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Morning Maxim

One can listen to any kind of sentimentality that isn't flavored with poor perfumery.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1932

EMPIRE BROADCAST

It was a thrilling experience to "listen in" to the great Empire broadcast on Christmas Day. The vast expanse of the Empire was emphasized in the differences in time. In England the programme was given on Christmas afternoon. In British Columbia the sun had not then risen on Christmas Day, while in other parts of the Empire it was already the day after Christmas! From each broadcasting point came greetings and messages of optimism and good cheer. The story is told in a brief paragraph by the Canadian Press: "First England was on the air, then Wales, Scotland, Ulster, the Irish Free State. The voices of Canada followed, Halifax sending its greetings, Montreal coming on in French and English, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver adding their voices. Wellington, N. Z., picked up the chain, followed by Brisbane and Melbourne in Australia, and Cape Town, Union of South Africa, Port Said added a few words. The liner Majestic in the Atlantic Ocean and the liner Empress of Britain in the Red Sea took part in extending Christmas greetings." It is all set down in matter of fact language, yet it represents one of the greatest achievements of the age; an amazing fairy tale come true. British nation spoke to British nation, shore to ship at sea, and ship answered to shore, and even the "little town of Bethlehem," the cradle of Christianity, the place to which the thoughts of all Christendom were turned on Christmas Day, contributed its message.

Most impressive was the broadcast by His Majesty the King, who, it is understood, talked into the same golden microphone that transmitted his speech throughout the world on the occasion of the opening of the Indian Round Table Conference, two years ago. The instrument was installed in His Majesty's study at Sandringham for the event. All the arrangements for the broadcast were submitted to the King for his final approval before being definitely carried out. The Royal greetings were heard by the largest audience ever assembled to listen to the human voice. And it was a message which was worthy of the occasion. "To regain prosperity without self seeking, and to carry with us those whom the burden of the past years had disheartened." In that phrase His Majesty struck the keynote of the gigantic efforts which the Empire is making at the present time. A personal touch was added when he said, with the simple dignity which has characterized all the utterances of the British monarch: "My life's aim has been to serve as I might towards those ends. Your loyalty, your confidence in me has been my abundant reward. I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all."

Foreigners have expressed surprise at the increasing strength of those ties which bind together the various units of the British Empire. In the United States especially there has been difficulty in understanding the nature of the Britishers' loyalty to the Crown. Perhaps the Christmas Day broadcast will give outsiders a clearer insight into these matters. It has, at any rate been an epochal event to British people.

WHERE CURLING BEGAN

Interesting light upon the much-disputed origin of curling, says the London Morning Post, is provided by a sixteenth-century oil painting in a Viennese museum. Although the sport is held by Scotsmen to be indigenous to their country, opinions have been expressed in the past that the foreign terms used in the game point to its Continental origin. The exact date at which the game was first taken seriously in any country is unknown, but it is believed to have been some time during the sixteenth century.

The painting, which is entitled "Die Helmkehr der Jager" ("The Return of the Hunters") is signed and dated Bruegel, 1585. In the background of the picture, below the hill on which the hunters are standing, five figures can be clearly seen curling on an ice rink. A photographic enlargement of the rink reveals that their mode of play and the stones themselves are considerably more up to date than anything hitherto ascribed to Scotland before the nineteenth century.

The Rev. J. Ramsey (1777-1871), who is believed to give the earliest account we possess of curling, states confidently that the sport is of Continental origin.

"We have all the evidence that etymology can give in favor of its Continental origin," he writes. "The terms being all Dutch or German point to the Low Countries as the place in which it most probably originated—at least, whence it was conveyed to us. Had there been only one or two foreign terms one would have militated much for the domestic origin of the game, but the whole of the terms being Continental compel us to ascribe it to Continental origin."

The various dates given by authoritative sources as the earliest by which curling was known are equally unsatisfactory. The Encyclopaedia of Sport states that the sport, "in one form or other has been practiced in that country (Scotland) for more than four centuries back." The Encyclopaedia Britannica suggests that the sport "has been popular in Scotland for three centuries at least." Finally J. Kerr, whose "History of Curling" was published in 1890, writes at that date, that the game could be traced back for nearly 400 years.

The most conclusive evidence as to the sport's origin, however, is afforded by a study of the stones shown in the painting. "The ancient stones had no handles," states the Encyclopaedia Britannica, "but notches were hewn in them for finger and thumb, and as their weight varied from five to twenty-five pounds, it is probable that they were thrown after the fashion of quoits." The players in the picture have evidently long passed this stage, for they can be seen stooping to grasp their bowls.

"During the next period we find the heavy bowlder stones, unhewn blocks fitted with handles and probably used at shorter distances, seventy or eighty pounds being no uncommon weight. The rounded stone, made on scientific principles, did not appear until about 1800. Even then it was of all shapes and sizes with and without handles and not uncommonly made of wood." The stones in the picture are undoubtedly an improvement on even this last type, since all possess handles; certainly they are not "unhewn blocks."

Moreover, in the "Annual" of 1841 there is contained a description of a stone that had been found that year as follows: "This last summer a stone has been found in an old curling pond near Dunblane. It is 10 inches broad by 11 inches and five inches thick and seems to have been taken from the bed of the river and not to have been dressed. There are two holes for the handle."

EDITORIAL NOTES

We suggest to our contemporary that there are more opportune times for playing party politics than during the Christmas holidays

NOTES BY THE WAY

Canada is not alone in having a serious railroad problem. The Interstate Commerce Commission estimates that Class I railroads in the United States will this year fall short of earning their interest charges by over $200,000,000. It is also estimated that the country has 50,000 miles of railroad that should never have been built. The railroads of that country have to reckon with the same kinds of competition as those which confront the railroads of Canada.

It has always been very hard for the best brains of the United States to coerce Congress; and Congress will have to be coerced if it is ever made to forget its farm strikers and its bonus marchers and its depressed constituents, and agree to tax billions of dollars out of the American people for the relief of Europe—Europe which pays for more armaments today than it did before the War. However, Congress has at times been led against its will. There was once a Roosevelt who did it. Is there anything in a name?

There are no blots on the British war debt record. But there will be a very large sized blot on the record of American Government if it does not alter the British debt agreement before the next semi-annual payment is due.—Providence Journal.

Canada has been busy creating new traditions during these past few years—never too busy, however, to forget to pay homage to her older ones. Canada has unexplored riches beyond human comprehension in her natural resources. But her greatest treasure house is in the hearts of her sons and daughters who regard her traditions so sacredly. While this spirit lives in the hearts of her people Canada is destined to aspire and to achieve greater and loftier objectives.

The first purpose was self-preservaton, the second, a means of bargaining with foreign countries which imagined they could profit permanently through a one way trade. Ottawa seems to have been signally successful in helping to restore commercial sanity where it is most needed.—Auckland Weekly News.

Reporting to a Congress, pathetically eager for an education, the Interstate Commerce Commission informs it concerning the effects to be expected of a compulsory six-hour day for railroads as follows: "There would be no material effect adverse or otherwise, upon operation of the several carriers, assuming that revenues would be sufficient to cover any added operating expense and still maintain credit." The syllogistic form here employed will be recognized as a classic by all masters of dialetics. It was invented some time after Aristotle by the colored gentleman who said: "If I had a little ham I'd have ham and eggs for breakfast if I only had the eggs."

In his message to Congress President Hoover says: "As mantained armaments call for a large increase in expneditures on our defensive forces, the American people feel that cancellation of these (war) debts would only free larger sums for further military preparations abroad." But whatever may be thought and said in the United States about world wide conditions, the President's argument certainly does not apply to the case of Great Britain, because Britain is the only one of the great powers that has given a clear lead toward disarmament since 1918. And it is to be remembered that Britain pays the great bulk of the war debts to the United States.

To show how important it is that the jurors keep their minds unbiased, the dismissal of a jury in an asault case in London is told. Lord Hewart, the Lord Chief Justime, heard that during the luncheon interval two of the jurors had made a jocular remark to chief of defending counsel. The barrister had replied. Directly the Lord Chief Justice heard of the occurrence he dismissed the jury and ordered a new trial. Although nothing in the brief conversation had any direct bearing on the outcome of the case, the Chief Justice took the ground that the jurors and counsel on one side were on terms of undue familiarity. That would tend to sway their judgment if the case were close.

The Chiddingfold Agricultural Association has presented a cheque to Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George, representing prize money which he won in competition last September, when he took first place for potatoes and swedes grown on his farm at Churt. If politics lets the war time Premier down altogether he may fall back upon farming.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

GIVE YOUR DOCTOR A CHANCE TO LOCATE YOUR TROUBLE

When a patient is in pain there is only one thing in his mind, that is to get rid of that pain. If the doctor who is called in immediately gives him a dose of some pain killing drug, then that doctor "knows his business", and will be called in the next time there is any illness in that patient's home.

There are some forms of pain in which the doctor is justified in giving immediate relief to the patient; in fact it would be unfair not to do so.

However with pain anywhere in the body, particularly in the abdomen, to give a pain killing drug before a thorough examination is made, might prove disastrous to the patient. A pain killing medicine by relieving the pain will mask or hide the symptoms where immediate operation is really necessary.

So don't get impatient with your doctor if he takes a little time to try to learn the nature of your illness by studying the pain instead of giving medicine to stop it immediately.

Another point forgotten by some patients is that from the time an illness starts until it gets well under way may be hours, days, or even weeks. Because the doctor who saw it after it was well developed was able to recognize it, should be no reflection on the first doctor or doctors who saw the case in its early stages, when it resembled half a dozen other ailments. It is quite likely that the doctor who was called in first would have no trouble recognizing the ailment in these later stages.

Of course, as some one has well said, each man's health is to himself so emotional and personal an affair that he can scarcely judge his doctor with disinterested intelligence. A throbbing earache will warp the soundest judgment.

Practising medicine doesn't mean simply taking the temperature and pulse, looking at the tongue, and prescribing a little medicine until something develops. The physician of to-day tries to diagnose the case from the very beginning, but he knows that he must make certain examinations, certain laboratory tests, and get as much information as possible from the patient himself before he can give what he considers the proper diagnosis.

Try to remember this when you or a loved one is sick.

AVOIDING AND FIGHTING FLU

Those of us who went through the Flu epidemic of 1918 and 1919, and who have seen the Flu grow less severe in its effects the past few years have much cause to be thankful.

However the Flu is still with us, and we must be ever on our guard. Naturally we believe that it was so severe and did so much damage in 1918, that a certain amount of protection is now present in those of us who passed through it at that time, just as attacks of various ailments protect us from future attacks.

However the protection may gradually wear away, and in addition a new generation of young people is now growing up about us, so it would be wise if we kept in mind just how to recognize the Flu when it comes, and also the best way to fight it.

The Flu usually starts with a tired "achy" feeling—pains and aches over the body. There may be a little "snuffiness" or cold in the head, a slight cough, and a little rise in temperature. If the symptoms increase there may be severe pain in the chest, more coughing, and a broncho-pneumonia or pneumonia develop. All over the world little suggestions are being given by public health departments or hygiene societies on the best way to handle the Flu situation.

How to avoid the Flu. Keep physically fit. Exercise in the open air. Get plenty of sleep in a well-ventilated room. Avoid crowds. Wash your hands and face frequently and always before eating. If you cough or sneeze do so in a clean handkerchief, and thus protect your neighbor. Don't worry about the Flu.

This doesn't mean that if you follow the above you will not have an attack of Flu. It does mean that should you be attacked you will be in your best possible condition to fight it.

How to fight Flu. Go to bed immediately. Call your physician at once and do as he tells you. Stay in bed until your doctor tells you to get up. It is always wise to call your physician as the real danger of the Flu is that many cases go on to pneumonia. Remember the period of getting well is longer than the time actually sick. Keep your room at 68 degrees F. and well ventilated.

Old Coffee Houses And Clubs

(E. Lytton Wybert, D.P.S. in the Montreal Gazette).

I.

Three centuries ago clubs were the natural resorts of men who, though socially inclined, did not enjoy the social position, and could not, therefore, command the introductions into high circles which were accorded to Pepys or John Evelyn in the 17th century and to Horace Walpole in the 18th century. The "clubs" succeeded the fashionable "coffee and chocolate houses" of a bygone day. They afford advantages and facilities of living to thousands of dividuals in every walk of life, civil and military, ecclesiastical, peers spiritual and temporal, commoners, men of the learned professions, those connected with literature, science, the arts, and commerce, in all its principal branches, as well as those who do not belong to any particular class.

The opinion of Dr. Johnson on the subject of clubs and club life is well known to every reader of Boswell. A gentleman venturing one day to say to the learned doctor that he sometimes wondered at his condescending to attend a club, the latter replied: "Sir, the great chair of a full and pleasant town club is, perhaps, the throne of human felicity."

Addison, who knew something about the chocolate and coffee houses and what we may call the "club life" of his day, has given a sketch of St. James' Coffee House, which stood at the western end of Pall Mall. He modestly surmised that his detractors had some color for calling him the King of Clubs, and oracularly said that "All celebrated Clubs were founded on eating and drinking, which were points where most men agree, and in which the learned and the illiterate, the dull and the airy, the philosopher and the buffoon, can all of them bear a part."

According to John Timbs, Pall Mall was noted for its tavern clubs more than three centuries ago. "The first time that Pepys mentions it" is under date of July 26, 1660, when he says: 'We went to Wood's, our old house, for clubbing, and there we spent till ten at night." The passage is strangely curious, not only as showing how even at that time Pall Mall was famous for also as the earliest instance of the use of the verb "to club," in the sense now so commonly in use.

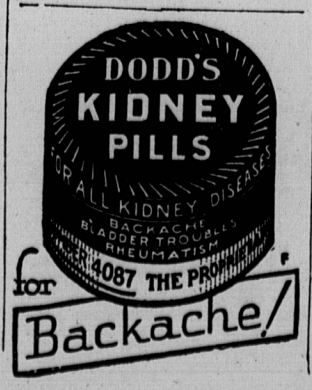
Thackeray describes the club life at the West End in Queen Anne's day with his usual felicitous manner. "It was too hard, too coarse a life, for the sensitive and sickly Pope. He was the only wit of the day—he was not fat. Swift was fat; Addison was fat; Steele was fat; Gay and Thompson were preposterously fat. All that fuddling and punch drinking, that club and coffee house boozing shortened the lives and enlarged the waistcoats of the men of that age." "The chief of that age spent over spadille and ception of Congreve," he writes further, "were what we should now call men's men." They spent many hours of the four and twenty, nearly a fourth part of each day, in clubs and cofee houses, where they dined, drank and smoked. Wit and news went by word of mouth. A journal of 1710 contained the very smallest portion of either the one or the other. The chiefs spoke, the faithful "habitues" sat around; strangers came to wonder and listen. The male society passed over their punch bowls and tobacco pipes almost as much time as the ladies of that age spent over spadille and manille.

We see no sign of club life in the tattling writings of Horace Walpole, though so many of his personal friends—George Selwyn, for instance—were devoted to its pleasures. For himself, so it is stated, he was hardly robust enough to live in such an atmosphere.

The clubs of London in the days of the Regency belonged exclusively to the aristocracy. In the words of Captain Gronow, "My tradesman," as King Allan used to call the bankers and the merchants who had not then invaded White's, Brook's, Boodle's, or Wattier's, in Bolton Street, Piccadilly; which with the Guards', Arthur's, and Graham's were the only clubs in the West End. "White's" was decidedly the most difficult of entry; its list of members comprising nearly all the noble names of Great Britain. Here gaming was carried on to such an extent that it made ravages in large fortunes. General Scott, the father-in-law of George Canning and the Duke of Portland, was known to have won at "White's" a large fortune; thanks to his notorious sobriety and complete knowledge of the game of whist. The general possessed a great advantage over his companions by avoiding those indulgences at the table which used to befuddle other men's brains. He confined himself to dining off something like boiled chicken with toast and water. By such a regime he came to the whist table with a clear head, and possessing as he did a remarkable memory, with great coolness, he was able to boast that he had won honestly more than a quarter of a million pounds.

(To be concluded)

I have passed the above advice along before and I'm doing so again as one who was close to the ravages of 1918. I believe had we known as much then as now, valuable lives might have been saved.



The Poets' Corner

SOUL'S BEAUTY

Under the arch of Life, where love and death,
Terror and mystery, guard her shrine, I saw
Beauty enthroned; and though her gaze struck awe,
I drew it in as simply as my breath.
Her's are the eyes which, over and beneath,
The sky and sea bend on thee,—which can draw,
The allotted bondman of her palm and wreath.

This is that Lady Beauty, in whose praise
Thy voice and hand shake still—long known to thee
By flying hair and fluttering hem—the beat
Following her daily of thy heart and feet,
How passionately and irretrievably,
In what fond flight, how many ways and days!

—D. G. Rosetti

Canadian Grain Routes

(Winnipeg Tribune)

The Maritime grain route is becoming well established, through a combination of carefully planned governmental policies, and certain recent changes in freight rate structures, both land and water.

In all likelihood this new development will eventually mean for Saint John and Halifax a repetition of the phenomenal growth which has taken place in Vancouver as a grain port. Habit plays a considerable part in sustaining trade routes; the volume of traffic of a particular commodity along a selected route tends to attract more traffic through improvement in rates and service.

Mr. James A. Richardson, president of one of Canada's largest grain exporting firms, in an interview with The Saint John Telegraph-Journal, sweeps away some of the beliefs which had made some Westerners doubtful of the ultimate success of the Maritime grain route. For a long time it was thought that a large proportion of Canadian grain must flow through New York because of the cheap rates given by passenger liners.

This factor has been eliminated; most of the grain is now being carried in tramp steamers because their rates are lower than those of the liners.

Discount on Canadian and British money as compared with American dollars affects both railway and ocean freight rates, favoring Canadian and British lines. This is a temporary or adventitious factor, but it is only the added stimulus needed to get the Maritime grain movement into full swing. For several years a great deal of work has been done by the Maritime Provinces and ports, by the Canadian railways and the Dominion Government, to lay a solid foundation for the shipment of grain through Canadian Atlantic ports. When exchange returns to parity this favorable basic structure will remain, with the added momentum of habit.

The Maritime lines and Atlantic ports are evidently fully aware that in order to hold this traffic they must give service of a high order; this habit also will tend to give permanency to the route.

Advantages of employing Canadian equipment and Canadian labor to the fullest possible extent in the handling of the Dominion's products are perfectly obvious from the national point of view. But patriatic sentiment is not alone sufficient to do the trick; it must be backed up by real performance. A combination of circumstances has given the Maritime ports a great opportunity, and it is evident that they are making the best of it.

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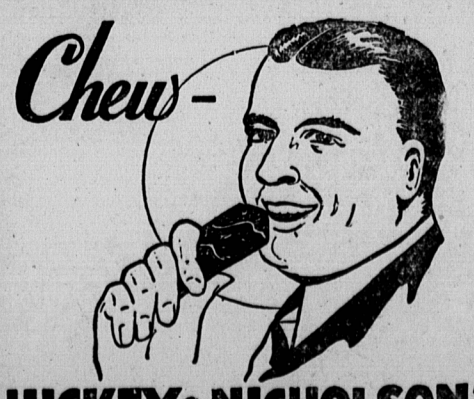

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