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Songs Our Mothers Used To Sing

To a Community one-half of which is endeavoring to discover the author of a certain book, and the other half wondering and speculating about the opening events of the fifteenth Parliament it may appear to be a trivial proceeding to recall the songs our mothers used to sing thirty and forty years ago. It may be remarked, however, that while the effusions of anonymous author died a speedy death and pass "unwept, unhonored and unsung to the limbo of forgotten things, and even the fate of governments does not bulk as largely in the local public mind as the outcome of the Ottawa-Queen's game, the songs of the long ago tug at the strings of the heart and the chords of memory are touched again by vanished hands.

Of course you recall the old home with the picture of Sir John A. Macdonald of George Brown over the mantlepiece in the parlor where the men folk of the house were seldom allowed to enter (a man had to die to get into the parlor in those days), the crock of "red eye" the chiffonier and, the wax flowers under a glass case in the corner close by the rocking chair covered discreetlyy with an antimacassar. And the piano with (sometimes it was harmonium) the well-thumbed book of songs Of course you recall them all. And the songs were far removed from the jazzy productions of this day which deal with "red hot mamas," and tell of the determination of a certain gentleman to sever the relations of friendship with an individual who had succeeded in alienating the affections of the said gentleman's sweetheart, in other words, "the pal that I loved stole the gal that I love, that's why we're not pals anymore."

Many of the old songs our mothers and grandmothers too sang were the type of:

"Fair as a lily, joyous and free
Pride of the praire home was she;
Every one that knew her felt the gentle power
Of Rosalie the Praire Flower."

If memory serves, Rosalie was not long for this world; she passed to her grave early in life, but she was sung about quite a lot.

Then there was the rollicking little thing which was carolled gaily at the season when Santa Claus was about his delightful business and which struck a lighter note than poor Rosalie, cut off in her early prime. It went:

"Over the river and through the woods
To grandmother's house we go;
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifting snow;
Over the river and through the woods.
Till grandmother's house we spy.
Hurrah for the fun—is the pudding done?—
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie."

The descriptive song was much in vogue. One in particular which was very popular had to do with "Grandmother's Chair." It desiribed how grandma died and her will was read, the bequests being many but to one relative it was found she had only left her old arm chair. The rest of the family made fun of this, but he took the chair to his home and it was forgotten until one fine day some one knocked it down and—

". . . . it fell upon the floor
And there to my surprise there lay before my eyes
A lot of notes a thousand pounds or more;
When my brother heard of this th, poor fellow I confess
Went nearly mad with rage and tore his hair;
But I only smiled at him and I said unto him: "Jim,
Don't you wish you had the old arm chair?"

All of which goes to show that virtue has its own reward in spheres of life far removed from the movies.

Another song dealt with advice given by grandmother to her grand daughter when the beaux were standing at the garden gate dressed in their black go-to-meeting suits on courting bent. The burden of the refrain was:

"Timmy I timmy um tum, grandmother said,
If you never get married you'll die an old maid."

Grandma was a bit of a philosopher, wasn't she, to say nothing of her powers of divination? Some times at a box social" a maid would blushingly warble a really saucy ditty, such as the one treating of the perplexities of the wooer who was informed by his sweetheart that it was useless to ask mother or father for her hand as father loved her too dearly to let her go, and mother was of the opinion that all men were deceivers. The last verse rendered amid much acclaim, told of the common sense advice tendered the love-lorn swain by the maiden of his choice was as follows:

"Then how shall I claim you my jewel, Sweet Mary?" said I.
"If your parents are both so cruel
Most surely I'll die."
"Oh, never say die, dear," said Mary.
"A way now to help you I see
If my parents are both so contrary,
You'd better ask ME."

Bully for Mary eh what? She knew what she was about.

Many songs that our mothers and grandmothers were wont to sing were of a highly sentimental nature. The lovers of the long ago took their love making quite sadly and seriously. Something was always cropping up to spoil the even tenor of their way. One had the somewhat doleful refrain:

"Call me back again, call me back again,
I know when love has conquered pride and anger
I know that you will call me back again."

They seemed to be everlastingly sending each other away or calling each other back again in the love songs of yore. They did not seem to be able to stay "put" as it were. But there was real music in some of these sentimental ballads. The soothing strains fall on the ear like a caress of:

In the gloaming, Oh my dearling
When the lights are dim and low,
And the quiet shadows falling.
Softly come, and softly go;
When the winds are sobbing faintly
With a gentle unknown woe.
Will you think of me and love me.
As you did once long ago?"

Even in "In the Gloaming" there was a note of seperation, for one verse tells of the plea of the lover to his beloved not to think too bitterly of him though he passed away in silence and left her lonely but free. Oh yes, they spread their sentiment on rather thickly in those old songs. Buttered it on both sides as it were. Take the song from "La Boheme," known as "Queen of My Heart," which had such popularity:

"From daylight a hint we might borrow.
And prudence might come with the light,
Then why should we wait till tomorrow?
You are Queen of my heart tonight."

One can almost hear the horses champing at their bits and the postillions ready with the chaise waiting to dash northward to Gretna Green as soon as their master had carried their future mistress in safety from her bedroom window down the water spout.

There is one favorte song which steals back through the wraith of the years and, which must bring to a close this casual excursion. It is fragrant fields of the past. It is:

"Happy days gone by,
Precious moments sped,
Ne'er will come again
Naught but memory in their stead:
Tender words and looks
Numbered with the sleeping,
Only come again in dreams
And with the morning light are fled."

And I would rather be the man or woman who wrote that than be the author of fifty "Squibs of Scandaloon's. Wouldn't you?

J. SYDNEY ROE, Ottawa.

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C. M. LAMPSON & CO.,
64 Queen Street,
London, E. C. 4, England

In addition the shipper's name and address should be placed on the outside of the package to enable Lampson & Co. to identify it on arrival, and packages should be numbered consecutively from No. 1 upwards.

At the time the shipment is dispatched, an invoice must in every case be sent to Lampson & Co. and a duplicate to Alfred Fraser. This invoice should state:—

(1) The number of parcels sent forward.

(2) The serial number marked on each parcel.

(3) The quantity of skins in each parcel.

(4) The value of each skin.

(5) The amount of insurance required.

Unless advised to the contrary, Lampson & Co. will insure, under their open policies, all shipments while in transit for invoice value plus 10 per cent. These policies give protection from the time the goods leave the shippers' possession until delivered to Lampson & Co. in London, and the rate of premium is most reasonable.

If it is not desired that Lampson & Co. should arrange insurance, it must in every case be clearly so stated on the invoice referred to above.

Skins may also be forwarded to London through one of the express companies. Shipments by express should be made in exactly the same way as by parcel post, except that the packages need not weigh less than 11 lbs. It is not necessary so far as the insurance is concerned to declare any value to the express companies.

6456-12-5Sat3mos.

R. C. M. P. Investigate Tropical Valley

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 3.—The "tropical valley" reported to exist in the trackless wilderness of Northern British Columbia, will be investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, it is stated here, in order to ascertain in greater detail the characteristics of this strange land.

Two reports have been received from prospectors who have visited the district hemmed in by glaciers and snow-capped mountains comparatively close to the Arctic Circle and where vegetation grew rank as it does in the jungle of equatorial regions; where game was plentiful and of unusually wide variety; where lupins and orchids grew in a riot of color and steaming hot springs shot shafts of boiling water skyward.

Following these reports people began to be interested and now the mounted police will probably start next summer on an exploring expedition.

The Provincial Government already has considerable data on the subject, brought back unobtrusively during the early stages of the war by Major E. B. Hart, F. R. G. S., who was commissioned by the late Sir Richard McBride, then premier of the province, to explore and report on that hitherto unknown area lying south of the Liard River.

Major Hart, after a series of misfortunes, got as far as the Toad River Valley, known to the Indians as the Tsaleh-chesi. After passing along this river through narrow canyons, stagnant marshes and swamps, the party reached an open plain of 300,000 acres where the climate was found to be much milder than that of the surrounding territory because of the presence of hot springs. They found luxuriant pine grasses, pea vine, vetches, lupins and even orchids, although nothing to suggest what has since been described as "a tropical valley."

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Valuable Discovery Of Diatomite

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 3.—Discovery of the valuable commercial material, known as infusorial earth or diatomite, has been made by George H. Turner, near Quesnel, in the Cariboo country.

The material is really "fossil meal," which is little known except to the trades that use it. The presence of diatomite in the locality is also a tribute to the weather, for scientists say this form of shell life settled only in agreeable climates, judging by the places in which it has been found.

Diatomite keeps heat in and cold out and is the best and cheapest material for lining cold-storage rooms and refrigerators. It is indestructible by fire and is also very light, weighing only seven pounds per cubic foot. It is particularly valuable for the sound-proofing of modern buildings, as it can be mixed directly with plaster or cement. This remarkable material also finds many uses in widely varied industries.

The British admiralty, during the war, worked out the diatomite deposit of the Isle of Skye, the material being used in submarine construction. The only deposit being worked in the United States is in Florida, where a suction dredge pumps it from the bottom of a lake.

Before the dawn of modern times, according to a scientific description of the material, myriads of two-cell forms of life, known to science as diatoms, selected such places as Florida and the Isle of Skye, off the coast of Scotland. These diminutive creatures of antiquity settled in comparatively few known spots. It would require three million of them to occupy as much space as a one-inch cube. They formed shields or shells for their armor and these decompose and form fossil meal or infusorial earth.

ALMA SCHOOL

Honour Roll of Alma School for the month of November.

Grade IX.—1, Helen Beaton; 2, Lulu Butler; 3, Lillian Johnston; 4, Ray Johnston.

Grade VII.—1, John Johnston and Aeriel Johnston, equal; 2, Florrie Campbell; 3, Sadie Campbell; 4, Harold Butler.

Grade VI.—1, Roulston Johnston; 2, Gertrude Johnston; 3, Rhoda McLeod; 4, Walter Campbell.

Grade IV.—1, Stella Lecco; 2, Elma Lecco.

Grade II.—1, Elmer Johnston; 2, Archibald Johnston; 3, Carl Vanlderstine; 4, Lester Lecco.

Grade I.—1, Carl Johnston; 2, Fred McLeod; 3, Dora Reid; 4, Malcolm Lecco.

Percentage of attendance 92.7.—J. D. Fraser, Teacher.

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Whaling Industry Takes Lease Of Life

(Canadian Press.)

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 4—Science is finding almost as many uses for the whale as Chicago packers have found for the hog.

As a resuult, the whaling industry is not a thing of the past as the majority of people seem to think. As the various branches of production are expanded and new uses are found for the carcass of the big mammal the industry is entering a steadily widening field and those engaged in it foresee a future as profitable as the past if perhaps not quite so picturesque. The old days of the greasy schooner, away from port for months at a time, with hand harpoons and other primitive equipment, are gone; but such things as these would never survive in this modern age when whaling is carried on under an entirely different setting.

The whale is no longer caught only for the oil it yields. In fashionable London and Paris gay hats with egret and osprey plumes might if they could, tell of their affinity with the finely shredded fibres of the so-called right whale.

On the dinner table of Far Eastern merchants when company is to be treated with special honors, salted whale tails are served.

The changing shape of milady might be said in part to owe allegiance to the useful and pliable qualities of whalebone. Hard fibred brushes to sweep the obstinate corners of the home, "Ivory" backed brushes with initialed monograms, toilet soaps and many other articles of household use may trace their origin to the plunging monster of the North Pacific.

The rice fields of Japan and China, the truck gardens of British Columbia and other parts of the coast owe the richness of their crops to the fertilizer bloods and bonemeal of the whale.

Victoria is the headquarters for the whaling industry of the North Pacific, although United States whalers operate on a smaller scale out of several Washington and Oregon ports.

Some 10,800 barrels of oil were put up by the Consolidated Whaling company of Victoria, as a result of the operations of four stations from May to October this year. The higher grades of oil go into the manufacture of toilet soaps. Grade three is used for tanning purposes and for tempering steel. Number four grade is used for fruit and other sprays, while blood and bonemeal are also used for the culture of flowers and fruits. The fertilizer field has opened up a new line of development recognized as of enormous importance, for it will eliminate all waste from the various reduction and manufacturing processes. Compared with the methods of the old days, the whaling plants leave very little for the sharks and seagulls.

Twenty-three years ago the whaling industry was established in Victoria by the late Dr. Rissmuller, formerly of Newfoundland, and Captain Spratt Balcom, one-time famous as a sealing skipper. Eight vessels now comprise Victoria's whaling fleet, each carryng a crew of eleven men, including one gunner who mans the harpoon gun.

Rocky Mountain Goats In Captivity

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 5.—The Field Museum of Chicago, which has sponsored the quest of Kermit and Theodore Roosevelt for the rare ovis poli in the mountains of Turkestan, will shortly exhibit one of the finest and most complete groups of Rocky Mountain goats on the continent as a result of the success attending its expedition into the Kootenay country of Central British Columbia.

J. Friesser, successor to Carl Akeley, world-famous big game hunter, as chief taxidermist of the Field Museum, was the leader of the hunt for the Rocky Mountain goats and with him were Holling C. Holling, assistant taxidermist, and James W. French, of Vancouver, a big game hunter.

In addition to the goats, fine specimens of elk and mule deer were secured.

The expedition outfitted at Skookumchuck, on the Kootenay Central Railway, and left early in October for the big game country around White River, Elk Creek and White Swan Lake.

Scores of goats were stalked and carefully inspected through powerful binoculars in order to get perfect specimens. The party could have shot dozens of average goats if numbers were all that was wanted. Many of these chances were passed up in order to get just the representative specimens needed to round out a well-balanced group for the museum.

Woman Pound-Keepers Gives Up Job

KELOWNA, B. C., Dec. 3.—Mrs. Reine C. Carruthers, pound-keeper of the East Kelowna pound district, believed to be the only lady pound-keeper in Canada, recently resigned her position and a man has been appointed in her stead.

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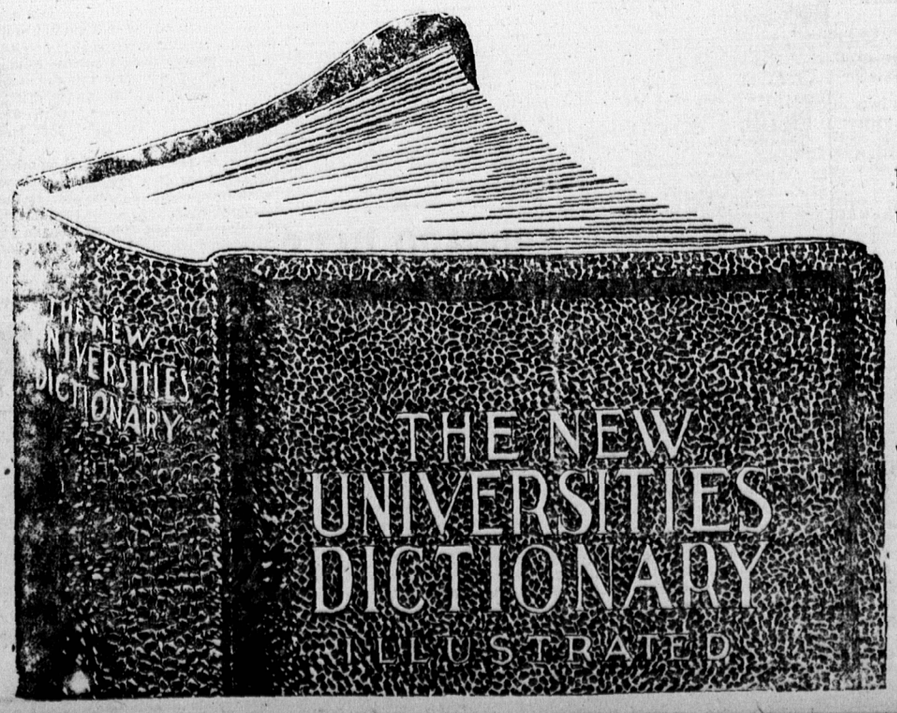

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