

## "OBSERVER" CONTENDS THAT BRIDE'S SHOWER IS SILLY

In His Opinion the Custom is "Feeble-minded"  
—Will the Girls Agree with Him?

Some time ago I published an article in these columns on the ridiculous wedding and funeral ceremonies that are carried out in our midst. In the course of my remarks I had occasion to mention that particularly pernicious custom, the shower. It has occurred to me that perhaps that topic merits a little more denunciation than it received before.

Of all the silly, pernicious, infantile and feeble-minded customs that ever arose on the face of this long-suffering globe, the 'shower' is certainly the worst. Here is some girl going to be married. Nothing very startling in that. But her girl friends must immediately get busy and turn the town inside out holding showers for the bride-to-be. If the young lady has moved in what may be called 'society' the number and variety of the showers will reach a staggering total. No girl who has had as much as a nodding acquaintance with the prospective bride can afford to be left out. If every possible kind of a shower has already been given she will invent something new. So we have china showers, glass showers, crystal showers, silver showers, and so on till the crack of doom. In the course of these moronic functions the recipient will accumulate a mess of the most appalling junk. It isn't as if there was even any attempt to see that the gifts weren't duplicated. There might perhaps be some semblance of excuse for all this if the bride were going to continue to live in the community or at least in a similar community. She might then find a use for some of the junk some time. But some of these girls are going to live on a farm, or in the backwoods where they may not see anyone outside their own household for a week at a time. Or they are going to reside in a small flat or apartment. What are they to do with all this trash? Oh yes, the society girl may be going to live in the backwoods as well as anybody else. Thankful enough some of them are to get married at all after having given up practically all hope. They would live on a raft if they had to.

Then there is another side to it. What about the poor girl who has not had the doubtful pleasure of moving in 'society'? She will probably be ignored. And she doesn't realize what good fortune it is not to have to take all this junk and make believe she likes it. No, she feels that she has been slighted if she hasn't been given as many showers as somebody else. These affairs promote jealousy and bad feeling and are hotbeds of gossip and scandal-mongering. Here is a sample of the uplifting and intellectual conversation that might be heard at a typical shower:

"Did you see what Alice gave her? Wasn't that simply terrible? Why, my dear, I saw precisely the same thing

in at Woolworth's. I just know that's where she got it."

"Isn't that just like her? And do you know that she did the same thing at that shower Clara had for Bernice? And look, she never gives a shower for anybody, and she was always going around with Dora, you know."

"Yes, and—oh, Frances, come here. Look girls, this is good; wait till I tell you what Eileen said,—buzz, buzz, buzz . . ."

And so it goes. But this does not exhaust the malignant possibilities of the shower by any means. There is the financial burden, and let me tell you that is by no means inconsiderable. Take a family in moderate circumstances, as most of us are, if that. The fond papa has several girls in the family, all bit by the social bug. They have been going around with the same group of girls for a long time, and finally one of the group succumbs to Cupid's arrow, or his pocketbook? What happens? The social horizon clouds over and it begins to shower. Our family of four or five girls must have a shower for Gertie. They may indeed club together for this occasion, and have one shower at which they are all joint hostesses. Then every other girl in the group must have a shower, to which our five girls will be invited. And for every shower attended a present must be given. This is going to run into money. Now if this money was saved up and put into something worthwhile as a wedding present, there might be some sense to it. But that isn't the way it is done; the wedding present is still to be bought, and papa forks over again. Or if it isn't papa it is hubby. Hubby will only have one wife to be responsible for, whereas papa may have several daughters at the same time making demands on his bank account to pay their social dues. And sometimes papa is supporting hubby too, buying the groceries, coal or wood, while wife doesn't miss a trick, either in bridge or anything else.

But don't imagine that hubby does not suffer. Picture him at home bending over the stove trying to scare up a little supper for himself and the kids, while mamma is out balancing the teacup in one hand and about twenty-seven sandwiches in the other all the while busily engaged in retelling the latest dirt. Then mamma comes home, and as a compensation to hubby retails the dirt all over again to him. After a few of these broadcasts poor hubby's faith in human nature, which was fast dwindling anyway, has sunk to zero point.

During a particularly busy social season hubby or papa, as the case may be, has this experience three or four times a week. And that is only the afternoons. For mamma only hurries home from the shower in order to doll up for the bride later in the evening. Hubby is to stay with

## SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Miss Gretchen Garvie, of Perth, N. B., has been spending the past week as the guest of Mrs. Viola Langille, York street. She will leave tomorrow morning for her home.

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**Caught in Shower**

On Tuesday night about one hundred people gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hayes, Tay Creek, and gave their daughter, Josephine, a shower in honor of her approaching marriage. The evening was spent in music and dancing. About midnight a gaily decorated basket was carried in by Louis Hayes and Rita Hawkes, containing many lovely pieces of linen, cut glass, china and silverware. After which a dainty lunch was served.

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Mrs. Charles H. Thurston of Cambridge, Mass., who has been visiting in Chatham was in the city today en route home. Mrs. Thurston came to the city from Chatham by automobile, accompanied by Fred E. Jordan, Editor of the Chatham Gazette, and Mrs. Jordan. Mr. Jordan, who is a U.N.B. graduate, has many friends here.

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Col. Randolph Crocker, District Manager of the North American Life and Mrs. Crocker has returned from a few days' holidays on the Miramichi.

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**Coming With Husband to Province**  
LONDON, July 28—Sir Frederick and Lady Sykes sailed yesterday from Liverpool, England, en route to Canada. They will visit St. Andrews, N. B. Lady Sykes is a daughter of the late Right Hon. Andrew Bonar Law, Canadian-born Prime Minister of Britain. Sir Frederick, who is a Major-General, has had a long and distinguished military career.

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Miss Edith Gregory is leaving tomorrow by car for Moncton with her nephew, Gregory Bridges, whom she will visit in Moncton.

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank Osborne are leaving tomorrow for Halifax, N. S., where they will attend the Gyro International Convention which is being held at Halifax from August 3rd to August 7th. Mr. Osborne is an official delegate.

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William J. Scott had as guests yesterday at his estate Kouchi-I-Nibinod, Riverside Drive, Grand Lake, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Allen, Mrs. J. M. Scott, Mrs. Ella King of this city, and Mrs. N. W. Brown of Toronto.

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A number of children held a pleasing entertainment yesterday afternoon in Earle Merrithew's garage, the proceeds being presented to Miss Jean Cooper for a treat for the children at the Children's Home. Among those taking part in the entertainment were Margaret Vanwart, Eleanor Merrithew, Lowell Merrithew and Billy Craig, and the proceeds amounted to 73 cents.

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Miss Doreen Harper is leaving tonight for Westfield, N. B., where she will spend her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Harper.

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**Harvey Picnic Enjoyed**

"A howling success" was the opinion of an enthusiastic K. of P., who returned home late last night from the annual K. of P. picnic at Harvey. The band from the Fredericton Lodge, No. 6, was present in full strength and gave two enjoyable concerts, afternoon and evening.

About 500 were served at the supper served on the grounds by the ladies of the Harvey Improvement Association, and in the evening the dance was given to a capacity crowd. The attendance was swelled by four bus-loads from Fredericton and members of the Woodstock, St. Stephen, St. Andrew's and Vancorbore Lodges were present as guests of the local K. P.'s.

The afternoon's entertainment included a softball game between the Knights of Pythias and a local team and many took advantage of the excellent bathing facilities at Harvey Lake. The games and booths were well patronized.

the children, if there are any, or if not, he is left to his own devices. After a steady diet of this sort of thing for weeks and even months, there is only one thing for a self-respecting male to do, and he generally does it. He goes out and gets plastered. True, he wonders the next morning if it was worth it, but later on in the day concludes that it is. Especially when he hears that wife is going to Mrs. Sapp's party that evening.

I may have seemed to treat this subject in a mood of levity, but there is a serious side to it. Those who read between the lines can spot the moral. Those who may think that I have chosen a trivial subject for an article should think again. The heading of this article relates to just one phase of our so-called social life. Other phases I have discussed before. Still others I have yet to discuss.

OBSERVER.

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Badcock are leaving tomorrow on a motor trip to Newfoundland where they will visit relatives.

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Mr. and Mrs. W. Morrison and Mrs. R. M. Campbell of Boston, Mass., are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Yerxa. Mrs. Campbell is a sister of Mrs. A. A. Belmore and has many friends in this city.

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Rev. J. W. Howe of Jacksonville, accompanied by Mrs. Howe and Miss Howe are in the city today. They are on a vacation trip to Prince Edward Island.

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Mrs. A. T. Linton and little daughter Connie of Waterville, N. S., are the guests of Rev. John Linton.

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Mrs. Jotham P. Bulyea and Miss June Bulyea had as guests at their home in Gagetown recently Rev. Dr. F. A. Wightman, Harold Warwick, Saint John, and Miss Marjorie Warwick, Montreal.

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George A. Grant of New York, is visiting friends in the city. This is Mr. Grant's first visit to Fredericton in seventeen years.

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Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Price and daughter Miss Mary Price of London, Ont., are visiting in the city, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Young.

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Miss Marie Tilley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Tilley, Saint John, is the guest of Mrs. C. K. Palmer.

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Col. E. J. Lounsbury, Miss Mary Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Badcock were luncheon guests at the Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews, recently.

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Mrs. H. S. Johnson is a guest of Mrs. R. E. Walker in Saint John. Mrs. Walker's daughter, Miss Mary Walker, is visiting Miss Audrey Griffiths.

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Wendell Wilson and Allen Niles, who have been spending the last two months in Fredericton the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Welsh, left recently for Saint John to sail for Kingston, Jamaica.

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The staff of the Old Age Pensions Board motored to Col. Ritchie's camp at Lincoln yesterday and had a most enjoyable picnic tea.

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Word has been received here by Mrs. Clifford Grant that Professor and Mrs. Jas. O. Manchip (nee Miss Thelma Staples) who were recently married in the city, have arrived in England where they will visit relatives.

### Pickling

(Continued from Page One)

table and highly nutritive food. The 'high protein' crops particularly responsive to the new treatment include alfalfa, red or alsike clover, sweet clover and soy beans.

"The addition of acids for the preservation of foods," says a report by Professor Wilson, has been practiced for a long time. Sauerkraut, pickles and silage are good examples. Therefore why not add acids if it is suspected that a sufficient quantity to preserve the crop is not going to develop spontaneously."

Hon. W. S. Anderson, Chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, is in Fredericton. He arrived here from Saint John where he attended a meeting of the provincial government yesterday. He is registered at the Queen Hotel.

Miss Nan Estabrooks is here from Saint John, and she is staying at the Queen Hotel.

Alfred A. Knopf and son are in the city from New York. They are guests of the Queen Hotel.

### AROUND THE WORLD

American Independence Day was observed in opposite corners of the globe for the benefit of short-wave listeners. "The American Hour," on 2RO, Rome, was dedicated to the U. S. Fourth of July, while VK3ME, Melbourne, broadcast a special programme for American listeners.

WINNIPEG—To take advantage of the new air-cooling system soon to be installed, two pigeons chose the window ledge of the council room at the Grain Exchange for their nest—a modernistic home, made entirely of paper clips the birds had carried laboriously to the sixth floor.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Berthe and family of Ottawa are guests at the Queen Hotel today.

Hugh C. Judge of Woodstock is in the city and is staying at the Queen.

G. Lundwall of London, England, is registered at the Queen Hotel.

R. H. Scott and family of New-castle are in the city. The party is staying at the Queen Hotel.

## CANADIANA

### WHAT A BOY

This stifling prickly awful heat Just knocks a fellow off his feet. You may believe it, or may not, But sure as guns it was so hot. The other night it made me dream I took a bath in good ice cream. You know, a boy ain't always glad When told by his beloved Dad, "Now, Son, a thorough proper bath, Or else you'll raise your Father's wrath!"

And when I woke just bathed in sweat And found I longed for ice cream yet I certainly was put about, For I like ice cream IN, not out. —Sterling Brannen, Fredericton, N.B.

### Auspicious Program Will Mark Opening Of Museum

Old Fort Beausejour Will Be Mecca For Thousands of Maritimers On Saturday Next—Notables To Attend.

Hon. Walter E. Foster of Rothesay, N.B., Speaker of the Senate, will be the official representative of the Dominion Government at the ceremony in connection with the opening of Fort Beausejour Museum tomorrow afternoon.

This announcement was made by Dr. J. Clarence Webster, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., Shediac, a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, who is one of the officials instrumental in the establishment of the magnificent museum building on the grounds of the old fort. The programme will commence at 2:30 p.m., Atlantic Standard Time.

An extensive array of exhibits will be on display in the new building, the collection believed to be one of the finest of its kind in the country. Preparations have been underway for the past few weeks to have everything in readiness for the opening day, and the entire programme promises to be a most impressive one. The new structure will be officially opened by Senator Foster.

Among the prominent men who will take part are Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, Chief Justice of New Brunswick; Sir Joseph Chisholm, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia; Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, K.C., M.P.; Hon. A. A. Dysart, Premier of New Brunswick; Hon. J. W. Comeau, representing the Government of Nova Scotia; Senator T. J. Bourque, Richibucto; Rev. L. La Palme, President Director of St. Joseph's University; Hugh H. Watson Consul General of the United States in the Maritimes, and the chairman, Dr. Webster. The speeches will be short, most of them of only a few minutes each.

Three bands will take part in the programme, brass bands from Sackville and Amherst, and a pipe band from Picton County, N. S. It is expected that thousands of people from all the surrounding districts and from more distant parts of the Maritimes will be present. On that day Fort Beausejour will be the centre of interest for the people of the Provinces by the Sea.

### SENT UP FOR TRIAL

Tabor Saunders, of this city, who appeared before Magistrate Whitman Haines in the Devon police court this morning, was sent up for trial today, on a charge of driving a motor vehicle while intoxicated. The case had been adjourned over to today. Two witnesses were heard this morning. The local man will appear at the next sitting of the county court.

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Leave Fredericton 4:00 p.m. for Taymouth, Stanley and Cross Creek.  
Leave Cross Creek 5:45 p.m. for Fredericton via Stanley and Covered Bridge.

SATURDAYS ONLY—In addition to above.  
Leave Fredericton 11:00 p.m. for Taymouth, Stanley, Cross Creek and Covered Bridge.  
The regular Newcastle Bus leaves Fredericton daily except Sunday at 5 p.m. arriving Newcastle 8:45 p.m.—Returning leaves Newcastle 7 a.m. arriving Fredericton 11:15 a.m. This Bus does not run through Stanley.

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