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TORONTO CORRESPONDENCE

INTERESTING GOSSIP FROM ONTARIO'S CAPITAL.

With the Suffragets—Toronto Politics—Problem of the Churches—50,000 People Require Their Good Offices.

Miss Wylie, the English suffragist, who confesses to having thrown bricks with the rest of them, to two terms in prison and to leadership in a hunger strike, has not been making much progress in stirring Toronto women up to militant methods. Toronto has its suffrage associations—many of them—though the membership of each is small and of no political influence. But the suffrage leaders in Toronto absolutely decline to start out on a campaign of window smashing. There is, for example, Dr. Augusta Stone Gullen, who is president of one of the local associations. While a woman of strong mentality she is the antithesis of revolutionary in appearance, with a motherly figure built on generous proportions and a kindly face. Mrs. Flora McD. Denison, another leader, seems also well supplied with human kindness.

Perhaps the most striking figure of the local suffragists is Mrs. J. B. Leather, who came to Toronto from England some two years ago with her husband, who is a professor at the University. Physically she has a slight figure, a thin face and the eyes of a dreamer. She is a woman of great culture, speaks French, German, Italian and Russian and is an accomplished musician. Added to this she has intellectual force in an unusual degree. She knows the suffrage question through and through, which is more than can be said of all who talk on the subject either for or against. In addition she is much interested in all social reforms.

POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Reform Association brought to the city some of that party's stalwarts, including the Chief himself, Hon. Mackenzie King, Hon. Geo. F. Graham and a number of others. These annual meetings are generally pretty perfunctory affairs, but this year it was more interesting than usual by reason of the fact that addresses were delivered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Rowell, Mr. King, who is president of the association, and others. Local politicians have been following with interest the activities of Mr. Rowell and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, apparently the country is willing to listen to both, and some of the large crowds and the enthusiasm that have been in evidence have been the subject of much comment. But as to what it means, or whether it means anything, even the change of a single seat in either Dominion or Provincial elections, no one will at this stage predict.

WARD ASSOCIATIONS MEET.

The Toronto political pot, too, is beginning to boil. The peculiarity about the Toronto pot is, however, that it boils only

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CURZON'S BAD FIST.

Lord Curzon, when a young man at college, once found his bad hand-



Lord Curzon.

writing stand him in good stead. Writing two letters, one to a relative, the other to a chum, he enclosed them in the wrong envelopes. It chanced that in the second letter he had made some uncomplimentary reference to his relative, and on discovering the mistake he had made he awaited developments with anxiety.

There presently came a letter from the uncle. "I have tried hard to decipher your epistle," it ran, "but your writing is so atrocious that I cannot make head nor tail of it. However, I guess the drift of it to be that you need some money, you rogue, so I enclose a check."

"GOOD STUFF."

A Confirmed Drinker Takes to Postum.

A housewife was recently surprised when cook served Postum instead of tea and coffee. She says: "For the last five or six years I have been troubled with nervousness, indigestion a heart trouble. I couldn't get any benefit from the doctor's medicine, so finally he ordered me to stop drinking coffee, which I did. (Tea is just as injurious because it contains caffeine—the drug in coffee.)

"I drank hot water while taking the doctor's medicine, with some improvement, then went back to coffee with the same old trouble as before.

"A new servant girl told me about Postum—said her folks used it and liked it in place of coffee. We got a package, but I told her I did not believe my husband would like it, as he was a great coffee drinker.

"To my surprise he called for a third out, said it was "good stuff" and wanted to know what it was. We have used Postum ever since and both feel better than we have in years.

"My husband used to have bad spells with his stomach and would be sick three or four days, during which time he could not eat or drink anything. But since he gave up coffee and took to Postum, he has had no more trouble, and we now fully believe it was all caused by coffee.

"I have not had any return of my former troubles since drinking Postum, and feel better and can do more work than in the last ten years." We tell everyone about it—some say they tried it, and did not like it. I tell them it makes all the difference as to how it's made. It should be made according to directions—then it is delicious."

Name given by Canadian Postum Co., Windsor, Ont. Read the book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

SMILES FROM THE COURTS.

"I remember the day well, because I had a tooth out," said a witness.

A woman stepped into the witness box and said: "I am the wife of a disinfectant."

"Isn't it an insult to call me a flop-eared, bow-legged porcupine?" asked an applicant for divorce.

"It's the only pleasure I have in life," said a hawker, in explaining to a magistrate his love of beer.

"What evidence have you?" the magistrate asked a woman. "I have brought my black eye," she replied.

"Thank yer. May the Lord bless yer. May yer head never ache!" said a woman sentenced to 10 months' hard labor to the judge.

"I kept an eye on her until Saturday," said a seafaring man, referring to his wife, "and then she

slipped her cable while I was on duty."

A carman charged with overloading his horse was asked how heavy a load he had on his van. "About a ton," he replied: "but it was all light stuff!"

"Oh, please do away with that book!" was the remark of a man to the bench, when the conviction book was produced to show that it was his 56th appearance in court.

"In case you're asked," said the judge, "take it from me that the last letter of the alphabet is 'z.'" "I've learnt something to-day," remarked the prisoner, gratefully.

"The solicitor has forgotten to charge most of his costs," said counsel. "I beg your pardon!" said the judge, in an astonished voice. "No, surely, that has never occurred!"

At an inquest the foreman of the jury remarked on the light weight of a child. "I have been a judge of horseflesh for years," he added, "and I ought to know what a child should weigh."

A woman witness recently admitted that she stole a letter from a man's pocket while he was sitting on her knee. "Well," she explained, "if you are going to marry a man you must know something about him."

A defendant endeavored, without avail, to prove that his bulldog was harmless and would not bite. "In fact," he added, amid laughter, "all my children have cut their teeth by biting the dog's ears."

A man said that he was willing to provide a home for his wife if she would leave her mother. "I've seen her mother," said the court, "and there's nothing wrong with her, You must remember:—

A son's a son till he gets him a wife;

A daughter's a daughter all her life."

BELL TELEPHONE FINANCES.

Earnings Applicable to the Bond Interest Have Shown a Steady Increase Since 1905.

In view of the fact that an additional issue of Bell Telephone bonds is about to be offered to the public, it is interesting to note that these securities are a first charge upon the whole lines, works and plant of the company other than real estate. The real estate in unencumbered. The value of the plant account (not including real estate) is \$20,531,327, or more than three times the outstanding bonds. As regards the security from the income point of view the following table speaks for itself:

	Earnings	Gross Applicable Bond	Revenue to Bond Interest
1906	\$4,139,334	\$1,135,838	\$142,983
1907	4,829,657	1,223,767	179,970
1908	4,580,606	1,606,724	182,450
1909	4,949,197	1,651,339	182,450
1910	5,510,685	1,729,575	182,450
1911	6,476,848	1,657,814	231,879

On the basis of the average results for the last six years the net earnings approximate to six times the total interest charges. The present authorized issue of the bonds is \$7,500,000, of which \$6,649,000 are out.

The company has a capital stock outstanding of \$15,000,000, which is valued by the market at 160 per cent. Dividends at the rate of eight per cent. have been paid continuously for twenty-six years. Principal and interest on the bonds are payable on April and October 1st at the Bank of Montreal.

A source of disease, but one frequently overlooked, is the pet animals of the household. Even the coats of the most cleanly cats or dogs must come in contact with and carry many dangerous germs into the house.

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SOLDIERS ARE PICTURESQUE.

Many Wear Killed White Skirt That Comes to the Knee.

The street scenes of Athens are extremely interesting to the new arrival. The women of the better class affect a funereal black, for the most part at least, in this year of our Lord 1912. What it may be next year I could not venture to predict, says a writer in the Christian Herald. But there are enough other persons in the streets to relieve the sombre effect. The soldiers are particularly picturesque. Many of them wear the kilted and fluted white skirt that comes nearly to their knees, while their legs are encased in heavy white stockings or leggings reaching to their hips.

This costume, which terminates in brown Turkish slippers, extravagantly turned up at the toe, which is surmounted by a big black ball of worsted, gives these sons of Mars a singularly unwarlike, not to say effeminate, aspect. But there are other soldiers in blue and butternut uniforms of the ordinary type, while the officers, as in other lands, are birds of gorgeous plumage.

STRANGE ELECTRIC BATTERY.

Scientists tell us that there has been discovered in the forests of India a strange plant which possesses in a very high degree astonishing electric and magnetic power. The hand that breaks a leaf from it receives instantly a shock equal to that which is produced by the conductor of an inductive coil. At a distance of six meters a magnetic needle is affected by it. The energy of this singular force varies, but it is most powerful when the sun is hottest, and at times of storms its intensity increases in striking proportion. One never by any chance sees a bird or an insect light on the electric plant; nature seems to warn them that they would find their death.

It takes a brave man to face a little woman at the head of the stairs at two a.m.

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