

SUCH AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION AS

# Milady's Handbag

demands particular attention at this season, and just here we would mention their charming appropriateness where a gift to some fair June bride is concerned. THE BAG OF MOIRE SILK, with handsomely carved silver frame, and the Lucille Vanity Case in brown, grey or navy are special favorites.

## R. Uglow & Co.

# Famous Kingstonians Abroad

NO. 27.

### FAMOUS KINGSTONIANS

**Mrs. Adam Shortt, One of Canada's Leading Women.**

The previous twenty-five Famous Kingstonians whose careers were sketched in these articles were all men. On the suggestion of several Kingston ladies it has been decided to secure and publish, whenever possible, similar sketches of the careers of former Kingston women who have become well-known in public life and have devoted their lives to some worthy object with great success. With such an idea in view, we were fortunate enough to secure the material for a sketch of the career of Elizabeth Shortt, Kingston people, and particularly those connected in any way with Queen's University remember Mrs. Shortt as a clever woman who, in addition, possessed the ability to utilize her cleverness for the good of the community and of the nation. She is also well-known to Kingston lovers of music, as she was president of the Kingston Musical Club for seven years. The girls of Queen's who spent several of their vacations picking fruit

Medical College. It was characteristic of Mrs. Shortt that she should take a warm interest in all the student movements and thus make herself beloved by her pupils. Professor Shortt became head of the Department of Political Economy some time after. Their home was always thrown open to the students of the University and many young and ambitious scholars received fresh encouragement from the social intercourse always available at the Shortt home. It would necessitate the filling of a large book to do justice to an account of Mrs. Shortt's many activities. She was the first president of the Queen's University Alumnae Association, and president of the Kingston Y.W.C.A. for three years. The National Council of Women would feel like a ship without a rudder if Mrs. Shortt were to suddenly abandon it. She was first convener of the Immigration Committee of that nation-wide organization. Later she was made convener of the Public Health Committee as she had devoted so much time and energy to the fight against tuberculosis. A few years ago she wrote an enlightening and much appreciated pamphlet on the social aspects of that disease.

Professor Shortt was appointed Civil Service Commissioner in 1911 and the family moved to Ottawa, where Mrs. Shortt has been possibly the leading figure in women's civic and social work. For the past eight years she has been president of the Ottawa Council of Women and it is probably in this, more than in any other connections, that her most important work has been accomplished. For three years she was president of the Mother's Union of Ottawa, and for a time president of the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club. During the exceedingly hard times which directly preceded the war, Mrs. Shortt labored unceasingly to make conditions in the city of Ottawa healthier and happier. Due to her insistent efforts the market conditions in Ottawa have improved remarkably during the past few years.

From 1914 until the end of the war, Mrs. Shortt's working days were twenty-four hours long. When the war broke out she laid aside all interests but those which contributed to the speedy and victorious termination of the war. She was one of the principal speakers at the first meetings called in Ottawa by Her Royal Highness, the late Duchess of Connaught. After that she became the leader in all sorts of war relief, Red Cross and all work of that nature. As might be supposed, Mrs. Shortt is a strong advocate of woman suffrage. Always keenly interested in public and political affairs herself, she would have her sister women prove their ability to use the full franchise by a utilization of what is now allowed them to the fullest extent. In her opinion every woman 'ould have almost as great an interest in municipal and civic affairs as she has in the management of her own home.

It might be well to mention more about Mrs. Shortt's own home at this point. She is the mother of three children, two daughters and one son. George Shortt, paymaster in one of the overseas units, is well-known in all circles in this city. He attended Queen's University for some time. His wife is now living in England, having married in the Old Country. Mrs. Shortt's elder daughter is also married and living in England. Her younger daughter, Miss Lorraine is at present taking a course at Queen's. Mrs. Adam Shortt is here, there and everywhere all in the space of a very short time. Her abilities as a speaker and as an organizer are in demand constantly. One day she may be in Montreal, the next in Toronto. One week from that time will find her in Vancouver or perhaps allow two weeks and she will be in England. No other woman in Canada possesses her understanding or grasp of public and national affairs. No other woman in Canada has that clarity of vision in dealing with public affairs which belongs to Mrs. Shortt. It is therefore only her due that she be rendered the laurels as the woman who leads Canada in national thought.



MRS. ADAM SHORTT

can probably tell us in what sort of place Mrs. Shortt, or rather Miss Elizabeth Smith, first saw the light of day, for she was born in the village of Winona, Ontario, some time in the year 1869. Fate decreed that she was to enter this world under the non-committal name of Smith. Fate may also have decreed the rest of her career, but it might be judged that Elizabeth Smith has helped out Fate to some extent in that respect. After a preliminary education at a private school, Miss Smith attended Hamilton Collegiate Institute. After her graduation from high school she came to Kingston and took up the study of medicine in the Royal Medical College, which was affiliated with Queen's University. She graduated with the degree of M.D. in the year 1894. By her very choice of a profession she showed her ability for leadership and her courage. In those days it took no little of that quality which we might call "nerve," for a woman to enter the practice of the medical profession. She was not only determined to succeed in her profession herself, but she was out to do her best to make the way easier for women students to come after her. Because of this she was one of the strongest supporters of the call for a separate course for women at the Royal College. Due partly to her efforts, this resulted in the creation of the Women's Medical College at Kingston, in affiliation with Queen's. Mrs. Shortt has since written the history of this college which was published under the name of "Historical Sketch of Medical Education of Women in Kingston."

For some time after her graduation Dr. Smith practised in Hamilton. In 1898 she married Professor Adam Shortt, then a member of the Faculty of Queen's University. She came to Kingston to live and for six years lectured on medical jurisprudence and sanitary science in the Women's

### Letters to the Editor

Tacks, Taxis, and Taxes. Kingston, May 19: (To the Editor):—The other day I proceeded, with my customary annual impulse, to put my house in order. Of course I speak figuratively, because I cannot afford to own a house, and added to that it is not fashionable nowadays. The popular thing is to be looking for a house. To put my figurative house in order, I paid the office-boy ten cents I have owned him for as many months, went over to the tailor's with the last instalment of cash on a suit I have been wearing for six months, and paid my income tax. That last did not break me but it bothered me a lot. I talked for a few minutes to my inner self regarding these superfluous and extraordinary taxes which flourish at the present time.

Feeling somewhat relieved after this silent communication with myself, I entered a grape juice emporium and asked for a "Fizz. It cools you in the winter, warms you in the summer." The price of this melodious beverage is one jittay, for which reason I ordered it. With the steaming vessel full of joy placed safely before me on the counter, I reached for the aforesaid jittay, but was informed by the bored aristocrat behind the fountain that it did not make any difference to him, but one usually paid ten cents for the article before me. After suitably acknowledging his rank and paying the required amount, I ventured to inquire of this suave individual the reason for the excess profit. I was informed that a tax had been placed on all luxuries by the government. This was only a small scale example of what happened to me everywhere I ventured to go. A package of chewing gum changed its price from 6 to 8 cents while I was trying to decide whether I wanted it or not.

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