



BEHIND THE WICKET

B. J. P. Buschlen. 264 Pages. Price, \$1.00. William Briggs, Toronto, Publisher. R. Uglow & Co., City.

Some time ago we reviewed Mr. Buschlen's book, "The Canadian Bank Clerk," which foreshadowed an organized effort to improve the position of bank clerks in this country. Since the publication of the book the author has been engaged in preaching his gospel of self help to the clerks in Toronto, but with indifferent success. His new book, "Behind the Wicket," consists of a number of short stories, all dealing with life from the viewpoint of the man behind the wicket. These stories are not very dissimilar from many of the incidents that went into the making of his first volume. They tell of the awful monotony of a bank clerk's work, of the temptations that assail him, of the girls he loves and leaves, of unsatisfied ambitions and of conditions that embitter life. Most of them are very readable, and doubtless all of them will be read with deep interest by those for whom they were written. They afford a striking picture—albeit somewhat overdrawn here and there—of one side of the daily life of a not inconsiderable part of our town and city workers.

GRANNIE FOR GRANTED

By Mrs. George Wemyss. 313 Pages. McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart, Toronto, Publishers. R. Uglow & Co., City.

In Mrs. Wemyss' latest book we are given a most delightful chronicle of a grandmother who, though aged years, is still young at heart, and who is looked up to by her children and grandchildren as guide, philosopher and friend. She understands them all, does this big-hearted and kindly old lady. She smiles upon their foibles, and they love her. She exercises a grandmamma indulgence over their shortcomings, and they adore her. She teaches a tender submission to the poignancies of life, and they reverence her. The children who troop in and out of the pages of this book are just ordinary, everyday children. They are not dressed up for the occasion, but are introduced to us just as they are, and with all their childish defects and all their loving qualities. It is refreshing to study this bit of family life, so beautiful in its every detail. It is good to know a woman so gentle, so indulgent and withal so worldly-wise as Grannie. One feels the world would be vastly better, were there more like her. She has, too, her amusing side, by which she brings brightness and cheer into the gloomiest days. Such a wholesome picture of English family life is very

THE CATTLE MARKET

The Prices Paid at the Various Centres. Union Stock Yards, Toronto, April 23.—Receipts were light. 37 cars, 255 cattle, 1789 hogs, 33 sheep and lambs, 36 calves. Cattle—The cattle trade was steady at Wednesday's quotations. Choice butchers' steers, \$8; good butchers' steers, \$7.50 to \$7.75; medium butchers' steers, \$7.25 to \$7.40; common butchers' steers, \$7; choice butchers' heifers, \$7.25 to \$7.50; choice cows, \$6.75 to \$7; good cows, \$6.25 to \$6.50; canners, \$3.75 to \$4.75. Feeders and stockers—Market firm at steady prices. Choice steers, \$7.35 to \$7.50; medium steers, \$7 to \$7.15; stockers, \$6.25 to \$6.75. Milkers and springers—Not many on sale at \$65 to \$100 each, bulk sold at \$70 to \$85 each. Calves—Only \$4 calves on sale, which kept prices very firm. Sheep, \$6.50 to \$7.50; culis and rams, \$4.50

pleasing. Mrs. Wemyss has written a helpful and delightful book, and all readers who have grannies or children or grandchildren—and that includes practically everybody—should not miss this book.

THE JAM GIRL

By Frances R. Sterrett. 309 Pages. Price, \$1.25. William Briggs, Toronto, Publisher. R. Uglow & Co., City.

An American heiress and an American heir, whose fathers are both engaged in the making of jam in an American town, meet on the frontiers of France. A cruel customs officer has confiscated some of the pretty heiress' chocolate, and she is in tears. Enter the brave American youth. He champions her cause, and falls head over heels in love. In America they meet again, but their respective fathers are business rivals and deadly enemies, and each would sooner disown their child than see any family alliance. But the jam girl and her sweetheart are resourceful and persistent, and love finally conquers. The elders shake hands and all goes merry as the marriage bell, which comes a little later. The story is crudely told, and at times very lifeless and dull.

THE WITNESS FOR THE DEFENCE

By A. E. W. Mason. 312 Pages. Price, \$1.25. Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, Publishers. R. Uglow & Co., City.

The author of "The Turnstile," "The Broken Road," "The Four Feathers," "The Trautant" and many other admirable works of fiction has gained for himself a reputation as a finished writer. His latest book sustains the high quality of his work. In "The Witness for the Defence," the interest is maintained to the very end, and the denouement is an unexpected and unusual one. The tale is well told, true to life and at times rugged and stern. Once taken up, the book will not be laid aside until the reader learns just what the evidence of the "Witness" was and what the fate of the fair defendant. The heroine, Stella Derrick, is in love with Thresh, but as he is poor and ambitious, he subjugates his own feelings and puts her out of his life. She goes to India, where ultimately she marries Capt. Ballantyne, a brute of a man, who fills her life with horror and fear. In the course of his diplomatic duties, Thresh discovers their whereabouts and cannot resist the temptation of a visit. Ballantyne is found shot, with his wife's empty rifle beside him. To save her Thresh becomes a witness for the defence, and distorts the evidence. Stella returns to England, and the reader naturally expects that the interrupted love of earlier days will be revived. But the

consequences of perjury and the irony of fate intervene. Stella falls in love, but with another man, while Thresh optimistically accepts his fate. "No doubt I shall see you again," he tells her. "I am not going out into the night." All of which was a sane and sensible thing to say and do.

Notes Here and There

"Of the things which man can do or make here below, by far the most momentous wonderful and worthy are the things we call books."—Carlyle.

For the scene of his new novel, which will appear this season, Sir Gilbert Parker leaves South Africa, where his last romance was staged, and has chosen western Canada. In "Thomas Dixon's" forthcoming story, "The Victim," he will deal with the life of Jefferson Davis in much the same way as he dealt with Lincoln in his previous novel, "The Southerner."

A. E. W. Mason, whose novel, "The Witness for the Defence," is reviewed in to-day's Whig, lives chiefly in London, in typically bachelor apartments. His fondness for travel is reflected in all his writings. He is a great walker, and often yields to the call of the Alpine heights.

Though possessing a most masculine pen, "G. B. Lancaster," author of "The Law Bringers," "The Altar Stairs," etc., is in reality a lady of very shy and reserved demeanor, Miss Littleton by name. Her stories of life in her homeland, New Zealand, is said to be vivid and interesting.

Although Norman Angell's "The Great Illusion," has not won nearly so much attention in America as in England, it has aroused enough interest to go recently into its ninth reprinting.

A mock "Edwin Drood" trial will be held in Philadelphia on April 29th. A justice of the Pennsylvania supreme court will be on the bench. Among the jurors are George Ade and "Mr. Dooley."

The Shortest Book Review

The time-honored precept, "The King can do no wrong," inspired one of the most caustic book reviews ever published. When Louis XVIII. issued his "Voyage à Coblenz," the Constitutionnel gave it a notice of exactly two lines: "This little volume was written by the King. It is above criticism; if not the work of his majesty it is below criticism." Contrary to the usual practice of French newspapers, this review was unsigned, and the secret of its authorship has never been made public.

sents the cost of dresses to the wife of M. Poincaré. Queen Elena of Italy spends only about £3,200 a year, while the dress budget of Queen Elizabeth of Belgium does not exceed £2,000. Her neighbor, Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, dresses still more modestly, and spends on her toilette only a few hundred pounds.

But the palm of simplicity belongs to Queen Mary of England, who has all her dresses, with the exception of those for state occasions, made of home under her own supervision, and with her own co-operation, so that her budget is the lowest of all.

Foiled the Butcher

The smart young housewife went to market one morning to buy some cheese and found five hanging outside the shop. "I am a boarding-house keeper," she remarked with a smile. "Will you pick out for me the three of those cheese that are toughest?" "Thank you," said the woman, briskly. Now I'll take the other two.

LEATHER FROM FISH SKINS

Many Food Fish Are Used for Fine Leather.

Many kinds of leather are got from sea creatures, some of which are very, as it shows many tiny prickles set curious and beautiful. The skin of sharks is a beautiful burnished gray of bluish color. The surface resembles finely grained leather, inasmuch, all one way. This property of shark skin renders it especially valuable to the manufacturer of "shagreen." Since the skin is at once tough and easy to work it can be used for any purposes which decorative effects are desired.

The sturgeon furnishes a valuable and attractive leather. It has been found that when the bony plates are removed, the patterns remain on the skin, just as the patterns of alligator scales remain on alligator leather, a circumstance that adds greatly to the value of the product. From the sturgeons that abound in our Pacific coast and in the great lakes we get a tough leather that is used for the making of shoes to join leather booting for machinery. It is said that the lacing frequently outwears the booting itself.

There is found in Turkish waters a strictly unattractive fish called the angel fish, classed among the littoral sharks. This fish yields an extremely high quality of green leather, much esteemed in the Ottoman dominions.

In Russia certain peasant costumes are trimmed with the skin of a food fish, the turbot, and in Egypt men wear sandals made from the skins of fish caught in the Red Sea. In our own country, too, the cod has been used in a similar manner, for in bygone days a good many shoes and gloves have been made in Gloucester from the skin of the humble cod.

Eelakin is used for many purposes among them the manufacture of leather binding for books and for braiding into whips.

SQUIRE THRASHES ASSAILANT

Locks Doors and Then Panches Man Responsible.

Sunbury, Pa., April 25.—Michael Tierney, a Northumberland squire, who is athletic, gave a sound thrashing to Clarence Feathers, because he gave his wife a black eye.

Mrs. Feather came into his office crying and with an eye bandaged, and wanted her "hub" sent to jail. She explained that because she did not have supper ready exactly when he came home he hit her and knocked her down. She weighs ninety-five and he one hundred and sixty pounds.

Squire Tierney sent for Feathers, and, when he came in, Tierney locked the door, took off his coat and punched Feathers until he begged for mercy.

TO RESTRICT IMMIGRATION

Burnham Resolution Calls for That Amongst Other Things

Ottawa, April 25.—J. H. Burnham, of West Peterboro, gave notice that he will move the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this house, the government should be empowered to restrict immigration, acquire land, expend money, and generally to take such measures for the unemployed to the end that recurring periods of unemployment and undeserved destitution may cease, and that the true function of government be further realized."

No Marconi Dividend

New York, April 24.—Stockholders of the Marconi company at their annual meeting were told that the dividend was recently passed owing to the opening within the next six weeks of the Transatlantic wireless service and of other long distance services thereafter. The directors considered it would be better to conserve funds as a reserve against possible contingencies, but that the board would feel free to make a dividend declaration at any time.

LABOREE LEAPS INTO OVEN

Scared by Blaze He Plunges Into Molten Metal.

Bethlehem, Pa., April 25.—Michael Mankos, a Bethlehem Steel company foundryman, was practically consumed by jumping into a core oven into which molten metal was being poured.

The man was handling a ladle, and, becoming frightened and bewildered when a compound used in making a mold ignited, leaped right into the core oven.

Newspaper Bill Dropped

Ottawa, April 25.—On the suggestion of the two party leaders in the senate, Senator Ochoquette dropped for this session his bill to make it a criminal offence to publish pictures of persons accused of crime. He said part of his purpose had been served by calling public attention to this question. He promised to present a similar bill next session.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

WHAT WILL BE EARNINGS OF THE STEEL TRUST

The Purchase of Steel Cars for the Past Ten Years — The Present Outlook—Late Commercial Notes.

New York, April 24.—Estimates of the amount of net earnings which the Steel Trust will report for the quarter ending March 31 has lately ranged between \$18,000,000 and \$20,000,000 in Wall street, but this week there was a revision downward, and estimates were made that the quarterly report of the trust, to be issued two weeks hence, will show between \$17,000,000 and \$18,000,000 as the amount of the quarter's net earnings. To pay fixed charges, preferred dividends, and common dividends without having to report a deficit, the company must earn quarterly, in excess of \$24,000,000. If the March quarter's earnings were less than \$17,000,000 they were the smallest for the trust in the past ten years.

The Ten-Year Average

New York, April 24.—In the past decade, says the Sun, railroads have purchased new freight cars at the rate of 150,000 a year. The best year was in 1907, when 234,000 cars were contracted for. The poorest year of the ten was in 1904, with but 61,000 cars. The quota of 1908 was 75,000, while 1911 had 72,000 new cars. Orders reported to date in the current year aggregate a total of 35,000 cars, which is at the rate of approximately 125,000 cars a year, equal to five-sixths of the average rate of building in the past ten years. The showing is not nearly so unfavorable as might be expected under existing conditions.

Higher Mail Rates and C. P. R.

Montreal, April 24.—Thornton Davidson and company, discussing C. P. R. stock and the western rate case, say: "A matter which when fully appreciated is likely to affect the attitude towards the stock is the claim that the roads are to obtain a much better contract for the carriage of the mails than previously. The old contract has been in operation for probably twenty years, and the roads claim it never was profitable. It would appear that they took advantage of the parcels post matter to discuss the whole situation and that the new arrangement results to their advantage, the loss in revenue arising out of the parcels post being more than made up in the new mail contract. On the whole, therefore, the railways have not been too badly treated. Instead of the C. P. R. declining as a result of recent changes, it is believed by many that once the situation is fully understood the effect should be to strengthen the stock considerably."

RADIUM CAUSES CANCER

Tissue Advanced by Dr. Barlow in England.

London, April 25.—Dr. W. S. Lazarus, Barlow, director of the Cancer Research Laboratory at the Middlesex hospital lecturing at the Leeds university yesterday advanced the theory as a result of a long series of experiments that radium might be regarded as the cause of cancer. Experiments, said Dr. Barlow, showed the radium was present at times in normal human tissue but it was present in much larger quantities in carcinoma tissues. On the evidence adduced, Dr. Barlow suggested that radium and radium salts were cases of cancer producing that they were present in quantities capable of stimulating cells which were ultimately to form cancer.

New Steel Company

Ottawa, April 24.—Among the companies whose incorporation has been gazetted is the Universal Tool Steel company of Toronto, capital \$10,000,000. The company will carry on business as iron masters, steel makers, colliery proprietors, coke manufacturers, miners, smelters, engineers, tin plate makers, etc.

Allis Chalmers Affairs

New York, April 24.—Otto H. Falk, president of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing company, declares in the annual report that dividends on the preferred stock were considered by the directors, but not declared owing to decreased conditions. The report covers the eight and one-half months from April 15th to December 31st last, and shows net manufacturing profit of \$505,595. Unfilled orders amount to \$3,358,684.

Financial Notes.

Nova Scotia coal companies ex-

DEBENTURES FROM VATICAN

Has Not Interfered Between U. S. and Mexico.

Rome, April 25.—The vatican denies that it has interfered in the conflict between Mexico and the United States, or in the internal dissensions of the former country. In both countries there is complete separation between church and state, but as both grant to bishops and clergy complete liberty and the broadest protection, the pope, whenever it is possible, has advised moderation and has urged American and Mexican bishops when admitted to his presence to do all in their power to mitigate animosity and work to avoid conflict.

In fact, the vatican has been optimistic, and until the last moment the pope hoped that war might be avoided, trusting particularly to the wisdom of President Wilson and to his repeated statements in favor of peace. Even on Tuesday night when the American warships were already firing upon Vera Cruz, the pope, speaking to a Cardinal, said that his impression was that the reports from the United States and Mexico had been much exaggerated, as he could not believe that two noble nations were flying at each other's throats over a mere question of pacifism.

There are good reasons to believe that the drill hall for Napanee will be erected this coming summer. J. Paul, M.P., informed Mayor Alexander that the plans and specifications were being printed.

Napanee lodge, No. 86, I.O.O.F., presented veterans' jewels to Messrs. Richard Spencer, Trenton; E. I. Boyle, J. R. Daise and G. F. Rutan, K.C., Robert Meek, Kingston, gave a splendid address.

AT THE GRAND

To-night the New "Mutt and Jeff" is Veritable Innovation

With a sensational melodramatic story under three title of "Mutt and Jeff in Panama," Gus Hill's perennial success of that name, re-appears to-night at the Grand. "Spick and span," everything new but the buttons, to clean up the coin again as it has done for the past two years. The irrepressible "Gus" has evidently kept tabs on every line, thrill laugh song and situation during his entire "nearly a century" of theatrical experience. It seems that this season's "Mutt and Jeff" contains nothing but the real essence of true amusement without a hitch or a line that does not go to every breath, a song hit or an entrancing dance number, whenever your sides begin to ache from excessive laughter, and a bunch of exceedingly pretty girls to give the whole thing zest.

Investments To Suit

THERE are many investments to choose from, but you should be careful to purchase only those most suited to your position.

Upon request we shall be pleased to suggest suitable investments for you.

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INCREASE Your Income During the past few weeks the private investors and financial institutions in Canada have invested millions of dollars in Municipal Debentures and other high grade securities. Many Kingston investors have taken advantage of the attractive interest yields as evidenced by the large orders for Bonds and Debentures, filled through our Kingston office during the past few weeks. Surplus funds are piling up all over the world, owing to the general slackening of trade. These funds are going into Bonds and the increased demand will likely cause an advance in prices. Municipal, Public Utility and Industrial Bonds are still cheap. We advise that you BUY NOW. Public Utility Bonds yield about 5 1/4% Municipal Bonds yield about 5 1/4% Industrial Bonds, yield about 6% Safe and saleable. Consult us before investing. F. B. McCURDY & CO. 86-88 BRICK PHONE 1285 Members Montreal Stock Exchange. H. W. NELLE, Manager.

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By "Bud" Fisher

