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SPEAKER'S WIFE.

The Charming and Accomplished Lady

WHOPRESIDES OVER SENATOR POWER'S HOME.

Never Talks Politics Except With Men.

BUT ADDS RARE GRACE AND HOSPITALITY TO A WELL STORED MIND.

(Special Correspondence to the Herald.)

Ottawa, May 10.—At the very beginning of my quest of material for the Ottawa chapters of a book to be called "Pickings from Parliamentary Pastures," fate kindly (from my point of view, I mean) sent the speaker of the senate across my path. When, with a modesty quite out of keeping with the high-sounding and ambitious title I have chosen, I timidly begged Senator Powers' assistance, he listened good naturedly and with an encouraging smile, while I asked a few small questions—not more than six or seven. Then he spoke, (it was really his first opportunity, because I had somehow neglected to pause between any of the seven questions) "Come tomorrow and meet my wife, she knows far more about politics than I do." That was certainly encouraging, even if, for today, my queries must remain unanswered.

Hence it was but natural that, when I had later the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Power, I should repeat her husband's testimony, and ask her to kindly give that inward and saving grace of political knowledge an outward and visible expression in words.

"Oh dear, no, I am not at all posted on political matters," said Mrs. Power, in goodnatured surprise. "My husband seldom makes no mistake, but that is really the biggest mistake he has ever made. Do have a cup of tea and let us talk about something else. Well, clothes, for instance."

"Horrors," I exclaimed, "I ask your pardon, I didn't mean the tea, Mrs. Power—I'm not writing a society novel and there are to be no descriptions of frocks in the book. My heroines will be becomingly or handsomely or somehowly gowned of course, but I shan't describe their clothes. My women are to be much more important than the frocks they wear and are going to say only bright and clever things and do kind and agreeable things; are going to discuss politics and be entirely and altogether charming. I have chosen as the title of one of the chapters—the one dealing with senators' wives—no, I don't think I'll mention the title either, for you, as wife of the speaker of the senate, are in that chapter, and if you won't talk you will make it necessary for me to think of a new title. And Mrs. Power, I continued, "you have no idea what a bore it is to scribblers who borrow other peoples ideas to be obliged to think."

Mrs. Power's smile did not convey the remotest hint that the "borrower" might be a bore. She seemed only waiting for my questions to cease when she would say just what my pen wished her to. Already I could see myself writing a telling paragraph about the real power behind the speaker's chair in the senate being written with a capital P and prefixed by Mrs. or something along that line.

"As we were saying," I began with assurance, "shall the power of granting divorce for all the provinces be vested in the senate or shall we continue as at present to—Not that subject?"

Well, shall we restrict immigration or encourage the homeless of every race and creed and nation to come to our free shores? I am suggesting topics outside party politics,—so, please, Mrs. Power."

Then Mrs. Power's smile became a merry laugh as she gently said, "I never talk politics with women—only with men! And please don't write anything about

me unless you will make an exception in my favor and describe my clothes. I'd like that ever so much better."

Now, I know she did not really mean the last statement but was sweetly trying to persuade me to leave her out of my "Parliamentary Pastures." But I shan't do it. Because a woman who can talk on all topics not only well but brilliantly, modestly refuses to talk for publication, shall I fail to avail myself of the privilege of filling up my senatorial chapter as best I may? It has ever been a rule of mine to make or take advantage of exceptions to rules, hence I shall for once make the exception Mrs. Powers suggested.

It was a lovely Wednesday afternoon, the last Wednesday in April, and the first truly glorious spring day in the whole month. The spacious drawing room of the speaker's apartment in the senate was thronged with visitors from early afternoon until the dinner hour. The prolonged bad weather had kept light spring gowns and blossoming summer hats somewhat in the background. But today they and their fair wearers, whether the latter were stately and tall or sweetly fair and of modest stature, literally rivalled the roses of springtime and the lilies of the field. There were men, too, several men indeed, looking as if they were finding an afternoon call a pleasure, not a mere duty. Everybody knows that formal calling is usually regarded as an obligation to be performed as expeditiously as possible. Yet on this occasion the callers lingered as if the delightful warmth and hospitality conveyed in their hostess' greeting made an atmosphere too homelike and enjoyable to run away from. Now, read carefully, slowly if you please.

The fountain head of this good fellowship, the source of the genuine social atmosphere, she who seemed to be everywhere and to be talking to everybody at once, who without effort made the stranger within her gates feel as much at home as did her dearest friend, was wearing a severely plain street suit which was not of silk nor had it a train with billowy folds of chiffon, etc., I am not even sure of the color of Mrs. Power's gown, perhaps it was of dark grey cloth, any way it was really the only plain gown in the room. Her hat, a becoming black one, hadn't a single feather on it! Mrs. Power had lunched away from home, was delayed in returning and reached home to find visitors awaiting her, hence her unusual drawing room attire. Yet I thank the fates for arranging the matter just as it was, enabling me to keep my word and describe a lady's dress just once and at the same time to emphasize a truth which we all acknowledge, but too often allow to become hidden. Who is it says of the poet

"He has no eyes that I have not
He only shows again
The things I saw and then—forgot."

I have since seen Mrs. Power in silken, clinging trailing gowns (are these the correct words?) and know how gracefully she wears them, and I have forgiven her for refusing to discuss political questions for publication and the "Ottawa River Pasture" may be more than blank pages after all. For I am greatly indebted to Mrs. Power for this unintentional and unconscious object lesson in the importance of those graces of manner, of mind, and of heart which make the ideal hostess, and make social intercourse not a mere matter of clothes, but a real pleasure to normal men and women. As I came away on this particular Wednesday afternoon I met two well known members of the opposition going to call on Mrs. Power. "Now she'll talk politics to them," I mentally sighed, "Lucky men!"

To the legislators and their wives from far and near who spend several months in Ottawa each year, it is not a small matter that the speakers chambers of each House should be presided over by a lady who possesses the important gift of entertaining—shall I say wisely and well? I mean not merely as a duty but as a genuine pleasure to herself, a woman who enjoys her friends, likes people regardless of party or creed, and whose home is a meeting place where there is no political friend or foe but a refreshing social atmosphere unclouded by the necessary separations of the legislative arenas working hours.

M. G.

THE VERDICT OF PUBLIC OPINION

Is with the best article I every time. That's why Putnam's Corn Extractor has been in the lead for the last half century. It cures corns painlessly in twenty-four hours and never fails. Use only Putnam's for corns and warts.

MR. BLAIR'S DENIAL.

Did Not Recommend Purchase of Railway at \$1,200,000.

THE STATEMENT OF THE OTTAWA CITIZEN DECLARED TO BE PURE FICTION.

Mr. Blair's Letter.

Ottawa, May 10.—Hon. A. G. Blair, writing to the Citizen denies that paper's story that he recommended the government to purchase the Canada Eastern for \$1,200,000. Mr. Blair's letter is as follows:

"Editor Citizen: I noticed in Saturday morning's Citizen a statement, under very conspicuous headlines, to the effect that while minister of railways I desired the Dominion government to purchase the Canada Eastern Railway at the price of \$1,200,000, whereas now the government was acquiring it for \$800,000, and that Sir Richard Cartwright had fortunately intervened and turned the project down."

"The inference to be drawn from your version of my action in connection with the project is that if Sir Richard had not sat down upon my scheme I would have not only prevailed upon the government to take over this railway, but to do so at a price 50 per cent. in advance of the sum now being paid."

"I cannot help thinking, Mr. Editor, that before giving publicity to a statement the only purpose of which is to reflect upon my conduct while in the ministry some pains should have been taken to verify the accuracy of your information. If you had taken the least trouble in this direction you would have learned that the major part of the story is pure fiction, and that as to the question of price, the highest figure I ever mentioned, and the limit beyond which I did not and could not recommend the government to go was \$850,000. I shall be pleased if you give to this letter the same prominence in your next issue which you gave to the erroneous statement which it corrects, and oblige, Yours, (Signed) Andrew G. Blair."

RACKING PAIN IN THE JOINTS.

Also every form of rheumatism, neuralgia and sciatica, are best cured by Nerviline, the quickest relief for muscular pain yet discovered. It's because Nerviline strikes in and penetrates right to the core of the pain that it gives such unbounded satisfaction. "I caught cold in my shoulders while driving and suffered great pain," writes G. E. Dempsey, of Berlin. "I used Nerviline freely and was soon quite well. I have found Nerviline an excellent remedy for rheumatism and neuralgia, as well as for cold in the chest. I recommend Nerviline highly and wouldn't be without it." Price 25c.

Upper Magaguadavic.

(Special Correspondence to the Herald.)

May 9.—We are enjoying unusually summerlike weather just at present, and the farmers are taking advantage of it by doing their annual farming.

The ice has gone out of the lake and once more the beautiful blue waters sparkle in the sunshine.

The U. M. S. Club intend holding a patriotic concert in the Orange Hall of this place on Victoria Day. The proceeds are to purchase a flag for the school here. Two principal features will be, a drill by eight young ladies, and a leap year charade by six spinsters. The young people especially, are looking forward to this event, and all anticipate a good time.

George Hood of this place has recently enlarged his farm by purchasing an additional one, formerly owned by Wm. Henry.

John Hamilton has also bought Andrew Gartley's farm, thereby increasing the size of his farm.

Women Who Wear Well.

It is astonishing how great a change a few years of married life will make in the appearance and disposition of many women. The freshness, the charm, the brilliance vanish like the bloom from a peach which is rudely handled. The matron is only a dim shadow, a faint echo of the charming maiden. There are two reasons for this change, ignorance and neglect. Few young women appreciate the shock to the system through the change which

comes with marriage. Many neglect to deal with the unpleasant drains which are often consequent on marriage and motherhood, not understanding that this secret drain is robbing the cheek of its freshness and the form of its fairness. As surely as the general health suffers when there is derangement of the health of the delicate womanly organs, so surely when these organs are established in health the face and form at once witness to the fact in renewed comeliness. Half a million women and more have found health and happiness in the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

What is that which no man wants, but once he gets it he won't part with it? A bald head.

THE MAN WHO WORKS HARD

Perseverance and will-power he must have, but whether he has strength and vigor is another consideration. Hard working men usually have irritable nerves and should fortify their systems with a course of Ferrazone, a tonic that rebuilds and revitalizes beyond all telling. It's just wonderful the strength that Ferrazone imparts to broken down men. It forms new blood, supplies the system with abundant nourishment, and where formerly there was tiredness and lassitude Ferrazone establishes a reserve of energy and vim. Try Ferrazone—price 50c. per box.

COAXING MONK BACK.

Montreal May 12.—Hon. J. Israel Tarte is sulking in his tent. The ex-Minister of Public Works has not written an article against the Ottawa government for nearly two months. He has written, however, that the pleasant relations which existed between the premier and the member for St. Mary's have never been disturbed and all this in the face of the terribly sarcastic denunciations which Mr. Tarte levelled at his late leader during the election campaign.

Yes, and Mr. R. L. Borden has discovered that it was a great mistake to allow Mr. Monk to resign the Quebec leadership and it has likewise been repeated by people very close to the leader of the opposition that Mr. Borden is much disappointed as to Mr. Tarte's attitude. The Conservative leader had been made believe that the ex-minister had the following in this province, while Mr. Monk's usefulness had departed. It transpired, however that the Conservative party suffered very considerably when Mr. Monk stepped down and out.

The Star also has at last discovered this fact, for any one can see that the Tarte boom like many others of the Montreal daily has completely petered out.

Swallowed False Teeth.

Brockville, Ont., May 11.—F. M. Scott, a leading dairman of this section, retired Friday night and two hours later was awakened by a choking sensation. He quickly discovered that he had swallowed the plate holding his false teeth and that it had become firmly lodged in his throat. He awakened members of the family and was driven to Prescott. The doctors there tried to remove the obstruction, but were unable to get a grip on the plate. At the Ogdensburg City Hospital efforts to extricate the teeth were again made without success, and after consultation it was agreed that an operation was necessary. By means of an opening in the neck the esophagus was reached and the plate finally removed. The patient is still in the hospital, but will be able to leave in a few days. Scott suffered intense pain for six hours. The plate had three teeth attached and was so constructed that it presented somewhat of a wedge shape, thus being quite easily drawn into the throat.

SNIFFELING AND SNEEZING COLDS

Can be stopped in a few minutes and permanently cured in one hour by inhaling fragrant healing Catarrhazone. No remedy compares with Catarrhazone for cold in the head and nasal catarrh. It soothes and heals the inflamed mucous membranes, prevents sneezing and coughing, clears away the "stuffed up" feeling in the forehead. If you haven't used Catarrhazone get it today and try it on your next cold. You'll be surprised at the efficiency of this delightful inhaler treatment which pleases everyone because it cures so quickly. Complete outfit, \$1.00; trial size, 25c.

Captain—I see you're not seasick yet. Hobbs—No, I am still holding my own.

Monkey Brand Soap removes all stains, rust, dirt or tarnish—but won't wash clothes.

NEW LIGHT CO.

A Slight Change Made in their Contract

GRANTED RENEWAL AT END OF TEN YEARS.

Some Interesting Facts Brought out in the Discussion.

The city council at a special meeting last evening amended the contract with the People's Light and Power Company by giving the Company power to secure a renewal at the end of ten years, on terms to be agreed upon by arbitration in case there should be a disagreement with the then council.

Mayor Palmer presided and the others present were Alds. Stockford, Scott, Ross, Everett, Farrell, Barbour, Edwards, Maxwell and McKnight.

Messrs. A. J. Gregory, K. C., F. B. Edgewood, W. T. Chestnut and W. B. Winslow were present on behalf of the People's Light and Power Company.

The city clerk read the notice of meeting which stated that it had been called to deal with a proposal of the People's Light and Power Company.

The mayor said he had before him a copy of the contract made between the People's Light and Power Company and the city. The contract had been approved of by the company with the exception of one clause which referred to the continuation of the franchise after the expiration of two years. The contract set forth that the contract was to be renewed provided the company and council could arrive at an agreement as to the terms. The company now asked that the charter be amended so that in case of a disagreement the matter could be settled by arbitration or by the judge in equity.

At the request of the mayor Mr. A. J. Gregory, K. C., addressed the council on behalf of the company. He pointed out that as the contract read at present, the company could be put out of business at the end of ten years, providing they could not arrive at an agreement with the then council. All they wanted was the charter so amended that the matter could be submitted to arbitration in case of a disagreement. It would hardly be fair, after the company had put in an expensive plant and operated it for ten years, that they should at the end of that time be placed at the mercy of the council. The company recognized that public franchises were valuable to the corporation, and they had therefore raised no objection to the conditions in regard to lighting the city buildings that the council had imposed on them. He thought the company was entitled to having their charter renewed.

Ald. Scott believed in arbitration as a means of settling disputes, and thought, therefore the proposition made by the Company was a reasonable one.

Ald. Farrell did not want to interfere with the People's Light and Power Company going on with their work. At the same time he did not agree with some of the statements that had been made by previous speakers. In his opinion it was not unreasonable for the council to reserve the right to continue or discontinue the charter at the end of ten years. So far as the agreement was concerned, he believed it only had reference to the lighting of public buildings and would not interfere with the Company continuing their business. He had had some experience during his career as alderman with arbitrations and found that where the corporation was concerned it was usually driven to the wall. He would not offer any formal opposition to the proposed change, other than to give expression to his views.

Mr. Gregory in reply to Ald. Farrell, said that if the contract only referred to the lighting of the public buildings, the company would raise no objection to it. But under the contract it was quite evident that the council at the end of ten years might impose, if they were so disposed,

(CONTINUED ON SIXTH PAGE.)