BY AUNT JUNE

Our Boys and Girls Corner

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DEDICATED TO EVERY BOY AND GIRL IN CANADA

My dear Boys and Girls:—

I have just returned from a very lovely holiday in the country. The house in which I was visiting was in the heart of very pretty scenery, with many lovely trees and a lawn sloping down to a broad river. In the house there were a number of boys and girls, and every one of them had one or more pets. I think you would all have been interested in that garden.

The first thing I noticed was the bird boxes on several trees in the garden. They were so pretty and quaint looking. Some were round and some were square, but the boys told me that all of them were used by birds. While I was sitting out on the lawn we saw two or three orioles, a very fine red-headed woodpecker, and a kinglet, besides many other pretty birds which flew over, whose names we could not guess, and they did not stay long enough for us to watch them.

Among the pets in the garden were a lot of rabbits, beautiful big fellows with long, silky ears; in a little house I discovered twelve baby rabbits about as big as kittens; then there were baby pigeons. There was also a very nice dog. The boys and girls who live in this house have to feed their pets every day themselves, and they get up early in the morning to mix the food for them. Chickens and geese were running about on a separate piece of grass away at the side of the house. They were such a busy lot of helpers, all helping the little animals by feeding the wild birds, giving them houses, etc., that I decided they ought to join our Service League and invited them to do so, so before long we shall have some more new names of Helpers in our corner.

HOLIDAYS!

Who said, Hurrah for the holidays! What a lovely time of year this is to have holidays! How will you spend yours? Letters from boys and girls telling what they expect to do will be very welcome. I know two helpers who say they will go fishing all the time. I think they will certainly have a lot of fish if they spend more than three weeks in fishing. Don't forget to be kind to all the little animals and birds, and to look after your gardens during the holidays. Many helpers will welcome the longer time for gardening.

TELL ABOUT THE HELPING.

I want to see every week in this corner, letters from service members telling what they have done that week to help others. The very best letters will be printed first.

Sparrows are considered by some people to be only mischievous, troublesome little birds, but I am sure they all agree they can sometimes be very amusing. A poet once wrote two little verses about them, so I will print them for you today.

Sparrows.

Pretty little three
Sparrows in a tree,
Light upon the wing;
Though you cannot sing
You can chirp of spring:
Chirp of spring to me,
Sparrows from your tree.

Never mind the showers,
Chirp about the flowers
While you build a nest;
Straws from east and west,
Feathers from your breast,
Make the snuggest bowers
In a world of flowers.

Speaking of sparrows, there are a great many varieties. Three of these are the Fox Sparrow, the Swamp Sparrow, and the Vesper Sparrow. Can any helper describe either of these three birds? I will give you two weeks in which to send in a description. The best letter will be printed in our corner.

Next week I shall have to give you a story.

Many loving thanks to all helpers who have written in news of their gardens.

PLEDGE.
For Young Helpers' League of Service.

"Do a little kindness to someone every day.
Scatter rays of sunshine all along the way."

I pledge myself in the service of my King and Country to DO MY BEST IN MY DAILY WORK, wherever it may be, to help others wherever possible, and to endeavor in every way to make myself A GOOD CITIZEN.

Date.....

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

RIDDLES.

Answers to last week's riddles:—

R.—Why should we never sleep on a railroad?

A.—Because the train runs over sleepers.

R.—Why is "A" like 12 o'clock?

A.—Because it is the middle of day.

R.—When does a boat resemble snow?

A.—When it is adrift.

THIS WEEK'S RIDDLES.

R.—What thing is it that is lower with a head than without one?

R.—What is that which works when it plays and plays when it works?

R.—What is the first thing a helper who has a garden sets in it?

This last riddle is a funny one, but I think you should be able to guess it.

Who will be the first to fill my mail bag next week? I shall look out very eagerly for new members, letters and pledges. I hope you are all going to have a very lovely and happy holiday.

Yours lovingly,
AUNT JUNE.

NOTICE FOR NEW MEMBERS.

Boys and Girls who wish to join the Service League, must note the following rules:—

Fill in pledge and send to Aunt June, 515 Manning Chambers, Toronto. Only those who send in an account of an act of service every day for a week are eligible for a badge. This means to receive a helper's service badge you must prove your service by helping some one every day for a full week, then write a letter to Aunt June telling her about it, enclose the pledge and a three-cent stamp, postage of badge.

WHEN YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE BADGE I want every helper to wear it and to remember that he has pledged himself, or she has pledged herself, by joining the Service League, to lose no opportunity of helping others.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have only to send in the pledge and stamps for a badge, as all Guides and Scouts are already pledged to service to their country.

PAIN OFTEN CAUSE OF INFANT'S SMILE

BABY HAS NOT LEARNED RIGHT EXPRESSION OF JOY

Child Entirely Lacks Sense of Direction of Hurt, Hunger or Discomfort

The first sensation of the newborn infant is hunger. It cries because of a feeling of discomfort, not knowing of course, what causes the pain, but finds quiet as food flows into its stomach. The child does not know what hurts it, for it has not yet found the way around its own body, or, as the doctors say, it has not gained the power of localization. Hunger is merely a feeling of discomfort, just as cold is.

If it happens to be exposed to severe temperature, or that which is below the heat required for comfort, it cries, and the nurse tries to see "what is the matter."

If a pin is awkwardly inserted in the clothing and sticks in the baby's body, the infant cries again, but does not know what hurts it, only that it suffers pain.

Feels Pain "Somewhere."

It is quite a question how long a time is required for the child really to learn the geography of its own body. If an operation upon a very young infant is necessary, the surgeons do not have to hold down the limbs, save to avoid general squirming, for the babe does not know whether the foot or hand is being cut; it simply feels a pain "somewhere."

Litle by little the baby finds its way about itself, so that when stuck by a pin on the leg it will kick that leg more than the other, but this is only after weeks of existence.

Smiles Are Deceiving.

The "smiles" of young infants are merely the drawing back of certain muscles around the mouth and often are caused by a feeling of pain or discomfort. The babe has not yet learned how to contract his muscles to indicate joy or pain, and the smile is often an indication of discomfort. Only later comes the distinction in the use of the facial muscles by which we smile or cry.

No one has yet been able to explain why we should not smile in pain and cry in pleasure. In fact, when joy is too greatly exaggerated we do "cry for joy," thus proving how closely allied are smiling and weeping.

The drama of the internal life of the infant is the most interesting in the world, if it could be written out in full. But no one can remember that far back, and so psychologists have to trace the early steps, from hunger to general sensibility and then to location of pain.

AN EMERALD SET IN LAVA.

Before the opening of the Suez Canal, says the London Times, St. Helena was a very important possession of the British Crown, as it was a station on the outward and homeward long sea route between England and India. But from 1870 to the time of the Boer war the population dwindled; its industries and usefulness to the empire decreased.

Since the beginning of this century, however, it has been regaining value. Its climate is admirable, its rainfall sufficient, its 200 springs of pure water lend themselves to irrigation and make the interior, away from the precipitous cliffs that face the sea, "an emerald set in gray lava."

Facts About Canada

The spring of 1891 saw the Canadian Pacific Railway launch into another sphere of activity. Then it was that three great ocean liners—big for the day—were set upon their initial voyages. They were the Empress of India, the Empress of China, and the Empress of Japan. They cost about one million dollars each, with a promenade deck about 250 feet in length.

The first boat, the Empress of India, with 141 saloon passengers left Hong Kong on April 17, and although she encountered very heavy winds, she reached Victoria, B.C., on the 28th of the month at an average speed of 17 knots per hour. A special train carried the mails and passengers from Victoria to Montreal, arriving there in three days, 17 hours and 35 minutes.

But on the August trip of the Empress of Japan she made such speed at sea that with careful arrangement of railway schedules mail was landed in London in 20 days and nine hours from Yokahoma, thus establishing a new record, for the official time via the Suez canal then was 43 days.

The British papers gave the event great space and lauded the achievement as indicating a new era in trade and travel. Since that time the C. P. R. has added many ships to its fleet in the Atlantic and the Pacific and some of the finest vessels flying the British flag now fly the house flag of the company. During the war its vessels were at the disposal of the government and sailed thousands of miles with troops or as merchant cruisers protecting the commerce of the Allies from enemy raiders.

MACHINE WINDS PAPER.

A Buffalo inventor has patented a machine to wind narrow rolls of paper for the backs of barbers' chairs from wider and cheaper rolls.

The Quiet Observer

Resuming Trade With Russia

Mr. Lloyd George has cut the Gordian knot of Russian intercourse by negotiating with Krassin, a minister of the Soviet government and a trade commissioner authorized to negotiate for resumption of relations. Release of prisoners and payment of Russian obligations were the sine qua non of Mr. Lloyd George's conditions. The Round Table admits that the Soviet government is the only authority of any kind that exists in Russia. Beyond its fiat there is mere anarachy. It is at least recognized that the Russians must be left to mind their own domestic business. On the basis of physical life trade is the prime organizer of civilization and Mr. Lloyd George may have faith that when trade influences begin to permeate Russia once more the old national impulses may be rekindled and the nation may consolidate itself into a more organic life. It is certain that a trading Russia will be a more peaceful Russia, and the advantage to Europe as well as to England to have relations once more established on a civilized basis would be very great. It is no more possible to say what will develop from the Soviet venture than it would have been possible in 1794 to forecase the future of France.

The Round Table and Egypt

The Round Table is about the only medium through which broad and reliable surveys of British affairs and interests throughout the world may be obtained. It has been thought by some to be over-imperialistic in tone, but the explanation of Mr. Amery that he did not believe in binding the Empire to the Mother Country but the whole Empire to each of its parts, might be accurately applied to the Round Table. The quarterly issue for June presents the usual varied and attractive fare. The review of the Turkish treaty will not please those who wish to make concessions to the Turkish rule. An account of affairs in Egypt will surprise those who regarded Theodore Roosevelt's strictures on our authority there as uncalled for and untimely. He appears to have speken as a wise friend in necessary warning. Since Lord Cromer there have been four High Commissioners before General Allenby, whose "firm and temperate control" is appreciated. There was no continuous policy under his four predecessors, and the average British official in Egypt is not an incipient Cromer or Allenby. The growing self-consciousness of the Egyptian educated classes has led to an organized demand for a greater share in the government and particularly of the offices now largely filled by Englishmen, instances of which are on record. The Egyptian national movement is complex, like the Irish one, and is made up of "medieval reactionaries and ultra-modern radicals, orthodox Moslems and complete free-thinkers, the princes of the Khedivial family and the mob of the great towns." They have not discussed a constitution for on that rock they would split to pieces.

Unrecognized Revolution

It is not generally recognized that a social revolution is going on, but such is the case. The outward and visible signs may not be so marked or startling in Great Britain and America as in some other parts of the world (Lenin's Russia, for example), but the interior change is unmistakable to those who will but see. There are still many, and unfortunately a majority of them in the high places, who think that all things may be restored to the pre-war conditions. Such a restoration is no more possible than it would have been possible for the Europe of the 'thirties to go back to the Europe of the previous 'sixties. The French Revolution marked an epoch and scholars are taking note of the parallels presented by the revolutions that have accompanied the Great War and its close. We can never go back. The revolution of four generations ago was a political one. The present is a social one—that is the difference. Even in Canada the signs are marked. The strikes that have occurred in spite of arbitration, as with Toronto street car strike, where 1,300 returned men swayed the whole body of employees to ask for 85 cents an hour and rejected the arbitration award, and at Chippewa, where even the Socialistic Hydro-Electric scheme is imperilled by the individualistic demands of the men, indicate what is going on. The most signal instance is to be found in the revelations of James Murdock in resigning from the Board of Commerce in his letter to Premier Borden. The moral of this is crystallized in one sentence: The public, unorganized as the sands by the sea, requires some protection against the practices of super-modern business." If this protection is not furnished by the government then the result is as certain as it always has been in history. It may be delayed, but it is inevitable.

Lord French's Failure

Lord French does not come very well out of the controversy which he inaugurated by his book, "1914," many statements in which have been shown to be garbled, and the main contentions of which have been shown to be erroreous by the publication of documents in Sir George Arthur's life of Lord Kitchener. Kitchener certainly saved the situation at the end of August, and Lord French wrote him, "Thank God you are there, and I mean it." Hon. J. W. Fortiscue, historian of the British Army, declares: Lord French is, it is true, still the recipient of honors and rewards; but no accumulation of titles, batons, grants, orders, or decorations can ever fit him to stand in the company of such men as Ralph Abercromby, John Moore, Rowland Hill and Thomas Graham. Let these, and not Lord French, stand before the youth of Britain as the models upon which to train themselves to be officers and gentlemen." Some murmurs of protest are heard that Lord French should be continued as Viceroy of Ireland.

Agriculture in England

The principle of the Ulster tenant right has been largely adopted in the new act passed at the instance of Lord Lee, president of the Board of Agriculture in Enland. The farmer is given security by a guarantee of prices for his wheat and oats. The laborer is given security by the establishment of the Agricultural Wages Board, which guarantees him a minimum wage. The State is given the right to insist on proper cultivation and power to vary cultivation. The landlord gets fair rents, regulated against improvements made, and the tenant is compensated for disturbance, and fully for improvements and against frivolous eviction. The aim in this respect is to establish on the land the man who works it. A good deal of philosophy has been imparted into the domestic legislation of England in the last twenty years, and the necessity of providing for the rural population, its increase and stability, is largely the object of the Act. No country can flourish without a strong and thriving rural population. The gravest fact that America has to face is that while some years ago two-thirds of the people lived in the country and produced food, to-day only one-third are food producers, and the other two-thirds are trying to live on them. England has faced this fact, and the sooner we do it in Canada the sooner will the cost of living problem be solved.

POEMS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

Francis A. Durivage was born in Boston in 1814 and engaged early in journalistic work, writing for the magazines as well. He won considerable reputation with a series of articles signed "Old Un." He wrote a great many poems of serious as well as light character and several plays. He died in New York in 1881. Of this poem, Bayard Taylor said: "I know of no finer poem of its length."

"ALL."

There hangs a sabre, and there a rein,
With a rusty buckle and green curb-chain;
A pair of spurs on the old gray wall,
And a moldy saddle—well, that is all.

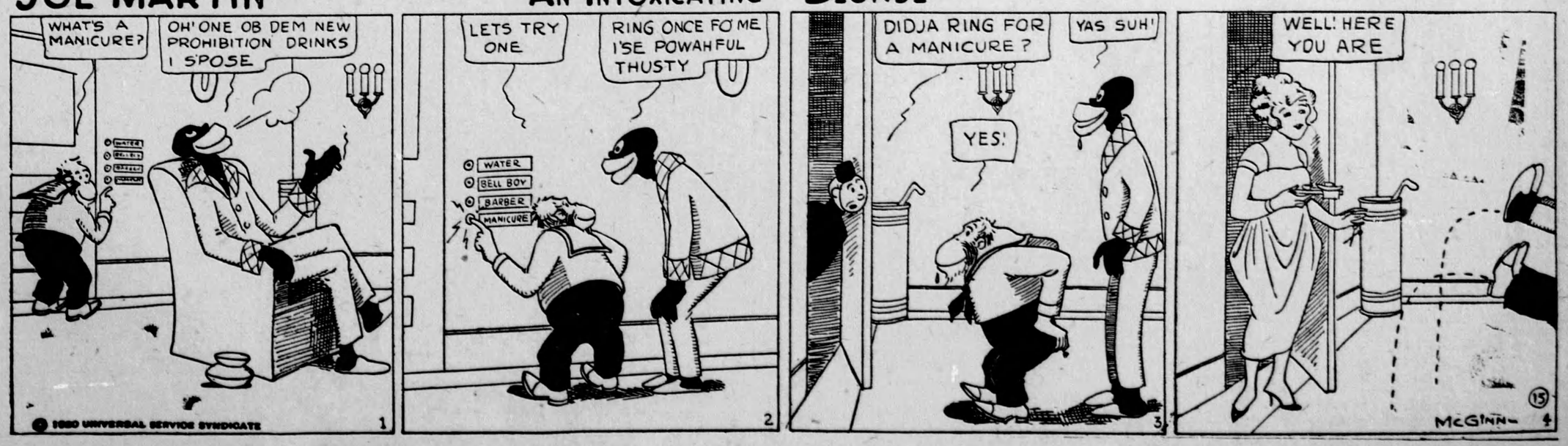
Come out to the stable—it is not far;
The moss-grown door is hanging ajar.
Look within! There's an empty stall
Where once stood a charger, and that is all.

The good black horse came riderless home,
Flecked with blood-drops as well as foam;
See yonder hillock where dead leaves fall;
The good black horse pined to death—that's all.

All? O God! it is all I can speak;
Question me not—I am old and weak;
His sabre and his saddle hang on the wall,
And his horse pined to death—I have told you all.

—Francis A. Durivage.

MOLLY, my sister, and I fell out,
I don't know what she's mad about:
I took her doll, her reins and ball,
But there's no need to fuss at all;
She ought to know they'd be returned,
She couldn't act worse if they'd all been burned

Find Molly and another person. Lower right corner down, on hair bow; upper right corner down, along doll.

JOE MARTIN — AN INTOXICATING BLONDE