

CHARMS AND THRILLS OF R. L. S. DESCRIBED BY LORD BIRKENHEAD

The Earl of Birkenhead forsook politics recently and to the members of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution delivered an inaugural address on Robert Louis Stevenson. His political friends and adversaries recognize his platform gifts, and on this neutral ground of literature all will appreciate Lord Birkenhead's fine tribute to a great novelist.

"Stevenson inherited a frail physique. Never in his life was there a moment in which he supposed he was the master of that kind of robust physical health which entitled him to think that in the matter of health he could squander and dissipate and play with," said Lord Birkenhead in his address, as reported at the time in The Scotsman.

"And something surely must be conceded to one who, being, as he thought, he was, a little indolent by temperament, nevertheless submitted himself to the severest discipline in the world, in order to become a master of the only craft in the world he wished to become a master of. That, indeed, in the measurement of artistry, was an irrelevant circumstance because, in the end, one asked—what did the man do? It was nevertheless worth considering when one was measuring the composite achievement of a man's life, and the qualities of character he brought to bear in order to perfect the maximum of artistry."

In the first place he put very high the certain claim that Stevenson possessed a consummate mastery of style, and here an observation fell to be made entirely to his credit. He was the master of style, not because, as Pope claimed, perhaps falsely, that "he lapsed in numbers, for the numbers came," but because he realized that no great thing came to man by birth, but by training. It did not come to Shelley, and it did not come to Keats.

Very Spirit of Romance

There was in Stevenson the very spirit of romance. He had a mine as rich as the cave of Aladdin with the jewels of romantic adventure. He was among the greatest of romancers in one sense. He undoubtedly had the exquisite distinction of style, with a masculine power of delineating masculine types.

In order to estimate that claim he must, he thought, satisfy them that Stevenson's whole output and grasp of life were as various and complete as some of those of whom he had spoken. One had to ask how far he had established himself as a master over human life, taking human life as a whole. Well, he put that claim very high.

From the first day of his life to the day of his death he carried with him the mind of a child, though it was attunable to adult conception. As a

master of whimsicality he put him first among the novelists of the past 50 years. And then, in a country which had read and reread "Robinson Crusoe", and every great history of his adventure which our literature has produced, it was no small tribute to say of an author that he had produced the greatest of romances which had appeared in our day and generation.

It was extraordinary the variety which Stevenson had shown in so many books.

Undoubtedly "Weir of Hermiston" was a very great fragment, and the interesting part of it was that if Stevenson had ended that book as he intended he would, in his judgment have produced a complete fiasco, because his intention was to end it by the trial of the young man by his own father, an inconceivable system of jurisprudence which would not have been tolerated or permitted.

Studies of Horror

In studies of horror, except for Edgar Allan Poe, Stevenson was the greatest master of our day. To speak of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" was almost impossible if one was to avoid platitudes.

But it was astounding that no man ever thought before analyzing the goodness and the badness that lay in the breast of every man and every woman, always contending for mastery, and of exhibiting it in something like this allegorical conception; but no one could have carried it out with a higher degree of technical skill than Stevenson had employed. Edgar Allan Poe had a morbid element in his character which halways influenced his contribution to literature.

With Stevenson it was a side issue, and with it there was his creation of beautiful women and brave men. He said their words and exhibited their deeds in stately and noble language. He knew of no scale and no standard that could exclude him from among the greatest of our literature.

OLD FASHIONED WALTZ LIKED IN LONDON

London, Jan. 6—The old-fashioned waltz is slowly coming into vogue again.

One of the biggest talking machine distributing agencies says three waltz records were among the 10 most popular dance tune records sold during the last quarter.

It is asserted in dancing circles that the tango has failed to appeal to the "man in the street" and that he popularity of waltz music points to a definite revival of the old fashioned waltz.

LOW TARIFF BATTLE CAUSING CONCERN TO REPUBLICANS

Washington, Jan. 4—Republican Senators of the regular contingent made no attempt to conceal their concern over an assault on the protective tariff which marked the re-assembling of Congress today, after the Christmas holiday recess. Obviously, they had no fear that tariff revision would be accomplished at the current legislative session, but they found cause for worry, judged by the admissions of some of President Coolidge's most loyal supporters, in the prospect, as they see it, that a demand for lower rates will have the psychological effect of changing general prosperity into economic depression, with a possible detrimental reaction on their effort to retain party control of both Houses of Congress, though the elections to be held this year.

Trouble is Coming

Outwardly today's developments were merely a Democratic attack and a Republican counter-attack with reference to the tariff. But Republican regulars knew that underneath the surface trouble was brewing, mainly in accord with organized agitation ostensibly in the interests of the farmer.

Democrats to Face Fight

These moves, however, were merely straws showing the way the wind of opposition is blowing. The Democratic minorities in both Senate and House are preparing to assault current protective rates with all the heavy artillery of statistics, illustration and oratorical ability they are capable of assembling. From all appearances, the Democrats in Congress, subdued for months, have at last found the issue for which they have been seeking ever since Calvin Coolidge was confirmed in the Presidential office, with a plurality of nearly 7,000,000 votes to sustain the courage of his political convictions.

SOME DELAY IN ISSUING MOTOR PLATES

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 4—The 1925 motor vehicle license plates will not be issued until January 15, according to a statement made this afternoon by Hon. J. F. Cahan, of the Nova Scotia Highway Board.

The delay of 15 days, he remarked, was occasioned by a change in the license charges from a horse-power to a pound rate, which was only finally decided upon late last month. The owners of motor vehicles will this year, Mr. Cahan stated be allowed to use their 1925 plates until the 1st of February.

The plates will have white figures on a green field and the numbers will be preceded by L or H, denoting respectively light and heavy cars. The plates numbered from 1,000 to 15,000 will be for light cars.

The three cent per gallon tax on gasoline became effective on January 1, but no report on its operation will be available until the end of the present month, declared Mr. Cahan.

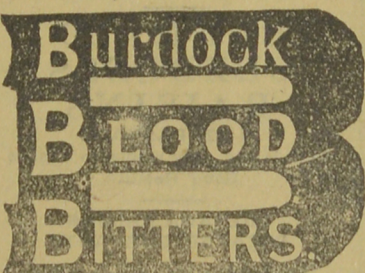
OBVIOUSLY.

Said I to Smith
When I saw his home:
"It looks like the
House that Jack built."

Said Smith to me,
"Indeed that's true:
It's the house that
Plenty of Jack built."

Dyspepsia Caused Her Agony After Every Meal

Mrs. M. Caldwell, 2335 Hemlock St., Vancouver, B.C., writes: "After suffering for years with agony, from dyspepsia and indigestion, after every meal, I started taking



and got such relief I kept right on until I had used three bottles and was completely relieved of my trouble. Now, I can eat anything I wish without having any bad after effects."

Put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Farm Relief Proposals

Farm relief proposals came before Congress from a number of sources when it reconvened today today, one of them, a bill by Representative Dickinson, Republican, Iowa, a recognized leader in the House farm bloc.

The Dickinson proposal, drafted after conferences with various farming organizations, including those represented at the recent farm conference in Des Moines, was designed to provide for the disposal through co-operative associations of the exportable surpluses of wheat, corn, rice, cotton, tobacco, cattle and swine.

Machinery to be set up to handle the surpluses would comprise a Federal Farm Advisory Council and a Federal Farm Board of seven members, including the Secretary of Agriculture, within that department, and six others to be selected from eighteen names submitted by the Advisory Council.

Equalization Fee is Plan

The first step in marketing a surplus would be a declaration by the Farm Board that an emergency existed in one or more basic commodities. Cooperative agencies would then be instructed to buy the commodity so designated at the domestic price and sell it at the world price. Later the agencies would be reimbursed for the losses thus sustained from funds obtained by the collection of an equalization fee levied on producers.

Another was a bill introduced by Senator McKinley, Republican, Illinois, to extend direct Government aid from Government bankers' agencies to farmers' cooperative associations.

Representative Tillman, Democrat, Arkansas, also introduced a measure calling for expenditure of \$225,000 in the next two fiscal years for the creation and operation of cooperative marketing agencies in the Agriculture Department.

MOVE TO PROMOTE TOURIST TRAVEL SHOULD BE SUPPORTED

(Financial Post)

The Ontario tourist Association has completed its first year. A lot of good work has been done, and its continuation is promised under the direction of President Russell Kelly, of Hamilton, and his aggressive associates. There is perhaps no industry at has greater possibilities for Canada than the tourist industry. Any constructive program looking to bring more people into the country to spend their money in sight-seeing should have generous support, particularly from the business interests. Tourist money is just so much found money in a business way, and the whole community benefits.

But it should be recognized that the tourist industry cannot be built up overnight any more than any other industry. And if it is to continue to develop, it is highly important that here should be a sound foundation. Getting tourists to come to Canada is one thing; getting them to return and bring their friends is much more important. In this connection Hon. George Henry, on behalf of the government, in offering every encouragement to the association's program made a very good point when he suggested that ambitious plans to bring in visitors should be developed cautiously until such time as the roads and other facilities for their accommodation and entertainment are brought to a high standard.

There is another highly important phase of the tourist business if it is to have a permanent footing. It is that there should be developed throughout the country a proper appreciation on the part of business and public that the tourists are our guests—paying guests—and that they should be treated with all the consideration to which such guests are entitled. A cordial welcome should be extended to the tourists on all occasions; they should be treated in our stores and shops as though they were ordinary customers to be encouraged to come again and tell their

friends. The whole system of hotels, restaurants and road houses should be raised to a high standard of service and comfort. In the meantime the government might better devote a grant to educating the people at home rather than devoting all energies to bringing visitors in.

While tourist campaigns in their very nature will perhaps always be best conducted by the districts with special attractions to offer, the governments can do good work along the line of publishing general literature, and a central bureau under the direction of a man trained in public relations to develop public opinion would be a worthwhile feature. Such a man could by various methods build a sound foundation for tourist business. A course of lectures during the winter months with practical demonstrations of proper hotel service, etc., would be one valuable innovation. This is not needed by the big hotels, but would be of great value in educating the proprietors of the smaller hotels and resorts. Something might be done in the developing of proper spirit on the part of merchants, garage proprietors and others with whom tourists come in contact.

HEART FAILURE KILLS DUELIST

Lisbon, Portugal, Jan. 6—A duel with swords between Dr. Antonio Centeno, a noted financier, and the vice president of the Lisbon Town Council today ended in the death of the latter after the second encounter.

The city official was not wounded but died of heart failure.

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| Men's 10 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S. | \$3.00 | \$2.15 |
| Men's 6 in. Palmer Horse Hide Indian Style D.S. | \$2.50 | \$1.95 |
| Boys' 6 in. Palmer Plain Sewn Oiltanned 'packs | \$2.75 | \$2.25 |
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| Youths 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String 'packs | \$1.75 | \$1.50 |
| Little Gents 6 in. Horse Hide Indian Draw String Shoepacks | \$1.50 | \$1.25 |

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