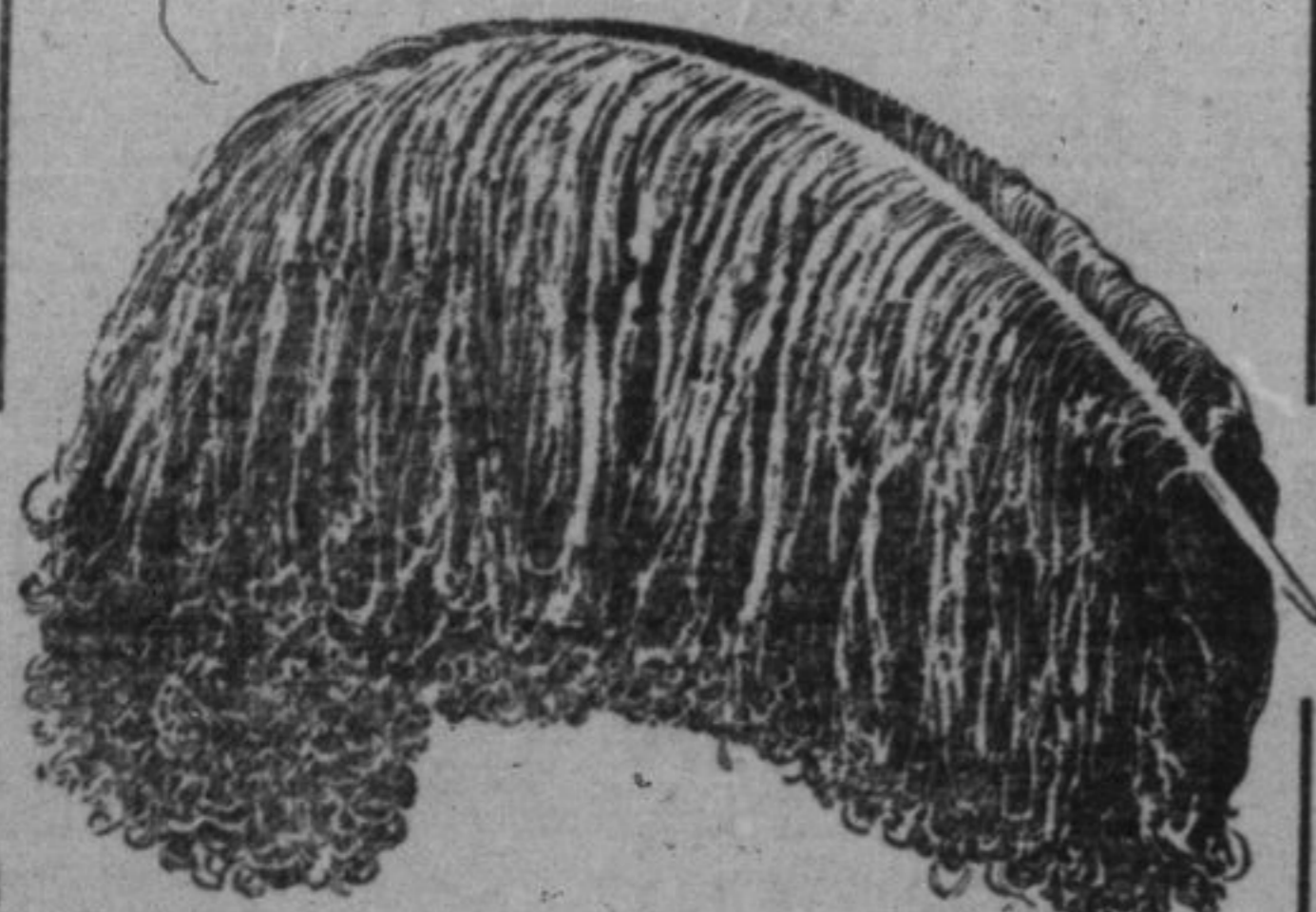


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"Badger" Gang Sentenced, Washington, May 6.—Following futile pleas for mercy, Florence Bennett Knott, of Flint, Mich., the "badger girl," was sentenced to the penitentiary for two years. Her husband, James B. Knott, scion of a Southern family, and his friend Albert Armstrong, received sentences of four years each. Benjamin Knott, an elder brother convicted of complicity in the "badger game," filed application for a new trial and was released on bail.

VERY FINE ART SHOW

THE SPRING EXHIBITIONS IN MONTREAL

Are the Outcome of Shows Started in the Forties—The Great Progress Made.

The spring exhibitions of the Montreal Art Association are the outcome of shows which were organized chiefly by amateurs about the forties, when the British soldiers were there, says M. J. Mount in The Canadian Century. Among these military men many were talented, especially the engineers, who were all draughtsmen. These were later recalled to be sent to the Crimea.

Most of the officers stationed here and their families were persons of high education and taste. This naturally assisted the people in their efforts toward elevating the standard of society, and therefore any endeavor towards the fine arts met with great encouragement.

Every year they had a small exhibition of paintings, drawings and so forth, to encourage and bring forward the local talent and to enable comparisons to be made between their work and that of other contributors. These were small beginnings, a few pictures, a few drawings, still they were the pioneers of art in Canada, and we owe to them what we have now. These exhibitions were organized and judged by the early patrons of art, who every year gradually became more and more discriminating.

Such men were the forerunners of the Art Association, which was officially organized in 1890, and ever since the Spring Exhibition has been an anxiously expected event by artists and by the artistically inclined public. A writer has said: "Probably many of the pioneers who led the way and opened a path for the arts in our country had little merits as artists, but they are objects of curious inquiry to us of the present day, for as we earnestly desire to know every particular relative to the first settlers who raised the standard of civilization in the wilderness, so the artist's desire is felt, especially by artists, to learn who were their predecessors, who raised and who supported the standard of taste and decorated the social column with its Corinthian capital."

To these annual exhibitions all artists may send pictures, but no work is admitted which has been exhibited before in Montreal, the aim being to urge artists to new efforts.

It will be at once remarked that there is a great unevenness in the quality of the work. This is the result of the peculiar conditions surrounding the exhibition. Amateurs of more than usual merit are encouraged to exhibit, as are also students. As years go by the standard is much higher. Nevertheless their work is not judged from such a high standpoint as the work of the professional artists.

The Council of the Art Association usually call in two or more artists of reputation to assist them in judging the pictures. The technical side is considered as well as the general artistic value. Leniency is shown to amateurs and to promising students—but none to them if they do not improve from year to year, for they may not pass the committee. It is not easy for outsiders to appreciate the really great progress made, but to one following the exhibitions carefully every year the progress is remarkable.

Year by year new names are being added to the roll of acknowledged leaders. Besides our veteran Harris we have Brymner, Cullen, Suzor-Cote, Morrice, Hebert, Hammond, Gamm, Reid, Brownell, Clapp, Laura Muniz, Florence Carlyle and others.

The educational advantages given to the children as well as to their elders in visiting these exhibitions cannot be over-estimated, for the study of works of art elevates the taste for all things good and beautiful. As Ruskin says: "To cultivate sympathy, you must be among living creatures, and thinking about them; and to cultivate admiration, you must be among beautiful things and looking at them."

Concurrent Sentences.

There is no one who enjoys a joke more than James P. Haveron, and no one who scents one on himself quicker than the same "Jimmy." It is a clever man who is able to put one over on him. But Mr. D. C. Hossack, now a lawyer, though formerly a minister, turned the tables on his fellow-legalist not a great while ago. Mr. Haveron approached Mr. Hossack with words to the effect that he wished spiritual advice from the preacher, whom he said he regarded as his father-confessor.

"In the course of my defence of my clients, the hotelmen," he said, "I have to tell the same lie over and over again. Now, suppose I have told a lie fifty times, will I be punished in the hereafter for one lie or for fifty lies? Perhaps you better take a day or two to think over that question before you answer it."

"No need to do that," responded Mr. Hossack. "The answer is a very simple one. You will be punished for everyone you tell, but if it is any consolation to you to know it the sentences will run concurrently."—Toronto Star.

By Way of a Tip.

A New Brunswick clergyman had just performed the marriage ceremony. "How much do you charge?" inquired the groom. "Well, the law allows me two dollars and a half," said the hopeful clergyman.

"All right," handing over fifty cents, "this will make you three dollars even."

Bob and Nabob Sides.

From a society point of view King and Yonge streets, Toronto, have each a Bob and Nabob side. The west side of Yonge and the south side of King are the Nabobs. The little girl of fashion must not promenade on the other, which is allotted by her to the business people and the Bobs.

\$2,000,000 From Chinese.

The revenue from Chinese head taxes this year will likely aggregate two million dollars, owing to the stricter enforcement of regulations. Last year the total was around \$300,000.

TWO KINDS OF HOME RULE.

And the Second Kind is Not So Popular as the First.

Lord Ilkerton, upon whom fell the honor of moving the address in the House of Lords, is one of the few physicians who have made a name in politics.

Formerly known as Sir Walter Foster, he was a member of the House of Commons for a quarter of a century. He was in the best sense the honorary physician to the House, for, as good luck would have it, he was generally at hand when any member needed his services.

Lord Ilkerton first became famous as a physician in Birmingham; he has been vice-president of the British Medical Association, and has contributed largely to the literature of medicine and sanitary science.

As president of the National Liberal Association Lord Ilkerton had much to do with the reorganization of the party in the years which followed the ill-fated effort to introduce Home Rule. He held important appointments under various Liberal Governments, including that of Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, and when the division bell rang he was always among the first to pass through the turnstiles of the Liberal lobby. Indeed, as a rule, it was either he or the late Sir Charles Dilke that was the first to get his name ticked off by the clerk in charge of the division list, and while waiting for the doors to be opened both used to entertain the younger members with reminiscences of notable Parliamentary personalities.

Lord Ilkerton has told a good story concerning another kind of "Home Rule" to that mentioned above. "Tired and dusty, a party were returning by train from a holiday trip. Simkins, a little bald man, seated himself down to read, but dropped off to sleep. On the rack was a ferocious crab in a bucket, and when Simkins went to sleep the crab woke up, and, finding things dull in the bucket, started exploring.

By careful navigation, Mr. Crab reached the edge of the rack. Down it fell, alighting on Simkins' shoulder, and it grabbed the man's ear to steady itself. The passengers held their breath and waited for developments, but Simkins only shook his head and said: "Let go, Sarah; I tell you I have been at the office all the evening!"

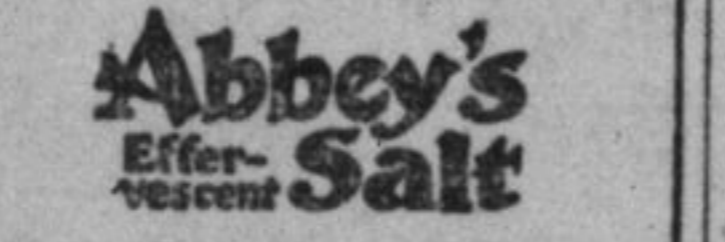
The Natural Park Man. Howard Douglas, Edmonton, has been giving interviews down in Spokane, Washington. He's the natural park man who works for the Dominion Government. During fifteen years Douglas has managed eight national parks in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. He was the first superintendent of the Banff Park, the first restoration of its kind in Canada.

Douglas is going to be superintendent of still another park. Up in the Yellowstone Park through the Rocky Mountains, there are 4,800 square miles of hot springs and scenery. This is Jasper Park—and Howard Douglas has commenced opening it up.

Too Much Realism. "Do you not feel at times," remarked the freemason, "that realism can be carried too far on the stage?" "Yes," replied the tragic actor, with a sigh. "The last man I was working for did it. He wanted to pay us all-off in stage money."

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MAKING A TAXI-DRIVER.

How London Trains Its Cabbies Who Turn Chauffeur.

No good purpose would be served by raising anew the question of the relative supply of taxi-cab drivers and taxi-cabs. In the view of the taxi-cab proprietor, of course, there never will be an adequate number of skilled drivers, available; but the known facts of the situation give strong probability to the reply that, due allowance being made for the large percentage of taxi-cabs always in the garages for one reason or another, there is (says The Westminster Gazette) no difficulty in placing the available motor-cabs on the streets of London through lack of qualified driver.

The supply of drivers plentiful or scarce, however, a state of things is often involved in the making of them which is too little known to the users of the comfortable and convenient motor-cab. The number of vehicles of this description plying for hire in the London streets by permission of Scotland Yard is now well over 6,000; and for the privilege of sharing in the work of controlling them there are something like 400 learners constantly busy in connection with the various garages. It is safe to say that Scotland Yard is called upon to test the skill of at least 150 applicants for drivers' licenses every week; and the first glimpse of the state of things we speak of is secured when it is remembered that as many as 90 per cent. of these men fail to pass the test on the first trial.

Last year the test of ability to drive a motor-cab was applied to 6,110 applicants for licenses, and of this number 3,777 satisfied the requirements of the police. By a concession to the horse-cab driver, he is allowed six tests before being finally turned away as a helpless case, but men who are new to the business must prove their efficiency as motor-cab drivers within the limit of four trials.

When a cab-driver of the fast-disappearing horse type has at last made up his mind to qualify for a seat behind the wheel of a motor-cab, he may secure a "permit" from Scotland Yard to commence the training process, which is provided that he be a man of good character and under fifty years of age. On presentation at one of the garages the applicant is medically examined prior to being placed under one of the instructors. After passing this preliminary test, the learner begins work in earnest by appearing each day at the garage between nine and ten o'clock in the morning in order to be taken out by the instructor with two or three other novices.

"You can come back to the garage for dinner," said a taxi-cab driver who has now surmounted all the difficulties of the learner, "which usually consists of bread and cheese; and you go out again at two o'clock until half-past six. This is repeated every day, until the instructor thinks you may try your luck at Scotland Yard; and the time occupied so far has been about a month. If you fail to pass the test—as you probably will—you are put back for a fortnight, and the instructor again takes you in hand. Failure on the second trial means an extra month's training; and those who do not pass the third trial may have three more attempts at intervals of two months."

"The Savage Lander."

A recent copy of The Melbourne (Australia) Times contains the following news despatch under a St. Petersburg date: A savage lander got into St. Petersburg yesterday, and the people of the city were terrified. After considerable difficulty the beast, which came from Tibet, was captured, taken to a remote place and there despatched. It is said that this is the first animal of the sort ever seen in Russia. How he reached the city after his fights with the natives of Tibet, which is a comparatively unknown country, is a mystery.

A copy of The Manila Bulletin shows the bald telegraphic despatch from which the foregoing was developed to have been as follows: "Savage lander arrived petersburg from tibet suffering hands natives."

Exchanges received from London contain the information that A. Savage Lander, the explorer, had arrived at St. Petersburg from Tibet after suffering greatly at the hands of the natives.

French Family Life.

It is a threadbare criticism by Englishmen that the French have no word for "home." They have "foyer," which answers nearly enough, but even if that be thought to stand for something different the obligations of family are strong and general. The respect and affection of English sons for their mothers do not compare with those of French sons, and in France family ties extend to relations whom English people should regard as having no claim upon our consideration. The frothy gaiety and the solidity of the French dualism—mobility for the visitor to see at a glance, solidity for him to discover if he takes the trouble.—London Spectator.

Crab-Eating Monkeys.

People are so much in the habit of thinking that monkeys are found only in forests that it comes as a surprise to learn of one that bears the name of the crab-eating macaque. It is found through Burma, Siam and Malay land, living among the trees that line the tidal creeks. The chief food of these animals consists of seeds, insects and crabs. In pursuit of crabs they must take to the water. Use has become second nature with them, as with other animals, and they are said to be able to swim unconvincingly well.

England's Last Crusade.

The last great organized crusade for the prevention of disease in England prior to the present war against rats was in 1896-7, when, in order to stamp out hydrophobia, more than 70,000 stray, diseased and ownerless dogs were seized and painlessly put to death.

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