CURRENT COMMENT

A DIVORCE COURT FOR ONTARIO.

Father O'Gorman has made a strong appeal on behalf of his mother church against the reported proposal to establish a divorce court in Ontario, such as exists in all the other provinces except Quebec. The difficulty in dealing with the question is one that cannot be settled by argument, nor does it do to ignore the actual conditions existing. Probably no one in the world wants to have a divorce court merely for the sake of having it. We do not want isolation hospitals, nor lunatic asylums, nor prisons, but we find we cannot get along without them. Needs must. We have a divorce court now, in the shape of the Senate, or a senatorial committee, and there are very few who do not think that a court of law with properly qualified judges, would be more satisfactory and more likely to maintain a high-minded code than results from the deliberations of the Senators. Father O'Gorman does not propose to abolish senate divorces, so that it is merely a question of getting a better court, or continuing with what is generally agreed is an inferior and highly expensive one. What was done centuries ago in England or Germany or anywhere else concerning divorce is not likely to govern the decisions of the present day in divorce any more than in a lot of other matters. Our educational system is far from anything like what was in vogue two hundred or two thousand years ago. The world is moving on and the divorce court has found a footing in it. The real remedy for divorce is to be sought before marriage. If girls were more fully instructed in sex matters, instead of being ushered into a new state of life about which they know nothing, the facts and responsibilities of parenthood being left to break upon their astounded minds during the early months of marriage, often to their infinite horror and dismay; and if boys were trained more frankly in the laws of life, and taught the virtue and strength of purity and continence, and made to realize that the national life as well as their own welfare and happiness depends on their fidelity to the honor and duty they owe to women, the divorce courts would have less to do and society would acquire a healthier tone. While parents neglect to instruct their children and leave them to learn of the most sacred things of life through the channels of the gutter those children will fall into snares and traps of which they had no suspicion. "Which of you shall have an ox or an ass fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath day?" is an old question. Shall we refuse to pull innocent men or women out of the pit they may fall into, or must they continue to suffer because some of us have scruples about the time or the place? We must all honor Father O'Gorman's plea for a high standard of chastity and purity, but it is a problem whether the highest standard is attainable when a certain percentage of the population are compelled to dwell in he loathsome pit of a union with an unfaithful spouse.

LORD READING'S GREAT TASK.

A remarkably illuminating address touching the situation in India was given recently by Mr. J. H. Oldham to the Canadian Club. He claimed for the British Empire in which had grown up the wonderful Commonwealth of nations, the one hope of the establishment of a League of Nations, that it had worked out the relation between the more and the less advanced peoples. The Government of India Act of last year drafted a large instalment of self-government, transferring control from minsters to self-elected legislatures, following a proper course of proceeding by stages. The Act transferred to the people the whole of local government, the control of agriculture, of medical matters and sanitation, of roads and communication, and of education, and Mr. Oldham thought that a nation which controlled its own education could accomplish anything. The Act was significant as a fresh affirmation of a fundamental belief in the principles on which their own British life was based. However the fair and bright prospect had been clouded over during the past months by the movement among the people of India for what was called non-cooperation. This was led by Mr. Gandhi, and Mr. Oldham paid a high compliment to this agitator. His motives were entirely disinterested, and his appeal was a spiritual one to the highest instincts of those he addressed. The cause of the feeling in India was partly due to the unrest following the war. But unquestionably the main cause was the incidents in the Punjab and the shooting at Amritsar, where there were 1,200 casualties and 400 killed when General Dyer fired into an unarmed crowd and continued firing until his ammunition was exhausted. No one could fail, said Mr. Oldham, to sympathize with an officer who might have made an error of judgment, but Col. Dyer had spoiled everything by asserting in his evidence at the inquiry that had he had more ammunition he would have gone on firing so as to teach the people of India the lesson of the power of modern weapons. To this was added the infamous crawling order, and this, said Mr. Oldham, was terrorism, the same sort of thing we condemned in the Germans. It was quite impossible for a thing to be wrong in Belgium and right in India. These things had created profound distrust, and as had been said by a speaker during the debate in the House of Lords they must think of it as they would had it occurred in Glasgow or Winnipeg. The pertinent question was were the lives of Indian people any less sacred than the lives of Britons elsewhere. They had to retrieve a situation already deeply compromised and their sympathy would go with Lord Reading who had gone to carry out a task the most important with which a British statesman had ever been entrusted. Mr. Oldham, who is Secretary of the World Missionary Conference, concluded by saying that the Empire stood for Freedom for individuals and nations, Equality and Fellowship, and instanced the League of Nations as a second encouraging event in recent times in the evolution of government.

IS YOUR HOME TOWN LIKE THIS?

A Kansas summary of the tests which make a town popular has achieved a circulation in England and should be useful in our Ontario burghs when people are thinking of settling in a town or choosing a new residence they will consider these points. The town that wishes to get them for citizens should be able to answer these questions satisfactorily: Is it attractive? Has it an "atmosphere," with shaded streets and other beauties? Is it quiet, roomy, airy, well-lighted? Has it attractive public and private buildings? Is it well-paved and clean? Second, is it a healthy place? Has it good water, a sanitary system, milk inspection, a health department and hospitals? Third, are the schools good? Are there collegiate and business training colleges? Are there good libraries, newspapers, and postal facilities? Fourth, are the people neighborly and friendly or is there partisan bitterness? Are there strong religious, fraternal and social organizations? Fifth, how are the facilities for amusement? Are there lectures, concerts, theatres, gymnasiums, parks, athletic sports, outdoor exercizes, swimming, boating, walking, etc.? Sixth, is the cost of living reasonable? Are there conveniences, electricity, gas, 'phones, good shopping stores? How are rents and taxes? Are the hotels good? Are fresh vegetables and dairy products easily available? Seventh, is it easy to get at? What are the rail, street car, radial facilities? Eighth, is business good? Is there opportunity for investment? Are the banks and other business institutions satisfactory? What about shopping facilities, labor, farming, opportunities, real estate values, electric power? Ninth, is employment possible? Are there any jobs open? Would there be a welcome for any new line of industry? And lastly has the town a progressive spirit, with good government, adequate fire protection, and a pull-together policy in the town generally? Any town that can answer these questions 100 per cent. right will draw population from all over creation. All humanity is looking for just that sort of place to live in. If your town is not like that it is your business to make it so.

MR. BRYAN BEHIND THE TIMES.

An up-to-date criticism of Mr. W. J. Bryan has appeared in the Christian Century by Mr. L. C. Douglas. Mr. Bryan had been featuring at a Western university and was invited to stay our Sunday and talk to the students. About 5,000 assembled and Mr. Bryan started in to smash the Darwinism of fifty years ago and deplore the subversive effects of science on Christian faith, explaining that science was the enemy of faith, excoriating scientific men, advanced scholarship, modern learning and generally anathematizing higher education. Mr. Bryan is sadly behind the times and this will explain his political failure. The world has moved far since 1896. As Mr. Douglar observes: "Practically the whole theory of evolution has been replaced during [illegible] Perhaps the general ex-Secretary of State is unaware of that fact. His references to evolution have not grown an inch or gained a pound for twenty years. Meanwhile, let it be repeated, science has been busy. Cannot some friend inform him, for his own sake, that Charles Robert Darwin is related to evolution, in the thought of the scholar, exactly as Robert Fulton is related to steam navigation, and as Langley is related to aeronautics, and as Dr. Harvey is related to present day surgery. The total results of the Bryon address to his university audience was disgust on the part of religious people—both faculty and student—disgust over the speaker's intellectual immorality, to say nothing of the crass impudence displayed by such an exhibition of ignorance before an audience of that character. But the really serious fact about the performance resided in the effect produced upon the students who never go to church, manifest no interest in religion, and who think of Christian faith with as little knowledge of the present-day claims as Mr. Bryan has of biology—which is next to nothing. It is not true that the freshman inevitably comes to the university to surrender his faith. But it is true that many a chap is obliged to come into a university community to find his faith! The great feature of world thought in the last generation is the harmonising of religion and science and the broadening of both to include all that is good and true in the thought of all the ancients and all the moderns.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE GODS.

Beethoven's 150th anniversary is being celebrated still although the 17th December is the date of his nativity. He was only 57 and it is impressive to remark how he crowded into this comparatively short life the marvellous works which have done so much for the world of music. The geniuses are all hard workers. Dickens was only 58 when he died. It is significant also that it is in the last 50 years that such music as Beethoven gave us has had its effect upon our civilization. For music does have an effect far beyond what most people imagine, and the kind of music people listen to alters them for the better or the worse. This is why sensible people strive to escape from jazz and rag-time as far as possible. There is a demoralizing influence in these strains, and those who find them alluring should be aware of their danger. On the other hand few people are aware of the advantage of cultivating a taste for good music. When there is so much mechanical music it is easy to become familiar with good music, and the good music will be found to be the best value, for people tire of the jazz and the rag-time, so that after a number of hearings it becomes disgusting, even nauseating. But the good music as one becomes familiar with it develops one's mind. It grows into one's consciousness and has an effect beyond the expectation of most in this respect. A piece of classical music like one of Beethoven's sonatas, may seem a little difficult at first, but the oftener it is heard the more it is understood. There are new messages, new voices in it at every hearing, until it is loved as a friend whose heart is deep and tender. Most people have read Louisa Alcott's book "Little Women" and "Good Wives." Do they all remember how the Laurie boy when his proposal was refused, went to the piano and played Beethoven's "Sonata Pathetique?" Jo never had understood it before. The point is that it is possible to find solace for profound disappointment or grief in great music. Listen to the Pathetique and after a few times hearing it will begin to reveal its message. So also of the "Appassionata," and the "Waldstein," and the "Kreutzer." Those who are intimate with these have heard something of the language of the gods, and will learn more as their understanding deepens. What the great ones like Beethoven have to say each hearer must interpret for himself, for there is no dogmatism in art

CANADA'S SHARE TO PAY PENSIONS

SIR. GEORGE PERLEY TO ATTEND REPARATIONS MEETING. IN LONDIN.

Sir George Perley, for Canada and the High Commissioners of the other Dominions will, it is understood, represent their respective countries in conection with the Downing Street conference regarding German reparations, to be held on February 28. Canada has of course a direct interest in the decision reached at Paris regarding reparations, as she looks to her share of the sums received from Germany to help pay her pension liabilities. The High Commissioners will, however, probably act only in a consultative capacity, as they did in connection with the Spa conference. The stipulated twelve per cent. tax on Germany exports will help to equalize German competition with Canadian manufacturers, as in the last analysis the tax must be added to the selling price of the goods and will thus effect some of the advantage gained by the depreciation of the German mark.

During the year 1918 the butter exported from Canada amounted to 4,926,154 lbs.; value, $2,000,467. During the 12 months ended March 31 last the export amounted to 17,612,695 lbs.; value, $9,844,359.

DON'T BE A GLOOMY GUS

We think it is up to every business man—and who is not a business man in good old Canada?—to strike a hopeful keynote in his advertising.

We say this to our local men of business, to our farmers, too, and to every man who sells what he has, even if all he has is his daily labor.

Because there has been a slump on the price of this, that or the other commodity, it is the poorest reason in the world for talking hard times. Pessimism never won anything. Gloom is a thing of the grave; it is not for the living man with a future before him.

The times may have been bad for a lot of us for some months past, but as everything changes, going from one extreme to the other and striking normalcy in between, we all know that there are good times ahead—and not very far ahead either if we all put the best foot forward and the best smile to the front.

The man who recovers first from the gloom of his bad business, or poor wages, or whatever it was that hit him, is the man who is going to have the most prosperity in the better times that are on their way just as sure as the sun comes up and out of the east every morning. He is going to have the most prosperity because his efforts will stretch over a large period than the fellow who slouches gloomily until the good times are so apparent that they hit him in the nose.

Therefore, we say to the business man who advertises: Put optimism in your ads. To the farmer and other workers, whose tongues are their ads, we say: "Quit good times, there's coming real ones.

DOLLARS IN THE BARN WASTE

GETTING MANURE SPREAD ON THE FIELDS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE OR STORING IT EFFICIENTLY IS A PROFITABLE FARM PRACTICE.

(By Orin Crooker).

More and more are farmers reaching the conclusion that conservation of the manures produced upon farm ranks next in importance to saving the crops which spring from the soil. If crops were allowed to decay in the field, the waste involved, both of time and money, would be more evident. With manure, the case has been quite different, so far as the rank and file of farmers has been concerned. Until comparatively recent years, indifference to the proper handling of manure was largely a matetr of ignorance. Fortunately, this no longer can serve as an excuse. In most cases, nowadays, it is lack of thrift which permits valuable fertility elements to be lost to the soil. Yet, as already intimated, improvement is on the way. In more progressive localities manure pits, shelters and storage houses are becoming fairly common. In days to come, no doubt, some equipment of this kind will be found upon our farms with the same frequency as is the silo at present in well-developed dairy districts.

One of the best best ways to look upon manure is to associate it closely with the feed that is consumed by farm animals. In these days of high feed costs, there is no better means of visualizing the potential value of a pile of barnyard waste than to see it in the field of grain, hay and corn which it represents. Soils are valuable in proportion to what they will produce. These, in turn, are of worth in close ratio to their efficiency in maintaining animal life and promoting animal growth. As a basis for both of these considerations there are a comparatively few, simple chemical elements which are essential in the growth of plants. Without these essential elements, plants cannot grow and without plants, animal life, too, would vanish. It so happens that the earth's store of most of these elements is sufficiently abundant to permit one to regard it as inexhaustible. In the case of two of them nitrogen and phosphorus, this is not the case; in the case of a third, potassium, the supply is ordinarily abundant but it occurs in such an insoluable form as to be unavoidable, in great measure, for plant uses, since these must have their food served to them in the form of "soup"—or, in other words, a watery solution.

Out of the soil, then, plants extract nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium along with the other elements which go to make up plant tissues. The hay, grain, corn and other foods which farm animals consume are valued in terms of these three elements, since it is these that must be available in soils to make them productive. In the processes of digestion and assimilation some portion of these elements is absorbed and goes to form bones and tissues, or to supply the replacement of cells that have been broken up and discarded. Most of the rest is thrown off in the form of excrement—or manure, as the term is used to cover both liquids and solids. One has but to look at an unsightly pile of barnyard waste with the eyes of a chemist to see in it, as indicated, fields of growing crops ready for the harvest or bags of high-priced mill feeds and other foodstuffs essential to animals upon the farm.

A Valuable Element.

Not everyone realizes to what a large extent these three important fertility elements, which lend most value to foodstuffs of various kinds, reappear in the manure of farm animals. The amount will vary with different sorts of animals and with animals of different ages. It will vary under different feeding systems, but with cows, for instance, some 40 to 60 per cent. of the nitrogen [illegible] in the feed will reappear in the manure. From 60 to 80 per cent. of the phosphorus and from 70 to 85 per cent. of the potassium, likewise, will reappear. When the high valuation placed upon feeds in considered, it requires no argument to press home the fact that barn waste, measured in fertility terms, is a product of no small importance—for by its use, the same elements may be made to do duty over again in the growing of more crops and in the feeding of more farm animals.

The conservation of manures centers in the handling of these wastes in such a manner that the three elements in question may be returned to the soil with the least possible waste of deterioration. It is not possible to get the manure back to the soil under the best of farm practice without some loss taking place. It is possible, however, under proper management to conserve from 70 to 75 per cent. of it. Under average conditions probably only about 50 per cent is saved, while in thousands of instances manure no doubt loses close to 75 per cent of its fertilizing agents before it is returned to the soil from whence these originally came.

In the handling of manure, the most efficient method is to return it directly to the soil as rapidly as it is produced. The daily distribution of farm wastes is also a labor-saving proposition, for when manure is deposited directly in the manure spreader and taken to the fields as fast as it accumulates the rehandling involved in storage is eliminated. The daily distribution, however, involves a certain amount of system not only in the doing of work about the place, but in so making plans for the distribution that some portion of the farm, either summer or winter, is available for the waste. This last is easily possible, especially if pastures and meadows be included in the early spring and there be clover or other sod available during such periods that the plowed land cannot be given attention. When manure is distributed in a thin, even layer upon the surface there will result no loss to the soil either from leaching or heating. Rain will carry the soluable elements directly into the soil where they belong while sun light will eliminate heating due to the fact that bacterial action, to which this is due, will be checked. With manure distributed in this fashion plowing if necessary, can await the opportune time so far as the manure itself is concerned.

The daily distribution of manure, while excellent in theory, is not always easy to carry on for months at a stretch. Illness, shortage of help and inclement weather are apt to cause the best of plans in this regard to go glimmering. Consequently, some provision for the storage of manure for temporary periods is almost a necessity on farms where any considerable number of animals are maintained. Various means have been devised to meet this need. Chiefly, such may be classified in three ways—manure pits, houses and shelters. All of them aim to accomplish the same results, namely to prevent leaching and heating, which are two avenues by which fertility elements make their best escape from any sort of manure.

Best Way to Build.

The manure pit, of course, relies upon the use of concrete to withstand the seepage to which the ordinary barnyard manure pile is subject. It is constructed both with and without roof covering. The first pits were open to the sky and reliance was placed upon natural precipitation being sufficient to keep the waste moist and thus prevent heating. Two objections have been raised against the unsheltered pit—both of which are valid. In the first place precipitation is apt to be irregular and the waste in the upper part of the pit becomes "fire fanged." Secondly, an extreme amount of rain falling into a pit renders it a difficult task to remove the contents. This last can be overcome by the installation of a cistern into which all the liquids drain. These are usually distributed by a tank waggon. However, this necessitates the handling of considerable extra rain water, which adds no fertility to the soil. The best pit is one equipped with a roof shelter and a cistern. The waste can then be kept moist by pumping from the cistern and its condition is at all times under control.

The manure house is virtually a covered pit wherein the sides have been walled up. It possesses no advantages over the former save that it may be more readily screened, to do away with flies, if this is desired. The manure shelter is a simple roof covering, either with or without a concrete flooring. For storage of small amounts of manure the are very effective and not much loss of fertility will occur for the reason that leaching is eliminated and the shade retards drying. The pile of waste can be kept moist if it is held any considerable time. In this way air is excluded and the bacteria which cause heating are denied the oxygen upon which they depend in order to carry on their work.

On some farms a small pit, consisting of a cement floor and a retaining wall, is built at the point where stable clearings are thrown outside the barn. This is more apt to be the case where horses, rather than cows are stabled. Such a receptacle makes for neatness and conservation both. As it is under the eaves of the barn, a gutter is usually provided to care for the wash of the roof. Since it is quite shallow it is no difficult task to shovel its contents into a wagon or spreader standing there idle while the concrete floor [illegible] of straw out of the shovel.