Gretna Green Still Too Popular

Irregular Marriage Cause Concern and Call for Regain —Scotch Customs Under Fire

"There has been a remarkable boom in what are known as Gretna Green marriages. This week the more or less romantic circumstances of one of these runaway matches received wide publicity. The report of the Committee on Church and Nation on this subject appears, therefore, at an appropriate time. The traffic in these marriages has become a scandal."—The Scotsman.

"The report which has been prepared on the subject by the Church and Nation Committee of the Church of Scotland for submission to the forthcoming General Assembly makes a strong indictment of the loose practice obtaining in the Gretna marriage business, stating as the three most outstanding objections: the absence of certainty as to the marriage being good and valid, the risk of imposing on innocent women and the lack of proper registration.

"The Committee invite the Assembly to draw the attention of the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Lord Advocate to the frequency of irregular marriages in Scotland and to the scandalous traffic in clandestine marriage carried on at Gretna Green, and to ask the Government to examine the whole question with a view to amendment of Scottish marriage law."—Glasgow Herald.

"During the past two years the Committee have been exploring the whole situation. The report now prepared for the Assembly of the scandalous traffic in clandestine marriage presently carried on at Gretna Green, states that the aid of the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Lord Advocate must now be invoked. Early legislation amending the Scottish marriage law has become imperative," say the Glasgow Herald.

"Irregular marriages at Gretna have lately been receiving undesirable publicity, and there has been an increase of the grotesque ceremonies. The Gretna 'priests' have themselves stated that, during 1919, they 'celebrated' something like 1[illegible] marriages; but the registers show that only 18 of these were registered.

"It is probable that the cost and very great trouble in getting their marriage registered account for the enormous number that do not complete the transaction.

"Here are extracts from two letters:

"1. 'I was "married" in the smithy.' (Here date is given.) 'I had just returned from a long voyage and the lady who made the journey to Gretna with me had known me one day. Apparently she was satisfied with her lot, for after a week we drifted apart, and since then we have heard nothing of each other. In the meantime, sir, I've met my sweetheart of childhood days, and we have been anxiously waiting and hoping that something would turn up to enable us to be married by the minister here. I may state that after "ceremony" in the smithy we did not register the marriage at Dumfries. Will you, please advise me?'

"Stop So Much Misery".

"2. 'A boy friend and myself were going to Carlisle on motorcycle and we called in at the smithy out of curiosity. We hadn't the slightest notion of being married, but the blacksmith asked us, and we didn't realize what we had done until it was too late; that was (Here date quite recent). My husband was frightened to tell his people and admit it must be kept secret. We were twenty years of age and our marriage was never registered. I am told that I could have it annulled, but I am only a working girl and haven't the means. Is it legal? It would appear so much to me if I knew that I was free. I do hope Gretna Green marriages will be stopped, and it will stop so much misery.'

"The report proceeds to give notes by 'one who is genuinely qualified to discuss the question.' This authority points out that while Lord Brougham's Act of 1856 checked the contracting of marriage by runaway couples in Border places, it has, through providing a ready means of recording irregular marriages, rendered possible the business of what may be called marriage agents in the larger towns, and has led to an enormous increase in the frequency of irregular marriage in Scotland. Previous to 1870 the annual average of such marriages registered was less than 50, and previous to 1880 less than 50, and previous to 1890 less than 1,000. During the last ten years for which figures are available, the minimum number has been 3,712 and the maximum 8,351, this latter occurring in the marriage boom which followed demobilization.

"Irregular marriages now amount to about 12 per cent. of all registered. This number may point to civil (non-ecclesiastical) marriages being desired by some persons in Scotland, but it does not follow that the objectionable class of irregular marriage associated with Gretna Green meets any real want, or that it should be allowed to persist.

"Other than historic and sentimental considerations, there is no special virtue attached to Gretna Green marriages, and no special privileges vest either in buildings or persons there.

"The writer says he has no definite information as to the number of marriages now being celebrated at Gretna, but it is understood that it is something like 200 a year, and if this is the case the marriage business there is at least as active, if not more active, than it was before the passing of Lord Brougham's Act. What proportion of those married come across the Border for the purpose is not known but there are strong suspicions that it is considerable. There are two marriage shops at Gretna, one being in the 'smithy,' now the other in the Old Toll House, the former being the most frequented.

"The following are possibly the most outstanding objections to the marriage business carried on at Gretna: The absence of certainty as to the marriage being good and valid, the risk of imposing on innocent women and the lack of proper registration.

"The lack of certainty as to marriage rests on loose practice; knowledgable witnesses are not insisted on, and a mere statement of twenty-one days' residence in Scotland is accepted."

Home Life of Western Indians Has Improved

Prosperous Conditions Reflected In Better Homes and Advanced Mode of Living

The progress of the Indians on reserves in the three Prairie Provinces towards a position of self-support and independence is one of the gratifying features of the work of the Department of Indian Affairs. In farming and cattle raising these wards of the Government have, during recent years, scored conspicuous successes and the prosperous conditions prevailing on western reserves are reflected in the improved mode of living. New houses are springing up on all the reserves at the annual rate of from 350 to 400. These are of log and frame construction with at least six windows providing ample light and ventilation. Well kept gardens are laid out near many of these homes while milch cows, flocks of poultry, and pigs are not uncommon sights in the barnyards.

The improvement in home life on the reserves is due in a large measure to the training received by the young Indian women in the boarding schools maintained by the Department. In these they learn, among other things the principles of domestic science and hygiene. At one time it was a difficult matter to make the Indians realize the value of milk as a food for themselves and their children and to get them to milk their cows. However, a gradual change has taken place in their attitude. An increasing number of cows are being milked, and milk, cream, and butter are in use in Indian homes. The development of gardening is another gratifying feature of the Indians' progress and last year nearly 350 acres were sown to vegetables.

In the matter of hygiene, the Department of Indian Affairs makes every effort to encourage good practice. Where the wives and mothers are school graduates, the value of sanitary conditions is fully realized, and among the older Indian women the work of the travelling nurses and field matrons is gradually bearing fruit. Four travelling nurses are constantly on the road visiting Indian homes on the various reserves in the West, instructing the women how to live and how to care for their children. This service is supplemented by the work of a staff of field matrons who make frequent visits to give any advice and assistance needed by the native women.

The care of the aged is also a particular responsibility of the Department and officers on the reserves provide food, clothing, and homes for indigent members of the band. During the last three years the policy of the Department has been to encourage as many old Indians as possible to live in tepees during the summer. The tepees are usually large and well ventilated and the old Indians are greatly benefited in health by this practice of living in these airy, summer habitations.

"Prepared at the direction of Dr. Duncan C. Scott, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, by Mr. W. M. Graham, Indian Commissioner.

The Return of the Exiles

Le Monde Ouvrier (Ind.): Why all the weeping and wailing over the lot of our brothers who live under the sunshine of the Stars and Stripes, and who live better than any of us here do, in the land of our ancestors? . . . If we sometimes hear of the unfortunate conditions in which they live—and in some places they certainly know how to exploit them systematically—that is no reason why we should cry out on the housetops that our people find life unbearable with our neighbors, that they live in misery and would be happy and content to find themselves once again on their own land in the village where they were born. We admit that sometimes some of them do not succeed as they should, and that homesickness—which is their greatest foe—becomes a powerful factor in their desire to return home, but to conclude from this that Canadians would do much better to return home in a body, is far from the fact, especially when we compare the conditions which have prevailed for some years in this "prosperous" Canada of ours.

An insane person is just like a sane one—only more so.—Dr. Edna Heilbreder.

Farm Notes

Lily Pools

Lily pools range from a simple tub let into the ground, to cement and stone tanks. Small lakes and streams in and through the garden are usually outside the range of the amateur gardener. It is possible, however, in many gardens, to have a small pool, particularly where running water is obtainable.

Of course, if there is a particularly moist spot in the garden, the location of such a pool is not difficult to select. But failing this, an artificial pool can easily be made at comparatively small cost. If there is a clayey sub-soil, nothing further than the excavation of the pool and puddling the bottom and sides with clay need be done. If clay is not present, the bottom and sides must be cemented. In either case, it will be well to dig deeply enough to allow of 12 to 18 inches of good holding loam being distributed over its bed, and then leave room for a depth of 2½ feet of water in its centre, gradually decreasing its depth to 9 inches or less at the sides. A broad border should surround the pool for the culture of plants which love moisture but which are not truly aquatic. A few large, irregular stones partly embedded in this border will form an excellent rockery whereon moisture-loving Alpine plants may be grown if desired. Small tubs may be inserted in the pool containing lily roots, so that they may easily be removed for winter storage. A few goldfish in the pool will add charm and prevent the pool from becoming a breeding ground for the mosquito. Of course, some provision must be made for the supplying of fresh water to the pool and also overflow pipes to carry off the surplus water. Miniature pools may be formed by sinking halves of large barrels in the ground, and if a few nails are driven in near their tops and lumps of coke, stones or clinkers covered with cement are attached there, pretty little decorative pools may be formed. (Rev. G. W. Tebbs, before the Ontario Horticultural Association.)

The Illustration Stations

Answering a question about the operation of the illustration stations supervised by the Experimental Farms Branch, asked by a member of Parliament in the House of Commons, the Hon. Dr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, explained that the Government does not operate the 136 illustration stations distributed over Canada, but the Department does give the operators some assistance. He said, "The illustration area of man's farm includes only that part of it fronting on a well-travelled road and varies in area from eight or ten to forty acres. For the privilege of saying what crops shall be grown, what rotation shall be followed and how and when cultural operations shall be performed, the Department pays the owner or operator a small amount ($5 per acre) each year. The purpose of these stations is to demonstrate the varieties of the different crops, the cultural methods and the rotations that have been found to give the best results on an experimental farm or station where conditions are judged to be similar to those which maintain on the illustration station under consideration.

"The crops harvested off these illustration stations are, of course, the property of the men operating them."

The Storing of Eggs

This is the season of heavy egg production when stocks not required to meet the daily demands are going into cold storage to be brought out for use when production is low. The storing of eggs is greatly improved in recent years—so much so, indeed, that stored eggs are no longer looked upon with suspicion and doubt. Eggs that go into storage have to be submitted to the candling process which determines definitely their quality. Only those that are in prime condition are ever put away in storage quarters. The modern cold storage for eggs is a highly sanitary place not only in its cleanliness but also by reason of the manner in which it is maintained. The temperature is held at all times close to the frost line and of such consistency with respect to moisture as to reduce evaporation to the smallest degree. Not only are the eggs graded when put in, but the regulations governing eggs, covered by the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act administered by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, require that they should again be graded when they are brought from the storage chamber to go into commerce.

The usual egg cold storage in Canada is what is known as dry cold storage into which eggs are placed in their natural state. In Western Canada many of the eggs are put through an additional process before being placed in the storage quarters. The fresh eggs are immersed for an instant in hot oil which not only sterilizes but seals up the shell, preventing evaporation from within and contamination from without. After treatment in this way the eggs are put through a sandblast machine, which removes the excess oil and restores the bloom of a fresh egg. They are then cold stored in the usual way. With the marketing of only graded eggs, whether fresh from the farms or out of storage, the losses from bad eggs has been almost eliminated in egg merchandising.

A Disease of the Hyacinth

The hyacinth bulb is subject to a disease that, when once admitted, does much damage to the plantation. It is especially important in commercial fields for its exceedingly destructive effect upon the plants. Under favourable conditions it spreads from bulb to bulb until the whole plantation is destroyed. The disease known as Yellow Disease is described in a new pamphlet numbered 101 of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, written by Mr. F. L. Drayton, plant pathologist, who made a study of this and other diseases of bulbs in Holland a year or so ago.

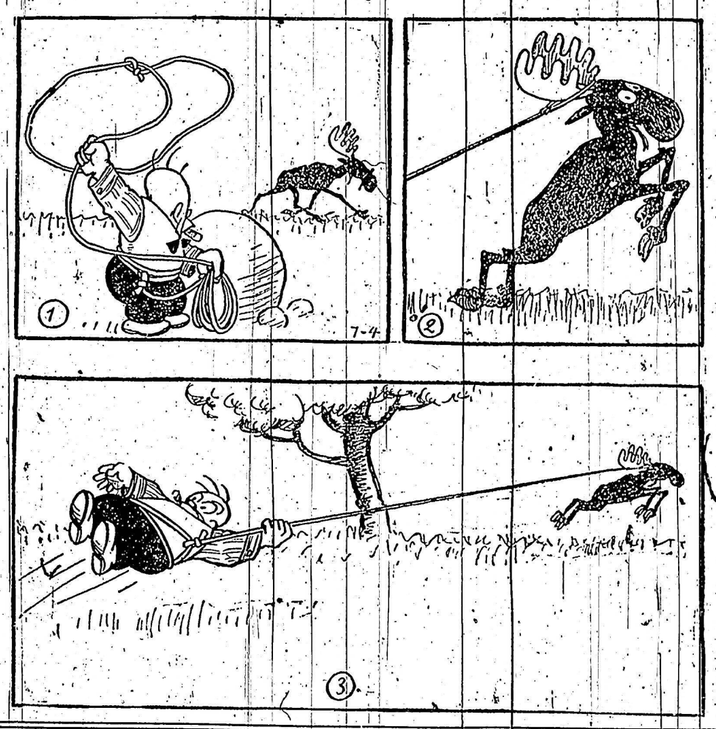
The disease appears first as a yellowing of the tips of the leaves which afterwards dry up. It spreads to the bulb, which soon begins to decay at the base, destroying its usefulness either for planting in the garden or forcing in the house. Certain varieties are less subject than others to attack. Among the most resistant are said to be Gertrude, Grand Maitre, King of the Blues, King of the Yellows and Yellowhammer. The disease is recognized as a serious one in Holland, where Mr. Drayton observed the means that are used to secure control. Specially-trained men are employed by the growers to inspect the fields during the growing season. Bulbs showing disease are each covered with a pot without a hole in the bottom and the plants near by are sprayed with a fungicidal solution such as a five per cent. strength of formaldehyde. The bulbs under the pots are allowed to remain until the crop is harvested when the diseased ones are destroyed by burning. Other practices for control are described in the pamphlet which shows by illustration the appearance of a diseased bulb cut crosswise and lengthwise. (Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dom. Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont.)

Undesirable Immigrants

Winnipeg Liberte (Ind.): (Central European immigration in the West is creating an undesirable element in the urban centres.) We are faced with a definite task—to keep a watch on these dangerous groups and to transform them into desirable elements. Now that we have been subjected to this type of immigration, we must absorb it, and not let ourselves be absorbed by it; it is incumbent on us to communicate our sense of order to it, instead of allowing ourselves to be dragged along in their disorder; we must make them understand that when they changed their hemisphere they also changed their atmosphere. Too many colonists make the mistake, when they come to Canada, of trying to bring their countries with them, instead of accepting ours.

Activity may lead to evil, but inactivity cannot be led to good.

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES—By O. Jacobsson.



Canada Rich In Game Sanctuaries

Government's Aim is the Preservation of the Country's Fauna—Many Animals Almost Extinct are Now Increasing

Ottawa—Profiting by the fate of the dodo and the passenger pigeon and by the lesson of its own foresight in saving the last remnant of American bison, Canada is taking every care to insure the perpetuation of all wild game within its borders. The Government has already set aside over 11,000 square miles of the finest wilderness as game reserves where, under the protecting eye of the law, the furred and feathered inhabitants may exist unmenaced by the onward march of civilization.

A few years ago such important animals as elk, caribou, mountain goat and mountain sheep, antelope and muskox were diminishing at an alarming rate under the attack of man and wolf; bear, beaver and waterfowl evaded man as a deadly enemy. Now there are wide districts where many of these animals will literally feed from the strangers hand, their timidity or fierceness a thing of the past.

Buffalo and Elk Increase

At Wainwright and Buffalo Park the buffalo roam the prairies and meadows in great herds. Elk are increasing steadily at Elk Island, Jasper and Rocky Mountain parks. Moose, that were growing rare in the West, can now be seen any time at Waterton Lakes, Kootenay, and other places. Antelope are thriving at Nemiskam, Alberta; caribou at Jasper; Rocky Mountain sheep at Banff, while bear, cinnamon and black, forage for food about the back doors of park hotels. Even the mountain goat, that most exasive of animals, can often be seen from the train window, following the cloudland trails.

Increased protection of migratory birds through national and international laws and the setting aside of breeding grounds where most needed are proving highly beneficial. At Vaseaux Lake bird sanctuary, British Columbia, for instance, where there were only a few nesting Canada geese in 1923, when the sanctuary was made, 400 were counted there last summer at one time.

Jack Miner's Pond

On Jack Miner's little pond at Kingsville, Ont., the visiting geese and duck literally darken the sky and blot out the water. Every care is being taken to prevent the extinction of the beautiful trumpeter swan, which have an unfortunate habit, of breeding within the borders of settlements and are easily molested. The whistling swan, a smaller variety, are still numerous, although, because their migration is generally by night and usually silent, they are rarely seen by even the most experienced sportsmen. Last spring a flock alighted on the Niagara River during a thunder storm and were swept over the falls, many of them being destroyed.

The chief concern of the game authorities now is the muskox. Not only are they few in numbers and those numbers scattered sparsely over the arctic and sub-arctic regions beyond the haunts of man but their bravine disposition leaves them easy prey to their enemies.

Movies of Muskox Taken

Last year the crew of the government ship Beothic spied a small herd of the north coast of Devon Island and two bulls were brought to bay by the efforts of one Eskimo and a single dog so that still and moving pictures could be taken of them. This illustrates the ease with which this valuable animal has been exterminated in many of the valleys along the eastern seaboard where it was formerly plentiful.

Through the aid of the detachments of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police special efforts are being made to save the remnants. A couple of years ago a game preserve for muskox, 19,000 square miles in extent, east of Great Slave Lake, was made, and W. H. B. Hoare, explorer for the Northwest Territories and Yukon branch of the interior department, is now engaged in a survey of the district.

Although the survey was begun last April it was not until January, the months later, that the first report was received from Mr. Hoare who gives some idea of the vastness and inaccessibility of this region.

Lord Onslow's Address

He reported having seen muskox along the Hanbury River and their tracks in the vicinity of the Thelon River and the Government has good hopes of eventually seeing the Thelon reserve a popular grazing ground for this shaggy monarch.

The Earl of Onslow, president of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, in his last presidential address said, "The whole world is becoming so speedily opened up to travellers, traders, tourists and settlers and so much uncultivated land is coming under the plough that unless some more or less drastic measures are taken to preserve the distinctive fauna it must obviously disappear entirely. . . I am sure I would be only quoting what . . . sportsmen themselves would say when I suggest that national parks are the very best sanctuaries for the big game."

Canada is certainly doing its bit in this direction.

The Theatre Mouse

At night, when all the feet have fled
He pokes his small, dramatic head
Out of the wings, and struts as bold
As though a Craig or Meyerhold
Were sitting front to watch his bit,
Lauding its pantomime and wit.

The silent house of huddled chairs
In blank amazament sits and stares
The midnight traffic of the street
Is music for his nimble feet;
No juvenile or leading man
Takes half the freedom this mouse can;

His only critic is a cat
Crouching where firmer critics sat.

—By Charles A. Wagner.

The tobacconist tried hard to sell the cigars. "They are made from the very choicest leaf, sir," he said. "Rhubarb, tobacco, or cabbage?" queried the customer.

BOOK NEWS

by Arthur Kent

"White N[illegible] by Raymond Knister, [illegible] (Ryerson's, Toronto. $2)

This is one [illegible] most significant Canadian [illegible] written. It contains many [illegible] passages of greatness; [illegible] rises to poetic heights [illegible] an unsatisfactory book.

In "W[illegible]" Knister found a vehicle [illegible] at once have placed him [illegible] ks of the world's important [illegible] and secured him recognition [illegible] Unfortunately, he will pr[illegible] to wait for this distinction.

The book [illegible] tically tragic. Its figures are [illegible] and heavily drawn. The dialogue [illegible] with which it deals are [illegible] clamatory. Chapter by chapter [illegible] story goes forward towards [illegible] logical conclusion. Knister p[illegible] out in every sentence he [illegible] fully, as the story unfolds, [illegible] interest grows [illegible]. The last chapter is a [illegible] down of everything [illegible]

It is [illegible] understand why Knister [illegible] his story a happy, conventional [illegible] conclusion. It is [illegible] that the man who [illegible] writes, and received [illegible] and characters of "W[illegible] could make such a mistake.

The [illegible], however, that Knister [illegible] of unusual calibre. It promises that [illegible] will write books [illegible] than their [illegible] interested in the people, such as their "White Narcissus."

[illegible] stories and His Prose Works on the Honourable William [illegible] LL.D., D.C.L., President Canadian National Parks [illegible]

[illegible] Bates and the [illegible] Social Reformer [illegible] Canada [illegible]

[illegible] Latin and his [illegible] path to immortality [illegible] and a [illegible] of prose works also [illegible] and practical [illegible] Rome. Rome [illegible] will be