there has been a revival in this important department of domestic industry—a revival encouraged by our exhibition officials and by the Women's Institutes—which may be still further developed among the younger generation. Tourists are especially interested in these products of native workmanship, and while the monetary reward is of secondary importance in this case, it should tend to stimulate a "made-at-home" movement of far-reaching cultural and educational benefit to the community.

News From Ararat

According to a recent news despatch, the Persian Government is understood to have agreed to the inclusion of Mount Ararat in Turkish territory in exchange for a strip of Turkish land on the southern frontier. Whether the tradition which makes Ararat the resting-place of Noah's Ark is of any historical value or not, there is at least poetical fitness in the hypothesis, inasmuch as this mountain is about equally distant from the Black Sea and the Caspian, from the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. Another tradition—accepted by the Kurds, Syrians and Nestorians—fixes on Mount Judi, in the south of Armenia, on the left bank of the Tigris, as the Ark's resting place. Round Mount Ararat, however, gather many traditions connected with the Deluge. The garden of Eden is placed in the valley of the Araxes; Marand is the burial-place of Noah's wife; at Arghuri, a village near the creek Chiam, was the spot where Noah planted the first vineyard, and here were shown Noah's vine and the monastery of St. James, until village and monastery were overwhelmed by a fall of rock, ice and snow, shaken down by an earthquake in 1840. According to the Babylonian account, the resting-place of the Ark was "on the Mountain of Nizir," which some writers have identified with Mount Rowanduz and others with Mount Elburz, near Teheran. From the Armenian plateau, Ararat rises in a graceful isolated cone far into the region of perennial snow. Its height is 17,000 feet above sea level. It was long believed by the Armenian monks that no one was permitted to reach the "secret top" of Ararat with its sacred remains, but on the 17th of September, 1829, Dr. Johann Jacob Parrot, a German in the employment of Russia, set foot on the "dome of eternal ice." Since that time several ascents have been made. There are a number of glaciers on the upper portion, and the climate of the whole district is very severe. The Turks call Ararat "Ezri Dagh"—"Painful Mountain"; but to the Armenians it is "Koh-i-Nuh"—"Mountain of Noah." To Jews and gentiles throughout the Christian world it is the mountain of Noah's Ark, and as the transfer from Persian to Turkish possession has an interest out

all proportion to its importance geographically or politically.

No Other Way

The traffic fatalities of every province furnish evidence that the menace of the level railway crossing persists in spite of all mechanical safeguarding devices. The report of the Dominion Railway Board for August shows that in that month fifteen persons lost their lives at level crossings of Canadian railways, and fifty-four were injured. It is naturally not surprising that the majority of these accidents occurred at unprotected crossings, but the striking point is that nine of them took place not only where there are protecting gates, but actually when these gates were lowered. It is easy to sympathize with the railways and to blame people for needlessly risking their lives in spite of elaborate and expensive apparatus provided for their protection; but the fact is that these death-traps cannot be safeguarded against except by removing them altogether. The time has come when the railways and governments, local, municipal and federal, must get together in some effective scheme of eliminating the more dangerous level crossings in every province. A substantial portion of the money voted for unemployment relief could be used for this purpose. Half the cost might well be borne by the railways. The initiative, however, should come from the provincial governments. Few political issues are half as important to the public as this matter which involves the safety of every man, woman and child travelling by automobile, and which, in this province within the past few months, has resulted in an appalling loss of life.

Our Honorables

Apocryph of Mr. Bennett's appointment as one of His Majesty's Privy Council, which entitles him to the title of Right Honorable, some interesting remarks about that sort of thing are made by the Brockville Recorder. As the Brockville Recorder is published by the Right Honorable George P. Graham, who is himself an Imperial Privy Councillor, it presumably knows what it is talking about. The only persons entitled to be called Right Honorable are the members of the Imperial Privy Council. Not even a Canadian prime minister has a right to that title, unless he has been appointed to the Imperial Privy Council. Some prime ministers, are, some are not. Neither Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell nor Sir Charles Tupper, all of them prime ministers, were Right Honorables. Residents of Canada who are Right Honorables number twelve. Sir Robert Borden, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Sir George Foster, Mr. Justice Duff, C. J. Docherty, Sir Thomas White, Arthur Meighen, Mackenzie King, George P. Graham, Sir William Mullock, Chief Justice Anglin and R. B. Bennett. Canadian Ministers, whether Dominion or provincial, are all Honorables while they are in office. Dominion Cabinet Ministers retain the title if they are out of office. So does a Lieut.-Governor of any province. Provincial Ministers, on the contrary, have no right to the title after leaving office. It is all rather confusing to the layman not familiar with "The Table of Titles to be Used in Canada" or with its accompanying "Table of Precedence for Canada," but if it be remembered that only those sworn to the office of a Minister of the Crown or His Majesty's Imperial Privy Council are entitled to bear their titles for life, unless special permission is granted, and if it be also remembered that a Canadian Privy Councillor is a "Right Honorable," the puzzle loses some of its perplexities.

Notes by the Way

Ira F. Robinson, a member of the United States Federal Radio Commission, arises to predict a "revolt" of radio listeners as a result of present "excesses of the broadcasters in their greed for commercial gain." He has come to the conclusion that some American broadcasting stations are putting out an "overdose" of commercialism, that the public is becoming "disgusted" with excessive radio advertising, and that country-wide sentiment against "commercialization of the radio" is developing. A great many listeners came to similar conclusions, and long in advance of Mr. Robinson. A large proportion of radio programs, otherwise entertaining and interesting, are spoiled for listeners by the intrusion of advertising announcements which are long, dull and far too numerous. It is as though a newspaper sprinkled its front page with advertising matter, scattered it among news stories to annoy and irritate the reader. If every person signing a petition requesting expansion and betterment of government service were required to attach his individual check for his share of the cost of such increased service, requests would be few and far between. The time is at hand when a great scheme of tariff preferences will be established among the countries of the empire, and it is safe to predict that the operation of this empire-wide trade policy will draw all parts of the empire together in bonds of union more powerful than any that have hitherto existed. For the Federal Government to fix the minimum price of wheat at one dollar, or at any figure says a Montreal Exchange would constitute the most extreme form of protection, get the people who are now asking for protection, and in a manner that would be equivalent to a bounty on their wheat and other agricultural produce, are those who hitherto have been unrelenting, in season and out of season, in their opposition to protection being given in a reasonable degree to the manufacturing interests of the country. Thirty-five youths, brought to Canada by the Salvation Army, have sailed from Montreal for a holiday in the Old Country after having worked on farms for from four to six years. They will return before the winter is over. Their experience goes to show that young immigrants can do well on Canadian farms today and that the workers in question are industrious and thrifty. They should prove a good advertisement for the Dominion, especially in the present circumstances. From Granby, Que., comes the announcement of the establishment of a subsidiary industrial plant by the Altofer Brothers Co., of Peoria, Ill., manufacturers of household appliances. Administration headquarters will be located in Montreal. Only a few days ago, the Kellogg Company intimated that a new \$150,000 plant is to be erected at London, Ontario, and J. L. Brown, president of the company, predicts that the time will come when the London plant will be as large as the American factories at Battle Creek. These announcements afford just another example of what a sound tariff policy can mean to Canada. United States concerns will be compelled to do their manufacturing for Dominion consumption within Canada. Moreover, it should be obvious that if Empire preference becomes a fact, the opportunities for expansion are unlimited. In this period of economic depression it is cheering to read Sir James Woods' remarks at the annual meeting of the Imperial Bank regarding the Eastern Maritime Provinces, says the Mail and Empire. Sir James, speaking as vice-president of the bank, said that the situation in the Maritimes can be best described by the phrase "definite and fairly general improvement." The exodus of population from that part of Canada has been materially checked with the revival of prosperity. It is the unanimous opinion of all firms doing any considerable volume of business in these provinces that they are relatively the most prosperous sections of the Dominion. This is explained by an aggressive attitude towards the solution of industrial problems, the encouragement of tourist traffic and a marked increase in building activity. During the economic stress of the past year there has not been a solitary bank failure in Canada. The banks of the Dominion, as well as the trust and loan companies, which do to a certain extent a banking business, have not only themselves weathered the storm, but they have done much to stabilize business in this country. They have again demonstrated the superiority of the Canadian over the American banking system.



By James W. Barton, M.D. DOES REMOVING TONSILS BENEFIT THE CHILD

I met a father recently whose worried expression excited my sympathy. He admitted that it was on account of his little child, 4 years of age, who was about to undergo an operation for removal of tonsils.

"I had my own tonsils removed," he said and also those of my other youngsters; but when I read of the accidents that sometimes happen with this operation, I just lose my nerve, that's all."

Now what about this business of removing tonsils? Is it really necessary? Why did Nature put tonsils into a youngster if they were not to be of use? What good does it do to the youngster to have the tonsils removed?

As a matter of fact Nature put the tonsils in to protect the youngster during the years when infantile troubles are most frequent. The tonsils filter poisons out of the blood, and when they are in a healthy condition, help to prevent infection. Therefore it is usual for the tonsils to gradually disappear about the age of fifteen when the diseases of childhood are passed. However if the tonsils are unhealthy, are themselves filled with poisons, you can see that instead of removing poisons from the blood they actually pour poisons into it, hence the attacks of rheumatism from infected tonsils.

Does the removal of tonsils do the youngster any good? You and I have seen cases where there has been remarkable benefit, and other cases where there seemed to be no benefit at all. However Drs. J. D. Monroe and V. K. Polk tell us in the American Journal of Public Health, of their analysis of the complaints of 736 children before and after operation as compared with the results with the analysis of 741 other children having similar complaints, on examination and reexamination one year later.

What did they find? That removal of tonsils offers a child considerable relief from such common complaints as sore throat, head colds and mouth breathing. It increases weight and causes the enlarged glands in the neck to disappear. Complaints have been relieved in 91 per cent of patients operated on.

Children below normal mentally, making poor progress in school resulting from enlarged tonsils and adenoids, showed improvement in 40 per cent of all patients operated on. Complaints in the 741 children who were not operated on do not show any improvement during the one year of observation, as compared with the 91 per cent improvement shown in the group of patients operated on. Ask your doctor about this.

The Poet's Corner

IN SOLITUDE

He is not desolate whose ship is sailing Over the mystery of an unknown sea. For some great love with faithfulness unflinching Will light the stars to bear him company. Out in the silence, in the mountain passes, The heart makes peace and liberty its own— The wind that blows across the scented grasses Bringing the balm of sleep—comes not alone. Beneath the vast limitless spaces Where God has set His jewels in array. A man may pitch his tent in desert places Yet know that heaven is not so far away. But in the city in the lighted city— Where gilded spires point toward the sky, Grey loneliness in cloth-of-gold for pity. But in the city, in the lighted city— goes by. —Vivian Sheard, in Canadian Poets.

He said there was one only good, namely, knowledge; and one only evil, namely, ignorance.—Socrates, quoted by Diogenes Laertius.

Fruits Of Adventure

(James Stanley Little in United Empire Journal.)

Sugar, now relatively one of our cheapest foodstuffs, was entirely unknown to us during the Middle Ages. Previously honey was the only saccharine substance available. The potato, now the stand-by as a food-staple of millions of Europeans, was unknown until Hawkins brought it from the New World; while we are also indebted to America for tobacco, the solace of the bulk of mankind, and today that of womankind too. To these, scores of "boons" resulting from the voyages of Columbus and his followers may be added. The pharmacopoeia has, for instance, been enriched by countless herbs, some of outstanding value, which have their habitat in South America. Tea was first spoken of in western history, I believe, in or about 1550, when porcelain was also mentioned, but as a popular beverage it only began its triumphant career in Charles II's reign. We owe its introduction to the Dutch East India Company. A Cretan, Nathaniel Cononius, who appears to have been of Balliol college, Oxford, brought coffee to England in the time of Charles I. Cocoa, a much later introduction, had an American provenance. Copra, one among other highly useful products of the coconut, came into the first instance from the Indian coast and its neighbouring islands. Christmas would not be Christmas without the turkey. The bird was not domiciled in England until 1525; North America was its home. The piece de resistance of Mansel House banquets—turkey soup—would have been an unknown delight had not the West Indies been discovered; the green turtle was imported from those islands. As for fruits, many of those now regarded as natives of Britain were of peregrine origin; the apple is the oldest of them. The serious cultivation of the apple tree in England dates from 1540, when the first Kenilworth orchards were planted. The apple tree was, however, brought into Italy from Syria and Africa some time, Italy was, in many instances, the first European country to introduce and cultivate many of the fruits which ultimately found their way to England. The apple as a crop, is mentioned in Saxon deeds; we may, therefore, assume the existence of a Romano-British cultivation of the fruit. The cherry tree was brought from Pontus to Rome by Lucullus, A. D. 70. The apricot hails from Epirus, the peach from Persia, the higher class plums from Damascus or Armenia, pears and figs from Greece and Egypt. Most of these took some centuries in journeying to our shores from Southern Europe, where they had made themselves at home. The wild strawberry of England and the continent is not the parent of the various strawberries cultivated for many generations in this country. They came from North America, Chile, the Himalayas and elsewhere. A recent writer, referring to Shakespeare's well-known lines, "The strawberry grows beneath the nettle," etc. (Henry V.), asks the question were the Elizabethans content with the tiny native berry, or whether already in the 16th century a superior fruit was in cultivation from which some of the present varieties were derived? A good deal of evidence exists that strawberries were a fruit of common consumption from the days of Henry VIII. onwards. "The strawberry beneath the nettle" seems to point to the wild variety. I have proved from personal experiment that under favourable cultivation the wild strawberry can be brought to produce berries nearly as large as raspberries. Our vegetables, too, have in many instances an exotic origin. Artichokes, from Asia, made their first appearance in our vegetable gardens about the middle of the sixteenth century. The Jerusalem artichoke came from Brazil. Most of our root and green vegetables are found wild in Britain, but all the same many of those in use in our kitchens are

derived from stocks brought from the East. The Romans were great cultivators of asparagus. Celery was first imported by the East India Company, A. D. 1621. Still, although its manufacture and use began in China, is one among many products which Europe generally, and Britain individually, owe to the culture of the Romans. Obviously, it may be said of gold, that its quest and discovery have done more than almost anything to make the world go round. It was largely the allure of alluvial gold, and no doubt of oysters and pearls, which enticed the Romans to Britain. At the time of the discovery of America, the gold supply of the civilized world, previously obtained mainly from Asia and Africa, though a little was derived from Europe, was becoming decidedly inadequate for currency and other requirements. Mexico and South America furnished immediately large quantities of the metal and later California, Australia and South Africa took up the running. And when we recall these things, we cannot doubt that Henry Wickham who brought rubber seeds to Great Britain from Brazil little more than half a century ago, in circumstance of considerable peril, and thus so going the rubber plantations of the Middle East, was in direct line of succession to the earlier adventurer. As for diamonds and the other precious stones, while it is true that we owe them in a very special sense to the enterprise and Argus-eyed prospecting of adventurous spirits among our people, and while it is equally true that in an indirect sense their discovery and exploitation have, as in the case of gold, contributed widely to general development, it is also true in a direct sense they have added so much to the sum total of human misery and unhappiness, that perhaps it cannot be claimed on balance that they have contributed to the general well-being of the human family.

Obviously, this brief summary does not pretend to be exhaustive. Our cattle, for instance, might be included, and our horses; and it is a fact that most of our common garden flowers were brought to this country in the days of the Tudor monarchs. God is the eternal confidant in that tragedy where every man is the hero.—Baudelaire. The past, with its guilt, with its hypocrisy and its hollowiness, its lying conventionalities and its pitiful cowardice, shall lie behind us like a museum, open for instruction—Henrik Ibsen. The reformer always manages to catch us at ebb, and when we get back our fighting strength, it's too late. Fighting then becomes, not self defence, but assault and battery.—Harold McGrath.

That Body of Hours

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