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**THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN**

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1920.

**THE SIDE WALKS.**

Until the present this winter providence has seen to the clearing off of the city sidewalks. In all probability we shall have to do it ourselves for the remainder of the winter.

As frequently repeated during several winters past many, probably the majority, of our citizens faithfully observe the by-law specifying that citizens must clean off the sidewalks adjoining their property immediately after a snowfall. As also frequently repeated there are many citizens who ignore the by-law and "get away with it." Citizens who habitually observe the law, if a few minutes behind time with their shovelling, are invariably notified and warned by the police; the habitual offenders are simply allowed to offend.

Now, in view of this long continued condition the City Council should do either one of two things, treat all citizens alike or repeal the by-law and let the city attend to the sidewalks. The latter course would be expensive but would have at least the merit of affording employment to such of our citizens as might need it. It might result in an increase in taxation, which many citizens would object to and, in any case, such a change in our by-laws should be very carefully considered before venturing upon it.

The present situation is far from satisfactory, resulting often in impassible sections of streets and also in imposing burdens upon law observing citizens which are not borne by those who want to evade the law.

We are shortly to have a civic election. The aspiring councillors might make this an issue in the campaign. Possibly it might be a dangerous one as there are two sides to it and candidates will need all the votes they can get from both sides. Whether an issue in the campaign or not, one thing is clear to all, namely, that the law should either be enforced or repealed.

**CUTTING DOWN THE COST.**

Many methods have been and still are being suggested with a view to cutting down the cost of living but the cost of living is little, if any, affected.

A Women's Institute in one of our sister provinces, we learn from our exchanges, has organized a dressmaking class for the members so that each can make her own dresses and so save this usually heavy cost. It will be a grand thing for the women to be able to make their own dresses, but what about the dressmakers who will be put out of business by the innovation? Many women both in cities and in rural communities earn a living by dress making. If all the women, or the majority of them, or even a small proportion of them, were to make their own dresses the professional dressmakers would be obliged to seek a living elsewhere and elsewhere. This would mean swelling the ranks of some other over-supplied calling. What is true of dressmaking is equally true of many other callings and little will be done towards lowering the cost of living by putting any one out of business.

When the war began the slogan went forth, "business as usual," and business as usual and bigger than usual will be, in the future as in the past, the salvation of the world from the terrors of the high cost of living and other handicaps.

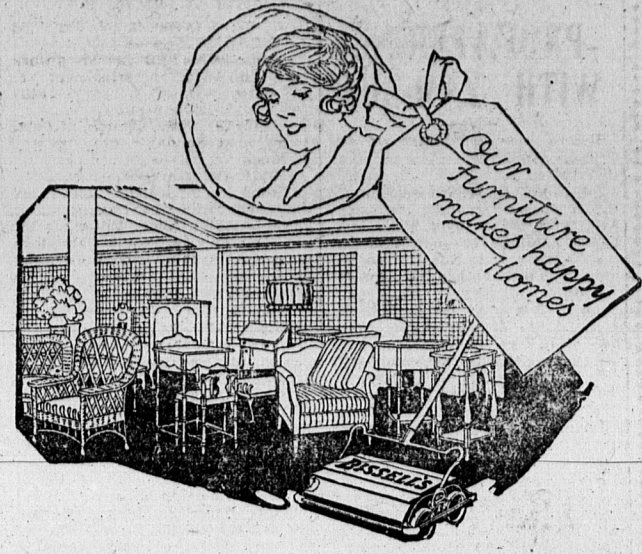
That women should be able to make their own dresses and do their own millinery would undoubtedly be a good thing for the women; it would be an education, a wholesome substitute for idling and for general incompetence which is by no means uncommon but as a cure for the high cost of living it is too late to begin it except in the case of young girls to whom such an education would be a benefit. By depending upon others to do their dressmaking they have created an army of dressmakers who, if now thrown out of employment would become a burden in another direction. This also is true of many other callings in which men as well as women are interested.

That men as well as women should be taught to do many things for themselves which they now unhesitatingly call upon others to do for them, goes without saying. In very many cases this would be impracticable but wherever practicable it should be observed.

The high cost of living, however, does not depend so much upon what we engage others to do for us as upon the unnecessary and extravagant things we want to do or have done for us. Ladies complain that when a costly dress has been seen at two or three functions its uniqueness is gone and another must be purchased and it is openly admitted that more costly dresses and hats and boots are being bought today at the prevailing exorbitant prices than when they cost a third of what they do today. It is also openly admitted, that a very large proportion of the high cost of living is because of the frequent changes in fashions and the fashionable necessity of discarding articles of clothing while yet new because they had been seen "out" on two or three occasions.

If the Womens' Institutes would bring about a reform in the whirligig of changing fashions it would be a long step in the reduction of the cost of high living.

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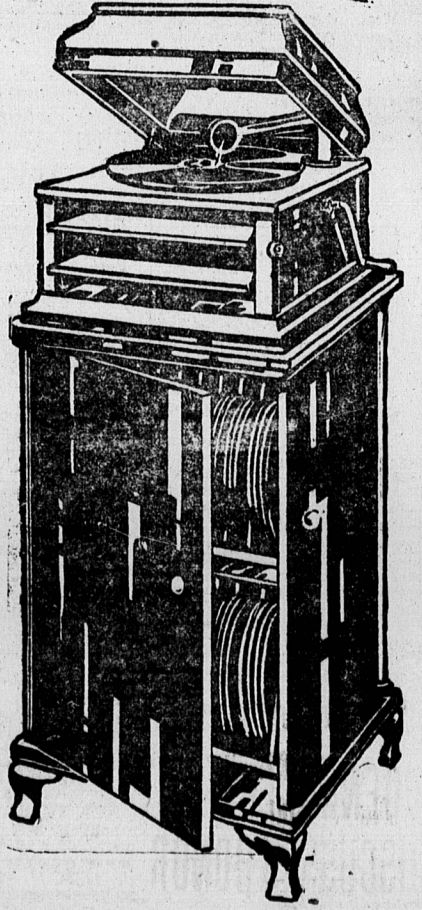
Thrifty people are buying these gramophones, buying them at prices that we can hardly procure them at the manufacturers for now. But these gramophones are not going to remain at this price always, because just as soon as these are sold and we have to order more the price will have to advance from 15 to 20 per cent.

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**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

A Washington correspondent states that the irreconcilable foes of the League of Nations have decided to sever relations with Senator Lodge and to adopt delaying tactics against any form of compromise presented to the Senate. This decision is the result of a belief on their part that Senator Lodge is weakening on the question of reservations owing to the insistent demand of the mild reservationists, and that Senator Lodge will take the lead in bringing about a compromise.

Sir George Paish, the English financier who has arrived in the United States to propose an immense American loan to Britain, represents nobody but himself. "Who is Paish?" ask the London Daily Mail. "The self-imposed mission of this entirely unimportant person would provoke laughter if it were not so mischievous. Great Britain requires no money from the United States. This country is perfectly capable of financing itself." Hamilton Herald.

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**HER BEST AGE**

Women themselves probably are under the delusion that their best age is something under twenty-five and sometimes over eighteen. At any rate, they are supposed to resent all birthdays after thirty, and are occasionally charged with working backwards

and growing older in looks and younger in years.

But no woman who knows how to put on her clothes, who reads and thinks, who develops all her best qualities, need worry at passing into the thirties, for at forty a woman is at her best, physically and mentally. She is at the zenith of her beauty, and if she has cultivated her intelligence, she is the zenith of her mentality also.

Very few men of any note find the same pleasure in the society of a young, undeveloped girl, which they find in a mature woman of forty. At that age such a woman is an ideal companion, and her preference for the society of a man is a real compliment to his mental and normal qualities.