

LIFE IN THE SLUMS.

Editor of the Toronto Globe Writes His Impressions of an Old Country Trip.

(J. A. Macdonald in Toronto Globe.)

"Of all you saw or heard in England, what impressed you most? The question has been asked so often since I returned to Toronto, as was asked while I was in Britain that I have taken myself in hand to answer it. All the remarkable experiences, all the striking incidents, all the men of note and all that series of events which made the months of June and July memorable have been recalled and reviewed. I have lived over again the month spent with the other delegates to the Imperial Press Conference, and the weeks of private roaming about England and Scotland, seeing and hearing and being impressed. The conference month was crammed, mornings, noons and nights, with opportunities for the delegates, such as come to few men once, to no man twice. The memory of the days unrolls as readily and even as a web. If at any point the mental impression is dimmed by the multitude and variety of sensations, all that is needed is a glance at the pages of the official report of the Conference, and the old sense-movements return on their former tracks with all the vividness of first experiences. What, then, left the most distinct and indelible impression?"

It was not Lord Roseberry's speech, brilliant and striking though that speech was. It was not the face or the message of any of the statesmen or pro-consuls, or scholars or heroes—Asquith, or Grey, or Haldane, or Morley, or Crewe, or Burrell, or Balfour, or Churchill, or Comer, or Curzon, or Milner, or Roberts, or French, or Bessford, or Fisher—whose names gave distinction to the program. It was not the Mother of Parliaments, or the glories of the Church, or the shrines of history of Oxford, or the liquid history of the Thames. It was not the splendor of Stafford House, with the charming Duchess at the head of the grand staircase, or the exclusive privilege of Apsley House with its art treasures of the "Iron Duke," or the Lord Mayor's freedom of the Mansion House, or the Archbishop's benediction at Lambeth. It was neither Aldershot, with the Army, nor Spithead, with the Navy. It was not Warwick, or Chatsworth, or Windsor itself with the Territorials on the lawn. It was not even a glorious day at Marlborough House, the guests of the Prince and Princess of Wales, with the cordial personal greeting of the King and the winsome welcome of the most beautiful Queen.

All such experiences come back to call. Their story is good to tell. But they do not abide. They do not permeate and color the very texture of one's thought and life. Other scenes cast heavier shadow-lines. Other memories return as of themselves, with a more haunting insistence. Frankly, the thing that impressed me most, the thing that stands out as the background of every reminiscence, was the bloodless, mirthless, hopeless face of the common crowd.

Nothing seems able to dim or wipe out or soften the hard lines of that impression. The dress-receptions, the gorgeous pageants, the galleries, the colleges, the storied castles, and all as inevitable or acquiesced in as a that rare procession of beauty and wonder and worth may fade into dreamlike memory, but the pale and drunken faces of the nameless city crowd haunt one like a weird. We were given, as we had been promised beforehand, rare and illuminating glimpses of "Britain at work and at play," but we could not shut our eyes or steel our hearts to that Britain which is out of work, and which has long forgotten how to play.

At first London seemed less hope less than it was twenty years ago. The thing that impressed me most nowhere had civic improvement hopelessly shown more signs of headway. The running of great arteries, like the King'sway, through congested areas had changed for the better some localities. Even East London on a go back to the causes of these despair-fair day seemed less damning than at old. The spirit of reform is plainly at work, both in civic circles and among the captains of industrial life. Other terms are used. "Land laws" But the social problem everywhere is and liquor laws are the modern appalling almost to the point of des- peration. The social reformers pair. Wherever we went it forced it- self upon us. The least dangerous as- pect of it was that hollow-eyed pro- spective of the homeless of London of the open country where there fore- kept moping along the pavements by fathers till the soil, and huddled to the police in the early dawn, waiting for the opening of the soup kitchens, where they breed and fester in crime London, Sheffield, Manchester, Glas- gow, Edinburgh—each had its dis- astrophic features, but everywhere the marks were deep of disease and de- generacy in body and mind and mor- talities. Even the evangelists and missionaries of religion have come

In some of the smaller places where to see that "free" services and "free" the industrial percentage is large, or breakfasts are only makeshifts so the occupations unhealthy—as in the long as the disease and the unfit go Black Country or the pottery-making on multiplying themselves in squalor communities—the blood poisoned and crime. Fresh air and honest workers present an appearance that work are called for. The objective of to unaccustomed eyes is simply it all is "back to the land." Then ghastly. In places like Portsmouth, you get into the politics of the prob- where we drove through the streets

At the heart of the wretchedness and poverty and disease of the British slum is the drunkenness of the people. To a Canadian nothing is more shocking than a look into a typical public house, with its motley crowd of men and women in various stages of intoxication. And the children! They are cursed before they are born. And while they are yet infants they are doomed to drink and crime. One despairs even of the children, so scarred and ingrained are their whole natures with the dis- eased conditions which destroy alike nerve and brain, and blood. Some of the social reformers talk of Canada as the hope of the slum children. It differs at least a chance.

But quite plainly Britain must do something more and something else with her social problem than to go on generation after generation multi- plying the unfit and transporting them to the overseas dominions. The open country and the cleaner social conditions of Canada may re- deem a few of the least hopeless. But why not try the open country of Britain itself? One sees simply mil- lions of acres of untitled land in England and Scotland, the unused areas of great estates. Why not re- claim that land from the pheasants and the deer?

And why not do something more to clean up Britain's social life? Why should the public house and the brewery go on dominating the legis- lation and the social institutions of a free people? In the "historic mile" of Edinburgh between the Castle and Holyrood there are more liquor-selling places, more and filth- er than in the whole city of Toronto. And Edinburgh is not worse than Glasgow or the large cities of Eng- land. How long will a great nation go on breeding weaklings and crim- inals? How long will such a nation remain great? And how long will it be counted safe for Canada to ad- mit the human output of Britain's drink-cursed slums? But all this may be a matter of politics.

You're discouraged and played out—scarcely enough energy to think, and less to work on. The reason? You are run down, blood is thin, nerves are like Indian rubber, not like steel as they ought to be. Use Fer- rozone and the tired feeling will go—can't stay because rich nutritious food and the bodily vigor Ferrozone makes, crowds out weakness of every kind. Use Ferrozone and you'll feel like a fighting king—full of energy—filled up with ambition—ever ready to work. No strengthening tonic so potent. Neglect not a day longer. Dealers sell Ferrozone in 50 ct. boxes.

Knights Come to Toronto.
Toronto, Aug. 30.—The Chapter General of America of the Order of Knights of St. John and Malta will hold their annual convention in this city on the 6th of September. About 200 delegates representing fourteen states and the Dominion of Canada will be in attendance. Reservation for the grand officers and delegates have been made at the leading hotels, and the headquarters will either be located at the Queen's or the Prince George. The first of the delegates to arrive will be the New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Connecticut knights, who are arriving by Lehigh Valley and Grand Trunk early next Sunday morning, and will be followed during the day by those from the western and south- ern states. The meetings of the chapter general are purely business ones, all parading and entertaining being prohibited by constitutional enact- ment. The local officers of the com- manderies will meet the incoming trains and look after the reception and comfort of the visiting knights. The sessions will last three days, and be held in the chapter rooms of Beaver Creek.

Bank Clerk Drowns.
Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 30.—Charles O'Shaughnessy, aged 21, ledgerkeeper in the Bank of Commerce, was drowned Saturday afternoon at English Bay. He dived from the float and it is supposed suffered a cramp, for he sank from sight. His parents live in Ireland.

Conscious Smitten.
London, May 11.—Secretary Brown of the Western Fair Board Association yesterday received a letter from Saskatoon, enclosing 25 cents in stamps which the sender said was conscience money. Twelve years ago, when a lad in London, he climbed the fence at the fair grounds.

Harriman Getting Better.

Arden, N.Y., Aug. 30.—"Mr. Harri- man is better. You may say that Mrs. Harriman and all of us are very hap- py over the steady improvement in his health since he came to Arden House," said Rev. J. Holmes Mc- Guinness, E. H. Harriman's personal chaplain, after dining with the Harri- man family yesterday.

A Cleveland despatch says that Dr. Crile, the specialist summoned in haste on Friday, has wired that Mr. Harriman's condition is not serious and that an operation would not hasten nor give added assurance of his ultimate recovery. The nature of Mr. Harriman's illness is not mentioned. Jacob Schieff, the New York banker, who conferred with Harriman Saturday, said: "Mr. Harriman is a well man."

Russia's Mimic German War.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 30.—War ma- noeuvres on a vast scale on the plains between Gatchina and Narva have occupied the Czar and the lead- ing Russian generals the past week. The area of operations is located with- in a three days' infantry march of St. Petersburg and the entire scheme was remarkable for political candor.

The strategic advisers of the Czar started on the assumption that Rus- sia was at war with Germany before the navy had been sufficiently re- constructed to defend even the upper coasts of the Gulf of Finland. Ger- man warships were assumed to have conveyed transports to Narva, where they had disembarked an invading army within a hundred miles of the capital.

Wrights Sue Curtiss.

Corning, N.Y., Aug. 30.—Papers were served Friday in Hammonds- port, N.Y., upon Mrs. Glenn R. Cur- tiss and L. B. Masson, secretary-treasurer of the Herring Curtis Acro- plane Co., by a deputy marshal in behalf of the Wright Brothers of Day- ton, Ohio, who are bringing suit for alleged infringement on their aero- plane patents. The papers are return- able in the U. S. District Court in New York on Oct. 20.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that The Canada Loose Leaf Company, Limited, will apply to the City Council of the City of Fredericton for a loan and certain exemptions hereunder set out pursuant to Chapter Thirty Nine, Acts of Assembly, 6 Edward VII.

The Company will make applica- tion for exemption from water rates sewerage rate and taxation gener- ally for a term of five years, renew- able for a further term of five years, and a loan of three thousand five hundred dollars, repayable in instal- ments of five hundred dollars annual- ly without interest, the first instal- ment to be paid five years after the loan is made.

In consideration of such assistance the Company on their part agree to repay such loan as aforesaid and to employ forty five people with a gross annual wage of not less than three hundred and fifty dollars weekly, and to actively carry on the business of manufacturing loose leaf ledgers and other loose leaf devices to the amount of not less than \$50,000 an- nually. To secure the repayment of such loan by a first mortgage on the building and machinery owned by the Company and to insure the said prop- erty with loss, if any, payable to the City of Fredericton to the ex- tent of their interest, and also to give a bond conditioned that the Company will carry out all their agreements as above mentioned.

The said application will be made to the said City Council at their regular monthly meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, the second day of August next.

Dated the twenty fourth day of June, A. D. 1909.

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The Pastor of the Pantomime.

Many a chorus girl has had cause to bless the name of Mr. William Forbes, "the Pastor of the Panto- mime," as he has been called. He is one of the few missionaries who devote nearly all their time to conducting evangelistic work amongst theatrical employees, more especially chorus girls. For twenty-five years Mr. Forbes has done this, not only in this country, but also in Canada and the United States. Many are the heart- breaking stories which he tells of bal- let-girls in distress—stranded in provincial towns or starving in London garrets. "Since," writes one, "I have been a chorus-lady, I have had a bitter struggle—not a friend in the world, penniless, and no home. I was out all last night on the Thames Embank- ment. For God's sake help me." And yet there are girls willing to leave good homes and situations for the glit- ter of tinsel and footlights.

"Wit at the Bar."

The recent death of Mr. Oswald, K.C., London, recalls the fact that he possessed a fund of ready wit and humor, and figured in a number of amusing incidents. "You are," said an angry judge to him on one occa- sion, "openly showing your contempt of the court." "I am very sorry, my lord," was the meek reply; "I was doing my best to conceal it." The following Mr. Oswald often told against himself. In opening a case about a bill of sale he began a new point with, "Now, my lord, I shall address myself to the furniture." "You have been doing that for some time," Mr. Oswald, "was the cruel re- ply. On another occasion he told the Court of Appeal that he intended to set forth an argument which he would have used in the court below had not the vice-chancellor prevented him. "Pray, how did he manage that, Mr. Oswald?" feelingly inquired the judge.

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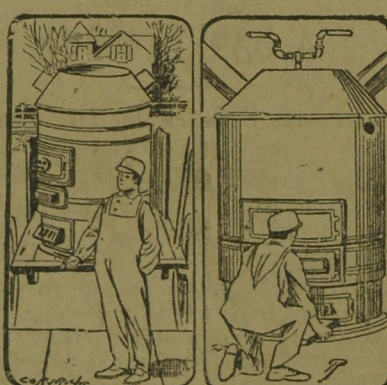
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