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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1932

BRIGHTENING SKIES

It is an encouraging sign that the various exhibitions held throughout the Province this year have been successful. Both in attendance and in number and quality of entries, the Provincial Exhibition was markedly so. The fairs held at Georgetown, Souris and Alberton have been well up to the standard. It is expected, also that the Central School Fair, on Sep. 22 and 23—the first fair of its kind to be held in Canada—will be widely patronized and that its results will be far reaching in the stimulus it will give to the industry. The increased emphasis placed this year on quality production is bound to react favorably, and this factor should be given more and more attention by all concerned. The time has gone by when farming or livestock raising can be practiced in a haphazard manner. Now that we are finally, as Colonel McGregor expressed it in his presidential address at the Chamber of Commerce convention, "on the threshold of the upgrade," there should be a concerted effort to improve quality and marketing methods. These questions received consideration at the conference of Agricultural Ministers held recently in Toronto, and, as a result, organizations will be formed in every Province to gather data and consider ways and means of achieving this end. The time is particularly opportune in view of the agreements negotiated at the Imperial Conference, from which Maritime agriculture will benefit enormously if it can meet the requirements in the markets of Great Britain and other Empire countries. The United Kingdom is easily the world's largest importer of such commodities as butter, cheese, preserved milk, eggs and egg products, and the fact that preferences have been obtained by Canada for these products in the British market should inspire a determination to profit to the utmost extent by the opportunities thus opened for intra-Empire trade. The first business of Parliament when it convenes on October 6 will doubtless be the ratification of these agreements, and their successful working out will then depend largely upon the initiative and enterprise of our farming communities. There are still, unfortunately, a few knickers and grouchers who prefer looking on the dark side of things. For political or other reasons, some take pleasure in being pessimistic. But the great majority of our people, including the leaders in commerce and industry, are satisfied that the tide has definitely turned. One has only to read the inspiring address of Colonel McGregor, published in yesterday's Guardian, to realize that we are indeed on the threshold of new and better times, and that the hard lessons of the past few years can be turned to excellent account if we apply the experience we have gained to the problems of the future.

THE JAZZ MANIA

Jazz music has frequently been defended on the ground that its noise and rhythm can be enjoyed without serious attention, that it fulfills, in short, the function of an easily-taken stimulant. A forceful answer to this argument is contained in an article by Prof. Leo Smith, lecturer on the Theory of Music at the University of Toronto, in the holler than thou attitude. Though current issue of the Queen's Quarterly. This writer points out that, as States in divorce records, we are no "stimulant" can preserve its potency indefinitely. The result is that regard

jazz now functions merely as a background—a "drowning, draining, demoralizing noise," serving no purpose except that it would be missed if it were removed. Not only does such noise fail to "refresh the mind of man" but its "monotonous titillation" tends to stifle all appreciation of even the simpler forms of genuine music. "It must be admitted," writes Professor Smith, "that critical listening to music is difficult. Music is the most abstract of the arts. It has been well said that while much is left to the seer of a picture and more to the reader of a poem, most of all is demanded from the hearer of music. Yet I do not think that such demands belong to the category of knowledge. Form, analysis, ability to recognize different themes, keys, chords, may help; but for the most part these are not essential. Technical equipment may be necessary for the critic, for he should be ahead, as it were, of the public. But it is not really indispensable for the ordinary listener's enjoyment. For in the main, the difference between a critical and uncritical listener is, that the receptive imagination of the one is alive, while in the other it is inactive. The uncritical hears only with the ear; music to him is simply a sensorial stimulation; his court of appeal is purely aural. He that hears also with the inner ear, on the other hand, regards music as an intelligent enjoyment. Though he may not have any musical knowledge he is willing to listen attentively, he is willing above all to hear a piece more than once, and he is sensitive to the feeling of its effect." It is precisely because jazz makes no appeal to the "receptive imagination"—because it encourages uncritical listening—that its popularity is viewed with such grave concern by those who have the interests of music at heart.

DIVORCES IN U. S. A.

The political science faculty of Columbia University, New York City, has issued a volume by Albert Cahen entitled "A Statistical Analysis of American Divorce," which is declared to be the only survey of the kind covering the period between the Civil War and the present day. The outstanding fact revealed is that in the last sixty-three years divorces in the neighboring republic have actually increased 2,000 per cent, as against an increase of only 400 per cent in the number of marriages, and an increase of only 300 per cent in the population. Legal separations have multiplied five times as rapidly as weddings. The author attempts to decipher the causes of this unfortunate trend, but he finds these to be of a very obscure complex character, and he emerges from the discussion with no very satisfying conclusion. The growing prevalence of divorce across the line is what might be expected in a country where there is a wide-spread disregard of the law. The latest official report from Washington is to the effect that one marriage in every seven terminates in divorce or some other form of legal separation. The lesson for Canada, states an exchange, is that we continue to observe the law, to cultivate the higher moral qualities, and get back to true religion as a purifying and beautifying influence in all the relationships of life. There is no room here for any of the holler than thou attitude. Though we are a long way behind the United States in divorce records, we are not by any means spotless in this tendency indefinitely. The result is that regard

NOTES BY THE WAY

Germany with the load of militarism lifted from her back might become a heaven upon earth if the German people only had the will and the intelligence to capitalize upon her unique delivery from the Frankenstein of armaments. Yet Germany is making the skies echo with demands for "equality in armaments." Looking at the other nations bowed to the earth under a crushing load of armaments, she sends forth a desperate cry, "I want some guns to carry, too." The Germans must be the craziest people in a crazy world.

The situation in British Columbia reminds us that it is Dr. Tolmie's misfortune that his broad shoulders must bear the brunt of a financial situation which has been developing over many years and under a succession of premiers. Perhaps he should have seen the cloud arising, taken adequate measures, but extreme economy is as unpleasant for governments as for individuals and most of them did as Tolmie did—hoped everything would come out all right. British Columbia for many years has spent beyond its means and Tolmie is no more to blame than McBride and Oliver and Buxner and others who held his place before him. But he is holding the bag.

It is precision in the use of good English and in the effective pronunciation of good English which goes far to explain the preference shown by educated Canadians for English plays and even English talkies. There are, of course, many illiterates in this country who prefer the Hollywood brand—of stage craft, and who always go out of their way to sneer at all things English, but attacks from such quarters will have very little influence upon the good taste of Canadian readers, a great majority of whom appreciate the undying fact that old English is a source of sweetness and light to the whole civilized world.

The present railway situation in Canada is no doubt traceable to the fact that the Mackenzie King Government encouraged the public owned system to pour out hundreds of millions of dollars all across the country—largely for the purpose of winning successive general elections. At any rate the situation today is that the Canadian National Railways owes the National Treasury \$1,250,000,000, which might as well be written off, and in addition committed to paying interest upon another \$1,300,000,000. In 1931 the taxpayers had to find \$98,000,000 for interest and capital account, though this year, by drastic economies, this burden on the country will be greatly reduced.

The British Government has been extremely anxious to have the United States attend the World Economic Conference in London. For what has happened is that the United States has been asked to practically dictate the question the Conference is to consider. Some months ago Mr. Neville Chamberlain observed that he could not see how a world economic conference could get anywhere if it excluded a question so obviously concerned with world economic conditions as war debts. Mr. Chamberlain was undoubtedly right, and any conference that attempts to ignore the relationship between tariffs, governmental debts and foreign trade is not likely to achieve much.

Averaging a speed of 28 knots per hour during a trial of 36 hours, the new Italian liner Rex has demonstrated that she will be in the race for Atlantic passengers. With Germany and France making great strides in Atlantic shipping, the Italians are throwing their hats into the ring. Great Britain will soon have to buck up if she wants to maintain her reputation as a leader in commercial shipping circles. It is true the British have some fine boats, but they are not as new as the crack German vessels. The finest boat afloat under the British flag is the Canadian Pacific's Empress of Britain. The giant white vessel will hold her own with the best. That is why Canadians are so proud of her.

As everywhere expected, especially in Germany, France has refused to assent to increases in German armies and armaments. The next move is up to Germany. And as all parties in Germany are agreed that their country should tear up what remains of the Treaty of Versailles, there is not much doubt of the outcome. General Kurt von Schleicher has already told the outside world that Germany intends to rearm; and that they can either like it, or lump it, Germany paid tremendous sums



That Body of Hours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

A STITCH IN TIME FROM HEALTH STANDPOINT

A family of four—father, mother, and two boys 16 and 18 respectively—apparently free from any ailments, were discussing health one day. The father was working every day, the mother doing her housework without difficulty, and the two boys were attending school regularly. The father thought he was not hearing as well as usual on the telephone; the mother thought that she also was not hearing as well and that she was a little more tired in the afternoon than she had been; one boy, recently recovered from flu found that he got "dizzy" when he played in the school yard; the other boy had no comment to make about himself or the others. It was decided that despite the fact that none of them were ill, they would go to the family doctor and be overhauled from head to foot. What did the family doctor find? He found that the hearing of the father was less than 50 per cent in the left ear, and was only about 75 per cent in the right ear. The trouble with the hearing in the left ear was because of a chronic throat condition which interfered with air getting up through the mouth to the middle ear, and in the right ear it was due to hard wax lying against the ear drum. The doctor made the ordinary test of the eyes and found that his glasses did not give him the proper vision for reading or distance. The doctor found that the hearing of the mother was being interfered with in both ears simply by hard wax; and the tiredness was likely due to a little pus pocket between the gum and one of the front teeth. The dizziness or faintness of which one of the boys complained was due to too much exertion, too soon after the attack of flu. In the other boy nothing wrong was found in eyes, ears, nose, throat, heart or lungs, but his shoulders were "round" and his head was "drooping", thus spoiling his entire appearance, aside from "crowding" the lungs and preventing proper breathing. I believe the lesson is quite plain. You go about every day and because you are not really sick may be satisfied to put up with "little inconveniences," or a little "tiredness," whereas if you would let your family physician spend one whole hour on you, you would not only enjoy "real" health, but prevent simple but unknown ailments from becoming a serious menace to health.

Dr. Haldane On Eugenics

(The New York Herald Tribune)

Between the appearance of Darwin's "Origin of Species" and that of his "Descent of Man," an Austrian monk named Johann Gregor Mendel published in 1866 the results of studies in heredity for which the flowers of his monastery garden had provided the material. Though Mendel's observations had no such sensational effect upon the sciences as Darwin's bold hypotheses, he did lay the foundations and supplied the laboratory methods for the science of genetics which have since developed more baffling, and therefore, fascinating, problems than almost any other. Into these problems the lay public gets few glimpses except through such a by-product of the geneticist's laboratory as Luther Burbank's wizardry with plants. The layman is, therefore, in no position to know what he ought to think of attempts to apply genetics to human relations through what are described as eugenic principles—whether he should take such efforts very solemnly or whether he should class eugenics with astrology and alchemy and get facetious when the subject comes up. With a Genetics Congress due to open shortly in Ithaca, the perplexed newspaper reader is about to discover that, which ever attitude he takes, he will be in at least some eminent scientific company. From an interview with a distinguished British scientist, Dr. J. B. S. Haldane, who will not attend the eugenic congress on his way to Ithaca it is made plain enough that there are geneticists who are too impatient with the eerie flights upon which amateur enthusiasts have led some eugenic groups to sit in conference with the eugenicists. There is some justification for this attitude, and yet there is a touch of intellectual snobbery in it which prompts one to go to the defense of what ever is worthy of defense in eugenics. Literally interpreted eugenics means a study of the problem of being "well born," and in this sense all races have been applying its principles by rule of thumb since time began, until many of them have now been incorporated into state and national laws which check the marriage of feeble-minded and unhealthy persons. The faddist in this field has, however, become an advocate for the selection of some particular type of person as the "fit"; and he would, like Adolf Hitler if he had his unscientific way, deny it all but his pet freaks the right to have children. This is the "dogmatism" against which Dr. Haldane is presumably in revolt, not because the enthusiasts' standards are right or wrong, but because of the intolerable infringement on personal liberty which lawmakers guided by cranks might impose on society in the name of science. Well founded as is this fear in American experience, the excesses of the faddist are no adequate excuse for holding up to ridicule all studies of human heredity which would reveal how human ills are heedlessly visited upon the third or fourth generation, or would show why a man and woman in marrying should give intelligent thought to the kind of children that they are likely to bring into the world. Since these legitimate and often urgent ends are also in the field of eugenics, the unqualified disapproval which Dr. Haldane has expressed is not altogether open-minded and, therefore, not altogether scientific.

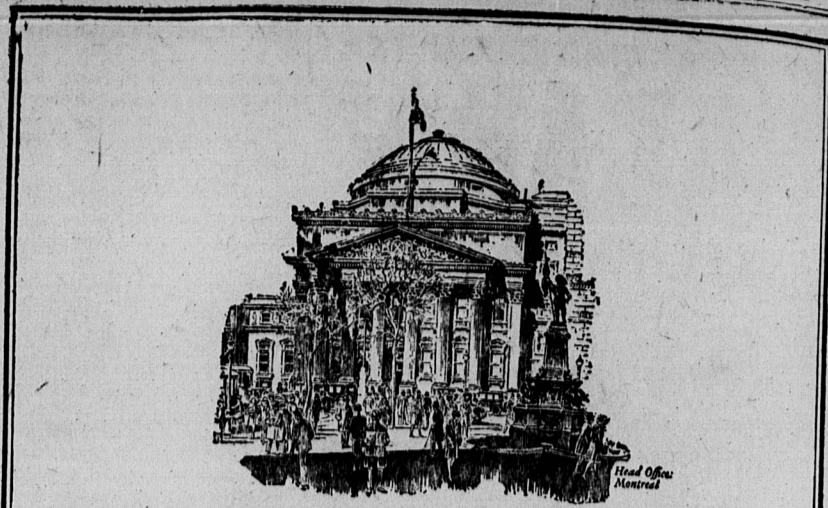
It is a natural characteristic of the human mind. There may be many good arguments for a Coalition Government in British Columbia, but the contention that partisanship, or even partyism, is "a nuisance and an obsession," is certainly not one of them. Both will continue to exist as long as there are two sides to a question.

Then lands were fairly portioned and spoils were fairly sold; The Romans were like brothers in the brave days of old." The license Macaulay took with history to produce this pretty poetic picture was no greater than the Vancouver Province's idealistic vision of the condition that could be created by the abolition of partyism, and the setting up of a Government of independent, disinterested citizens, obedient to no motives but those of undiluted patriotism. All will agree that the party system has grave defects, but sensible people realize that any alternative system—indeed any human institution whatever—would be certain to develop similar and perhaps more serious weaknesses. The fundamental trouble is that we have to depend upon mere men to run this mighty world, and the Old Adam has not yet disappeared from the race. Critical situations may arise and may dictate temporary departures from accepted methods in the public interest. Coalition governments have occasionally been established, with greater or less success, to meet such situations, and it may be that British Columbia could with profit resort to such an expedient in its present emergency. In Italy they tried out Fascism, in Spain, dictators; in Germany, revolution and Junkerism, to save the country in a crisis. Just now they are experimenting with a National Government in Britain, with results which, for the time being at least, seem to justify the expectations of its proponents. The point is that all these expedients are obviously of a temporary character, designed to meet an exceptional, passing condition in the life of a nation. To cite any of them as developments of a permanent character, or as proofs that complete national co-operation can be substituted for the party system, is obviously fallacy. There never was a Coalition Government, or a Government of any kind, to which strong opposition did not develop. It is an axiom of psychology that "consciousness is selective" which is another way of saying that partis-

The Poet's Corner

FROM "STIRRUP CUP" What help is there for all our blundering? With mumbling feet we stammer up the hill: We cloud the sun with witless pondering Our blood is sand, and water is our will. Is there no help at all, no likelier dream Than this mad terror and this voiceless crying? Is man a shallop on a mouthless stream? Is he a false dark word beyond denying? O Beauty, stir among the ancient embers For one red living fagot that remembers O Light, O Beauty, not because we pray, Not for these bodies broken on the road, But for the glory of a final day. For the white splendor of a last abode. —Barbara Young.

on war reparations account. But she paid allied Governments by borrowing larger sums from allied banks and investors. For every \$1 repaid on war reparations Germany borrowed \$1.50. Germany now holds more than \$4,000,000,000 of foreign money. In the language of the school boy, Germany now has the Allies exactly where she wants them. At Lausanne the war debt slate was virtually wiped clean, as far as Germany is concerned. Now she gives the Allies their choice between meeting her demand for rearmament or facing a general upset in European stability.



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