

Examine Your Printing Supply

Letter Heads

Note Heads

Bill Heads

Statements

Envelopes

Tags

Business Cards

Invoices

Ladies' & Gents' Calling Cards

Wedding Invitations

and Announcements

Tickets of all Kinds

Posters, Handbills Dodgers

Programmes

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Road Taxes, School Taxes

Poor and County Rates

Deeds, Mortgages

Bonds and Bills of Sale

Receipts and Notes in

Books of 50 each

THE DISPATCH OFFICE

PARKER A CANADIAN

Novelist and Politician Enjoyed
Obscured Early Career

Osbert Parker, who attained prominence in British politics as well as widespread fame as a writer of fiction, was born in 1862 in Camden East, Ont. The gifted knight of the pen is the son of Joseph Parker, a non-commissioned officer of the British army who settled in Canada. After completing his education at the Ottawa Normal School and Trinity College, Toronto, he emigrated to Australia for the benefit of his health. It was many years ago that he landed in Sydney and found his first profitable employment for his pen as a member of the editorial staff of the Sydney Morning Herald. While "lying under" he wrote a play or two for the Australian stage, and an acting version of "Faust," but his efforts toward the elevation of the drama were not brilliantly successful. He travelled extensively among the South Sea Islands, and published a volume of travels.

It was upon his return to his native Canada that the young author discovered the human material which inspired his first important work of fiction, "The Motif and half-bloods of the Northwest," among whom he spent some time, were incorporated in his first novel, "Piero and His People," which was published in Toronto in 1891. Several other works of fiction dealing with French-Canadian life followed and achieved for the novelist an international reputation. In 1895 he married Miss Amy Vanhise, a New York heiress, and subsequently settled in London, becoming a Unionist member of Parliament in 1909, and a knight in 1909.

GARDEN ADVICE FOR THE PACIFIC COAST

Others Will Do Well Also to Heed
These Hints—Fall and Spring
Planting

Advice for gardening and flower-raising in the Pacific country is given by A. E. Skinner of Huntington, B.C., as follows: How often we hear the expression used that there is no money in a flower garden, but who has not been at some time or other impressed with their observations, and noticed how dreary and desolate is the mansion, with grounds uncared for, and uncultivated, and then in contrast noted the beauty and enchantment of even a humble cottage, covered with beautiful vines, and surrounded with lovely flowers and well kept grounds. It is hard to give any specific plan in laying out one's grounds to the best advantage as they vary so much in size and contour. Where one has a fairly good stand of grass, beds can be cut in any shape the fancy may dictate, and borders can be dug around the house, or along the path leading to the house, enriching it with well rotted stable manure, if deficient in fertility, pulverizing the ground thoroughly.

Hiding the Unsightly
As soon as all danger of frost is over, sow such annuals as stocks, asters, phlox, drummondii, marigolds, godetia, nigella, cosmos, candy-tuft, etc., all of which will give a good display of flowers throughout the summer and until frost. A good many of these seeds may be sown in pots or boxes, and planted out as the weather becomes warm, and all danger of frost is over. Unsightly fences and outbuildings may be covered, and made a thing of beauty during the summer months by sowing such climbers as scarlet runner beans (which are not only ornamental but edible), nasturtium, major, or climbing; sweet peas, tropeaeolum canariensis, and convolvulus major, all of which are easily grown from seed sown in spring. Plants of rudbeckia golden glow, may be utilized to advantage to hide some unsightly corner, it being very easily grown, and attains a height of 10 to 8 feet and blossoms very freely from seed, plants can be readily obtained from florists who invariably carry a stock of all suitable bedding plants.

Start Roses Early

If you care to go to the expense of roses, or shrubs, these can be obtained at reasonable prices at the various nurseries, and I would advise planting same in the early spring as soon as the ground can be worked, the earlier the better, while they are still in a dormant condition. If you desire to grow flowers from roots or bulbs, such as dahlias, gladioli, lilies, or Montbretias, these can be planted to advantage in the spring. Other bulbs such as hyacinths, tulips, narcissus, should be planted in the fall, any time before the frost sets in. In case of a severe winter, a good protection is afforded these by a covering of coarse stable manure, which can be removed in the spring.

DECLINE IN WHALE FISHING INDUSTRY

Are Whales Becoming Scarce?—Regulation in Killing May Preserve Declining Industry

Whale fishing, like every other industry, has felt the far-reaching economic effects of the war. Glycerine, which is useful in the manufacture of explosives, is obtainable from the oil of the "humpback," "finback" and "sulphur bottom" whales. As Pacific whale oil averages 6 to 10 per cent of glycerine content, with a maximum 14 per cent, a rise of 10c to 20c per gallon after the outbreak of war gave a very pronounced impetus to whale fishing in Pacific waters.

War Affected Prices
The pursuit of whales for oil and bone has declined very seriously from the high-water mark reached in the middle of last century. While the "right" whale has become so scarce that the price of baleen or "whalebone" has risen from \$1,250 per ton in 1825 to about \$12,500 to-day, the price of oil, despite the upward trend caused by the war, has seriously declined from the level of former years.

There is a tendency to scout the idea that whales are becoming scarce but the fact that the whalers are going further and further afield demonstrates that the old grounds are becoming depleted. Although whaling is still a flourishing industry in certain quarters of the globe, these enormous profits spell the doom of the whales unless an international agreement can be arrived at to regulate the killing.

Economic Folly
Of course, an increasing scarcity of whales may make the business unprofitable and, as in New England, the majority of the hunters may be driven from the field. Then the whales may get sufficient respite to enable them to re-establish themselves. But, leaving the conservation of natural resources to the blind play of economic forces is both dangerous and unsatisfactory. Not only may it lead to the utter destruction of an irreplaceable resource—as an animal species—but it builds up a huge industry in the boom days—when the principal as well as the interest is being greedily consumed—only to be followed by a wretched decline when large numbers of them lose their livelihood and expensive plants rot through lack of use.

CABINET COUNCILS

How British Affairs of State Are
Strictly Guarded

In England Cabinet Councils are conducted in the strict privacy, although very occasionally important officials and other outsiders have attended a meeting for the purpose of giving information or advice on specific matters; while the remarkable step was taken of inviting Sir Robert Borden, as Prime Minister of Canada, to attend one of the meetings while he was in England. Otherwise the most stringent measures are adopted to secure the inviolability of Cabinet proceedings. Trusted janitors keep watch outside to guard against the possibility of eavesdropping, while the very blotting pads are destroyed after each meeting lest they should betray anything that has taken place.

Touching this matter of Cabinet secrets, by the way, Mrs. Lloyd-George remarked in a public speech that she, at least, could not disclose any, since her husband never told them to her but it is well known that other Cabinet Ministers have not always been equally discreet. In this connection it may be recalled that the famous Lady Holland once asked, at one of the Whig consultations at Holland House, why her husband should not be Foreign Secretary. "Why, ma'am," said Lord John Russell, bluntly, "they say you open all Holland's letters." Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, was of opinion that a Minister need have no secrets from his wife, and how nobly Mrs. Gladstone justified his confidence is well known.

Another aid to the preservation of Cabinet secrets is the system of communication between the members which is adopted. This is effected by the circulation of special despatch boxes, and one of the most important possessions of each Minister is the "key" which unlocks all these boxes. In all memoirs of Ministers will be found constant reference to "sending round a box," grows at the arrival of "pies of boxes" from other departments, and so on. When a Minister wishes to circulate some memorandum among his colleagues for information or comment he does it in this way. Altogether the Cabinet is a very wonderful institution.

Rules for a Long Life

A clergyman who is hale and hearty at 78 years of age, gives these rules which have governed his life: The use of plain food, with plenty of fresh fruit and pure water. Personal cleanliness by frequent baths from head to foot. Flannels next the skin the year round, graduating weight according to the season. Open air exercise every day, rain or shine. Ventilation of sleeping room, summer and winter. Eight hours' sleep each day.

Fruits of Saving

In 1856 a young Breton named Cognec went to Paris as assistant in a little dry goods store. By 1872 he had saved up \$60,000 and opened a store which he called the Samaritanie. That Breton store assistant became worth \$60,000,000.

MARTINS BUILD QUEER SAFE NESTS

World's Most Industrious Bird—Small
Rays Meet Clever Opposition in
These "Swallows"

A writer from Western Canada says: The sand martin or bank swallow, as it is sometimes called, is possibly the most industrious of its feathered brethren, as it persistently rebuilds its nest in the face of the stormiest opposition. It is not a large bird, being about five inches long and of a dull greyish brown color, with white on throat and breast; but is extremely graceful as it appears on a calm evening skimming in beautiful curves almost to the ground, then suddenly rising above one's head into the air.

Strange Places

They usually build their nests beneath the beams in vacant huts, in caves of old stables or in steep cut banks of the rivers, and are particularly partial to a district where limestone quarries. In these banks they have been known to excavate two or three feet working with their bills and feet, making a hole just about big enough for a man's hand at the entrance and widening gradually at the inner part. These holes are usually about four feet from the crest of the bank and only a few inches apart. They are lined with dry rootlets of grass or feathers. On these dowry cushions are laid the five little white eggs with spots of reddish brown, where the mother bird may hatch her young.

Crows Are Enemies

The moisture necessary for making the walls firm is readily carried in their beaks from the shore of the river, and while these banks are practically safe from intrusion by man, the crows learn to know the hatching season and are on the alert to devour the young swallows as they emerge from the nests. The small boy has been known to lie flat on mother earth, and reaching over the edge, obtain the eggs, but it is a risky undertaking as the steep banks are of shifting sand. From the river bank below, the hill with its myriads of holes, presents a honeycomb effect, and almost seems to move as the little heads peep up and out.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Canada's Backward Position Shows
in a Government Report

In 1910 the Dominion Government appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the needs and equipment of the Dominion respecting industrial training and technical education, and into the systems and methods of technical instruction obtaining in other countries. The following is from the report of the Commissioners, showing the need of industrial and technical education in Canada: "Until recently Canada was an interested and debating spectator of the movements for industrial efficiency. The training of young workers to deftness in manipulation and technique, and to an understanding of the principles and sciences which lie at the base of all trades and industries, was not provided for in the courses. When manufactured goods were wanted in increasing quantities and variety, and towns and cities were growing by leaps and bounds, it was discovered that there had been practically no organization of means for preparing the hundreds of thousands of young people to become the best qualified artisans, farmers and housekeepers in the world. The country's growing wealth was ample for the cost; but the educational work was becoming bookish in the extreme, and, worse than that, was developing into school systems that had few points of contact with or relation to industrial, agricultural or housekeeping life."

WEDDING RING FINGER

Traditional Reason For Choice of
Fourth on Left Hand

There is a very ancient belief that a blood vessel extends from the base of the fourth finger of the left hand to the heart, whence, as is alleged, the choice of that finger for the wedding ring. In literature allusion to it is made as the "vena amoris," or love's vein. Unlike most notions of the kind, this idea is entirely correct, for a vein does arise directly at the root of the ring finger and, running over the back of the hand, finds its way through the "royal" vein, the "axillary," the "subclavian" and the "innominate" to the heart. This vessel is very conspicuous, standing out clearly when the hand hangs limply downward.

The reason for putting the ring on the fourth finger, however, is probably quite different. Its use for the purpose goes back to prehistoric times, and its selection is likely to have been due to the fact that it is the least free in its movements of all fingers. Accordingly, a ring encircling it will interfere less with the use of the hand than if placed on any other digit. It happens that the extensor tendon of the fourth finger is attached to those of the third and fifth fingers by cross-bands which restrict the movements of the ring finger considerably. Anybody may test this for himself by holding the third and fifth fingers forcibly bent and trying at the same time to extend the ring finger.