

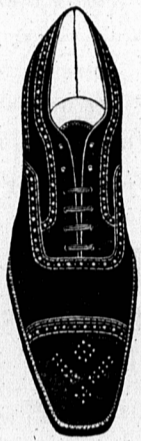
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COMING DOWN

There is some consolation, also ground for hope, in the statistics which assure us that the cost of living is coming down. The current number of the Labour Gazette places the average cost of the weekly family budget of 29 staple foodstuffs in some 60 cities at \$10.26 at the beginning of April, as compared with \$10.54 at the beginning of March; \$12.28 in April 1921; \$15.97 in April 1920; and \$7.51 in April, 1914. From \$15.97 in 1920 to \$10.26 in April 1922 is quite a drop but it is still far from \$7.51 in April, preceding the outbreak of the war. The latter figure we shall never reach and it is best that we should not. It would mean low wages, lower prices for farm products and a general lowering of living standards.

We should not aim at low standards of living expenses; we should aim rather at such adjustments as shall bring the means of living and the cost of living nearer together.

In travelling in our own Canadian cities and by our own Canadian railways one fails to find wherein the cost of living has materially declined. The railway fares and the hotels still charge exorbitant rates and the travelling public are unmercifully treated. This is not in keeping with wholesome conditions and while the few cling to their former high prices at the expense of those whose business profits or other means of living have been reduced the return to healthy normal conditions will be slow; the rich will become richer and the poor poorer. The cost of travel today is so high, because of excessive railway and hotel rates that travel has become very considerably reduced. Excessive charges simply mean the killing of the goose that lays the golden eggs.

SELECTION

Natural selection is a law of plant and animal life. The plant or the animal that is not adapted to its environment or is incapable of functioning is eliminated by natural process. This is a fixed and immutable law and we would do well to follow the same law in our human undertakings. We have very largely ignored it; we have ceased to select; we take it for granted that we shall fit in wherever we choose to plant ourselves, that we can function successfully in whatever calling we may select. This is a grave mistake and accounts for the failures we find in every walk of life.

During the past few years our thoughts have centred around our schools and school teachers. We have had an educational conference and a teachers' convention, and the general subject of education has been viewed from many angles. There is one angle which has been lost sight of, that of adaptability. We have forgotten that all men and all women are not adapted to the teaching profession; we may give them all the advantages of our colleges and our universities; we may fill them cram full of pedagogy and all that science and philosophy and psychology declare the successful teacher should possess; they may win gold medals in all these and be absolute failures as teachers. This is true of all professions and of all callings. Good teachers, good pastors, good doctors, good artisans are born, not made. There are those who are born with the ability to teach, and those who are not. It is true intermediate grades, men and women who, even in the face of unfavourable conditions have chosen, manage to make an indifferent success of it, but there are those also who are absolute failures.

The cause of these failures lies at the doors of our colleges and our universities. It is theirs to select, theirs to advise the aspirant for a calling for which he is unfitted to select a calling for which he is fitted and to rigidly refuse diplomas to those who, according to every rule of common sense, must become failures in that particular calling. If this rule were followed there would be fewer failures in all our professions and many men and women who are failures would have an opportunity of succeeding in some other vocation.

In our educational discussions the matter of securing more teachers is frequently discussed and the advisability of throwing the doors more widely open is often suggested. What is needed is to still further close them, to admit those only who give reasonable promise of adaptability for the work.

It is no small matter to entrust the future of a child or a number of children to an incompetent teacher; no small matter for a man or woman to waste the best years of life in attempting, even honestly, to do what their mental or physical make up never intended them to do. To avoid this men and women should, wherever possible, be not only advised but compelled by their colleges or universities to abandon the calling for which they are manifestly unfitted.

THE NAVY LEAGUE'S PROTEST

The King Government showed more consideration for the feelings of the Progressives than for the feelings of that numerous body of the citizens called the Navy League of Canada. Whereas but two and a half per cent. was lopped off certain customs duties the Progressives sought to abolish all, but an insignificant part of the Canadian navy has been wiped out. The Navy League of Canada, speaking for a very large number of loyal citizens, was heard with respect by the late Government whose acceptance of the ships be stowed on the country by the British Government was warmly approved by the League. The new "naval policy" with its ridiculous arrangement for forming a few landmen into a naval reserve and for keeping tiny craft afloat mocks the Navy League and the large mass of the Canadian people who are behind it. The protest made by the President of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Navy League was temperate but at the same time weighty. To Mr. Sam Harris' first letter the Premier made a reply that could only have the effect of moving President Harris to speak out still more plainly. Mr. Harris replied that "Canadians are asked to accept the proposition of one small ship and two armed trawlers, respectively, on the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts," thus leaving Canada dependent upon the Imperial Navy for protection with out corresponding contributions or cost. "Respectfully," says Mr. Harris in his reply to the Premier, "The executive of the Ontario Division, Navy League of Canada, submits that Canadians with respect cannot be placed in this position; for, if so, Canada would justly deserve the contempt of all self-respecting persons." We do not expect Mr. Harris' protest to change the Government's policy, which is imposed by the masterful politicians of Quebec, but it is a satisfaction to know that the protest has been made, and that expression has been given to the strong feelings of the Canadians of this Province who belong to the Navy League of Canada.—Mail and Empire.

Notes By The Way

How many people know that 70 per cent of coal now being produced in Nova Scotia comes from under the sea? Not many, as we suppose. But that is what is declared by Mr McDougall of one of the leading coal companies in justification of its action in main taining prices. He adds that "in the case of the Dominion Coal Company, and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company between 80 per cent and 90 per cent is now coming from under sea territory." Further facts stated by Mr McDougall are that the un-mined coal in Nova Scotia is largely situated under the sea, and that mining has proceeded two and a quarter miles from the shaft at the shore line.

Even if the coal representative has painted his dark picture from possibly sinister motives, the statements are so strong and apparently so undeniable that they might give a chill to a coal con sumer even in the summer time. Every year the coal comes from a longer distance and a lower depth under the sea. There is longer distance to haul it down in the depths, greater leakage of sea water from above to be pumped out and coal miners are ready to go on strike if they are paid salaries less than cabinet ministers. All of which also makes it hard for the great steel and metal companies of Cape Breton, whom the free traders would show so little mercy if they had their way.

The debate on Sir Henry Drayton's amendment is still in progress in parliament. Since it began many speeches have been delivered, chiefly short ones. A large proportion of these have been made by Progressives, none of whom are quite satisfied with the new tariff and most of whom express their dissatisfaction in plain and strong terms. Their objections are that the reductions in customs duties they declare to be small and insignificant while such of these as come under the increase of the British preference are trifling and all of them are quite overbalanced by the in creased sales tax which they nearly all condemn with one voice. "What we gain on peanuts we lose on bananas," as one of them facetiously said.

On the other hand the Drayton amendment finds very little approval in the Progressive ranks. Several of their number have con demned it as a political trick, while at the same time expressing their disapproval of Mr Feilding's proposals. These balanced speeches are evidently framed for their constituents and are intended as excuses for voting against the amendment, as they expect to do, without endorsing the tariff.

The Liberal speeches read as a chapter of excuses and palliatives addressed to the Progressives with a view to conciliating them and moderating their resentment. They run along the line of setting forth difficulties of the situation, the great necessity for revenue, that the changes made give in the right direction, and give promise of more and better things to come in the future. Some of them express a mild regret that a greater reduction could not have been made in the duties on the necessities of life and especially on farm implements and machinery, but in a general way

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

KEEP WHISTLING

Keep whistling! It's better than pausing to cuss and tearing your sweater and raising a fuss. No woe'er was banished by sweat drops or howls, no troubles e'er vanished because of your scowls; they'll hang on the longer on finding you sore, they'll thrive and grow stronger and vex you the more. Keep whistling. It's wiser than taking a club and scolding Elmer, who's laid with the grub; or roasting Susannah, who's painfully prone to punch the piano when she's angry and ranting and shedding a tear makes life less enchanting for everyone near. Keep whistling. It's saner than pawing the air, there's nothing that's vainer than tearing your hair; and folks are not sager to list while you groan of sufferings meagre compared with your own. Your friends will desert you and call you a bore and think it a virtue to sidestep your door, whereas, if you whistle and laugh at your woes, and swear that a whistle is good as a rose, they'll say you're a honey, a bird and a peach; your life will be sunny, which now is a scorch.

MY HOLIDAY TOUR

By JAMES PATON

A Day Spent in Funchal, Madeira, a Topsy-Turvy Land Where in Tropic Sunshine Sleighs are the Popular Means of Transportation and Teamsters Run on Foot Down Hill and Carry Their Sleighs Up on Their Heads.

In landing at Funchal, Madeira, it would help to make Char lottown more attractive. Taking the city as a whole it is very beautiful, most of the houses are painted white, cream ovals, pink shades, with red tile roofs, all hire their teams, (not horse teams) nesting on the Mountain side sur rounded with grape vines, creep ing roses and many other climbing plants. The Mountains gradually rising from the waters edge to the top of Terreiro D. A. Luta, 3300 feet above the level of the sea, makes a picture almost impossible to describe. We went to the top of this Mountain by cogwheel car. On both sides of the rails are beau tiful gardens and comfortable look ing homes. Following the car are children by the score, throwing all kinds of flowers at the passengers and begging for money. A fine hotel crowns the top of this great Mount ain and is surrounded with beau tiful gardens. The meals served are poor, compared with that in our own Island Hotels.

In coming down we had our choice of returning by same route or by Toboggan over a narrow cob bled stone road. We decided to try the latter so stepped into a low wicker chair, or as it is called by the natives, toboggan; it has run ners similar to our own sleighs. Some have two seats, others four. We took one with two seats with comfortable cushions, accompanied by two men, one on each side hold ing ropes attached to the front runner. By this means they guide the toboggan and run the whole distance, 3,300 feet or more over the cobble stones. The men wear shoes with heavy rubber soles to keep them from slipping. I was very sorry for the poor fellows and wondered how their feet can stand this continual running day after day. I almost forgot to say, after the men complete the journey down, they walk back to the top of the Mountain carrying the sleigh on their heads. How would you like the job? J. P.

Virginian Pardoned Through Lady Astor

Through the influence of Lady Astor, a man born in Virginia undergoing a life sentence in an English prison, was pardoned and deported and arrived in the United States a short time after the re putable Nancy. He does not ap pear to have been a particularly worthy person, but it does seem that the sentence imposed on him was excessive. He did nothing worse than wound the notorious Eddie Guerin, one of the most de perate crooks of modern times, but the judge evidently took the view that he was trying to murder Guerin, and at any rate gun play is not encouraged in the streets of London. Charley Smith for the convict in whom Lady Astor interested herself, says he did not

intend to kill Guerin and that he shot at his feet deliberately. He only shot at all because he be lieved that Guerin was about to murder him and the lady who was at that time under his protection. The lady was "Chicago May" (or merly an associate of Guerin's and she was given fifteen years for her part in the shooting at fray, though pardoned at the end of ten years.

In the Boer War Charley Smith is now on his way to join his brothers and sis ters in Tennessee and naturally declines to give his real name in order not to bring disgrace up on the family. But he did not hesitate to give an account of his career. He was born in a little Virginia town, not far from where Lady Astor was born, but ran away from home because he did not like hard work. He headed for New Orleans and got a job with a circus, looking after the horses. The circus sailed for South Africa and arrived there just about the time the Boer war broke out. Smith, then seventeen years old, enlisted with Braant's Horse and fought through the campaign. In 1902, he made his way to Johannesburg. The gold rush was on and Johannesburg was something like a western mining town sixty years ago, although killings were not so frequent and lynch law was not popular. But the scum of the earth from three or four continents was in Johan nesburg and money was plentiful. Meets "Chicago May". Charley ran a night club, or gambling joint, but does not ap pear to have been very prosperous for when the police put the lid on the town, he had only 600 pounds. He decided to see Eng land. Arrived in London he spent two or three days in checking over the various bars, and then one evening as he was sitting in the Holbro' restaurant, a tall, blonde woman drifted by. He in vited her to his table and she ac cepted. Charley told her about some of his experiences and they appeared to interest the lady, who divulged that her name was "Chi cago May". She was well known in the underworld of the United States, and Europe, for she had been for years the associate of Guerin. From her Smith learned much about Guerin, and a sketch of that picturesque scoundrel's career would occupy more space than we have room for.

May and Guerin had been knocking about the world for sev eral years and had been arrested and convicted for a robbery in Paris. Guerin was sent to Devil's Island for life and May had re

ceived five years. Guerin, as most readers will probably remember, escaped from Devil's Island and reached New York. From there he headed for London to recover from May what remained of the spoil of their robbery. She gave him 500 pounds which, she assert ed was all that remained and this maddened Guerin who knocked her down, tore the earrings from her ears and slashed her with a razor. When she summoned the police they were loathe to believe that Guerin was not on Devil's Island, but they searched for him and found him. He was arrested and held for extradition to France.

A London Shooting Fray. After he had been in prison for fifteen months he was released or habeas corpus, more than a hun dred years old, and found that he did not have to be surren dered to France because he was born on an emigrant ship from Ireland in British waters and was there fore not an American citizen. The day he was released a friend told Chicago May that he was looking for her, and that he was determin ed to throw vitriol in her face if he hanged for it. The woman was terrified and asked the gallant Charley to take her home. Smith summoned the hansom and they started for the woman's flat. As they approached a corner, May saw Guerin standing in front of the Russell Hotel. At the same time he recognized her and his hand went to his pocket. Instantly Smith jumped from the cab, drawing his revolver as he did so. He fired and Guerin fell, shot through the foot. Chicago May is said to be now in a convent in Buenos Aires.

FOUR IMPORTANT BRITISH CONCERNS ARE TO ESTABLISH BRANCHES

LONDON, June 3.—At least four important British concerns have stated definitely that they will es tablish branch factories in Canada at an early date. Secrecy is being maintained as to the identity of the concerns in question, but one will establish a branch in the West, where its products will be mostly used, and the others will be divided between Ontario and Que bec. A representative of one firm is now en route to Canada to de cide where to locate its factory. These concerns hope to bring their own skilled labor to Canada. To an extent unknown in the Do minion, British manufacturers sell labor rather than materials. Lesser production but more finish is the result, which is exemplified in cer tain British products recognized as the best of their kind to be found in the world. The difficulty is to get really skilled workmen to emigrate. Other British firms are consid ering the advisability of branching

You Need Not Be Extravagant

Another season has come. It seems but yesterday since we were all preparing for last Spring, but low and behold, here is another Spring at hand, and our Furnishing Department is overflowing with bargains in shirts, under wear, ties, collars, gloves,—everything men want, to make them comfortable.

With Spring, comes an obligation service to yourself. It is a time when the purse strings must be loosed and the small change put in circulation. We do not expect any extravagance in buying. You do not need to be extravag ant if you buy your furnishings from us. What we do ex pect, and what every person should do, is to buy what you need. In other words, let it be your motto to buy from us what you need, but buy carefully.

Suits made to order from \$37.00 to \$56.00. Ready-to-wear from \$25.00 to \$55.00.

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E. R. BROW

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The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

To Librarians

Sir,—Will you grant me space in your paper to tell all librarians, all book lovers, all who love that book culture prevail in the Maritime Provinces, that they are heartily invited to a meeting in the Library of Acadia University on June 13th and 14th. This is called a meeting of the Maritime Library Association, an institution that was organized April 17, 1918, but through lack of official initiative has not met since. It is not incorporated, and can scarcely be called an actively working body. Its charter members are fourteen librarians who were present at its organization. In the by-laws, which were prepared by a committee appointed in 1918 but which have not yet been passed upon, there is provision made that any person, male or female, interested in library work may become a member of the association. This is as it should be, I am sure. So backward are these provinces in library work that we can afford to exclude only the reactionary. On the evening of Tuesday, the 12th, there will be a public meeting in the Wolfville Baptist Church where addresses on the various phases of the library movement will be given by noted librarians and educationists of the Maritime Provinces. We hope to have some good music numbers at the meeting. On the morning of the 14th we shall discuss the matter of incorporation. We earnestly solicit the co-operation of the intelligent public. All right? Luifooove ya Luoooom! who wish that the best and truest culture may prevail in these provinces are cordially invited to this meeting. There are two excellent hotels in Wolfville where room and board can be secured at moderate rates, and will be reserved for those who will notify the writer of the meeting that they expect to attend the meeting of the Maritime Library Association. By all means let the public respond generously. The time should not be far distant when the lack of a free circulating library in a community will be as real a reproach as the lack of a free school. The first session will open at 11 a. m. on the thirteenth of June, the last at the same hour on the fourteenth. I am, Sir, etc, Mary Kinley Ingraham, Secretary to the Maritime Library Association, Wolfville, N. S.