

**THE JARVIS RECORD**

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**Home Is Needed**

Madison county needs a children's home under the Children's Aid society. There are several children in the county and some of them in Walpole township without proper homes. In extreme cases the Children's Aid society has to remove those children and even then often has to place them in homes that are little better than those from which they were taken. And the expense is much greater than if the county maintained a home for such children.

Plans for such a home have been often discussed before. It seemed at one time as if it was not far distant. Then the court house at Cayuga burned and the matter was dropped. It was felt that a double building program would be too expensive. Still delay in building a home is costing more than is saved by waiting.

The children in the county should be the first care of the public. They are unable to help themselves. They are not to blame for the conditions in which they are placed. Sometimes brought into the world by weak-minded parents and themselves weak-minded, some of them are far from welcome in any private home in the county. There is a home for mental defectives at Orillia, but children under seven years old will not be admitted there. Again it is so overcrowded that it is impossible to obtain admittance for any but extreme cases.

The children must be given all the chance possible. If they are mentally weak they should be at least cared for in a proper manner. It is a work for the county. The home should be provided without delay not only for the sake of the children but also because of the financial advantage to be gained by forsaking the present system of putting the children in any private home where often the price of their maintenance is high.

**Safety For All**

"Safety for all" appears to be a most desirable slogan in this day and generation when too many chances are taken by the average individual. Increased safety is a demand that should be made by modern industry, as accidents reported to our Provincial Compensation Board have shown a very large increase in 1923 over the same period in 1922; in fact, each month in 1923 so far has averaged nearly 1,000 more accidents than in 1922. This must give considerable food for thought to management and men, for both employer and employee stand to lose time and money by the preventable accidents occurring in industry today. It has been truly said "accidents do not happen, they are caused," and in many cases it must be apparent that certain conditions or practices are bound to lead to accidents. For this reason those vitally interested in industry in Canada, and that means all of us in the country, should take a share in securing greater safety for all.

**Gilding Refined Gold**

Although the world, in the persons of our own and others' readers, has had some fairly hard knocks since 1914, there are sometimes compensations, and this world is given blessings that it never dreamed to have. Gold fields are discovered, beneficent inventions are developed, and sometimes there are cases of gifts pure and simple which proves no more precious than they are surprising. Of these, one is conveyed in an advertisement of Mr. H. G. Wells, who is at once and in stout type announced as "The World's Leader of Thought." Many in this world who had cast about for such an one can now be content for what they sought has been given them. The world's leader of thought is Mr. H. G. Wells,

and though it may surprise some to be told this, the matter appears to be definitely settled. The ill-natured or the hypercritical might say that such attribution took a good deal for granted, but they are not fat men who sleep of nights.

To the ordinary man who has but pedestrian attainments, to be the world's leader of thought would be rather an awful and a great responsibility, but there is a portrait of Mr. Wells accompanying the words we have quoted, and it shows him calm and brave and steady. He will not sink beneath this burden—he has outdistanced Margaret Fuller, and far from accepting the universe so unoriginal as accepting it. That may come later. In the meantime and while digesting this leadership, we ask, What is a leader of thought? and confess that so far as we know there have not been many such in this world of thinking bipeds. There are plenty who would influence the world's thinking. Of these there never seems to be any lack; but the men and women who lead the world to right thinking or towards it—these are not countable by scores. When to a writer is attributed such leadership, the first question always must be, To what thinking does this leader bring the world? Has he lifted us a little or much out of the rut of matter? Has he let in on us the sweet air of goodness and that purity which the world is sometimes a little ashamed? Nothing, to be sure, is new, but has this leader led our thinking to results that seem new and so encourage us?

With all the desire in the world to be courteous to a distinguished author, and especially calling your attention to the fact that his great sales and equal popularity make him none the less excellent, we venture to hope that what we have quoted is to be credited to the impulsive enthusiasm of an admirer rather than to the conviction of the admired. It is a heavy thing to be "the world's leader of thought," and not lightly to be mentioned, although as we have intimated, Mr. Wells may feel equal to the position.

**A Great Temptation**

It is only those who are without imagination, and have no desire for any, who have never in their civil lives at some time wished for a dictatorship, of themselves, of someone else, of a day's or ten years' duration. "The short, sharp way" has great temptations for all who do not pattern their conduct on that of Job. We read in the dispatches that the military directorate in Spain has decided to expel thirty-one leading politicians, and we think wistfully on what a good time some such body could have on this side of the water. Not so long ago we were reading, at least with sympathy, of Signor Mussolini's short, sharp way with ward politicians and revolutionaries; we had to admit that the malady had called for a rough medicine and were content to see it applied. We could even control our emotions at the sight of thirty-one of the leading politicians being shut out of Paradise, though we but hazard the exact number. But the fundamental defect of dictators and dictative bodies is that there is nothing fundamental about them. They are stop-gaps at best, and too often something much more disheartening; to wit, the virtual confession that a people is incapable of governing itself. As soon as this is reached, the Tory and the Radical alike feel the loosening beneath their feet.

Dictators are useful for the moment, but they are "gey ill to live wi," and a country's life goes on for many moments. "Do this and he doeth it" is a comfortable scheme so long as it works, but when he stops doing it, you must look about for a new and improved dictatorship with more horse power and more impressiveness than the last. It would be unwise to pretend that a dictatorship has sometimes cauterized wounds in the body politic that would not staunch, but you cannot be forever doing this, when what is needed is construction. It may seem hard to doubt that this expedient is neces-

ary, but this question will be settled there is anything more costly to a state. Napoleon first plan was headed by France when he came into the open space before the Church of St. Roch; in much less than a generation the same France was headed by the aid of that same Napoleon. They are temptations, these dictatorships, but generally they cover as much as charity and do not, in the language of the movie director, stand many "retakes."

**Facts and Fancies**

**Book Mutilation**  
Wagg—Say! more than one person has been guilty of mutilating the books I lent them, but my latest experience caps the climax.  
Wagg—What was it?  
Wagg—I lent Blank my dictionary last week and yesterday he returned it without a word.

**Giving Him First Chance**  
"You've got plenty of nerve. The idea of stealing my chickens and then trying to sell them to me."  
"Well, sah, I thought you'd pay a better price for chickens you'd raised yourself. You'd know what you're sayin'."

**Qualified**  
Professor—If a person in good health but who imagined himself sick, would send for you, what would you do?  
Medical student—Give him something to make him sick and then administer an antidote.

**His Mind on Baseball**  
Music teacher—Why don't you stop? Those marks mean get.  
Johnny—What's the use of restin'—let's get through with it.

**High Cost of Living**  
Wife—Oh, Richard, baby swallowed a quarter today.  
Hub—Can't you give him a less expensive diet?

**Cure Sufficient**  
Nexdore—My chimney has been smoking all day. How can I cure it?  
Naybor—Give it one of those cigars, you gave me the other day.

**Depressing Handicap**  
In a Sunday school examination paper a question ran: "What effect did the Ten Commandments have on the children of Israel?"  
One boy's answer was: "The Ten Commandments made the Children of Israel very miserable."

**Imported Joke**  
Snob (at resort)—Hotel life is so intimate; one speaks to people that one wouldn't dream of noticing in ordinary life.  
Lady (the real article)—Oh, well, I don't suppose they mind much.

**Do Teeth Smile?**  
From a story—"She was wonderfully expressive with her smiling, flashing teeth. She seemed to have discovered the art of using teeth for something besides eating." Discovered it, forsooth! Man alive, the art was old in Cleopatra's time.

**AIR VS. EXERCISE**

One great difference between outdoor air and indoor air is that the first circulates freely, and the second is stagnant. Another difference is that floods of sunshine constantly cleanse outdoor air of its impurities, but most rooms get very little of that useful commodity. Many persons who visit the physician with complaints of poor digestion and anaemia, declare that they are active all day long, and that going out for walks is the last thing they need. They might be right about the amount of exercise they get, but people constantly fall sick in spite of plenty of exercise in the house, and get well again with a little outdoor exercise. A certain amount of active work about a house is good for everyone, but there ought to be some daily outdoor life as well.

It does not follow that outdoor life ought to include violent exercise, or even any exercise at all. Why should the housemother be told that she cannot keep well unless she dresses up in walking clothes and take a long walk after a fatiguing morning of physical labor in the house? Tired people should do their resting in the open air. There are very few days in the year when a person who is warmly wrapped up cannot sit with comfort in a sheltered sunny corner. Every one knows how babies thrive

when they take their naps outdoors; the principle applies to the adult also. It is a matter of scientific record that people whose daily occupation obliges them to sit in the open air—such as market women, attendants at bazaars and newspaper sellers—are robust people, who do not take cold easily. Yet it is probable that few people take less exercise.

Let it be understood that this is not at all an argument against physical exercise. That is not only excellent, but in most cases necessary. But you need not forego both air and exercise because you cannot conveniently have both; open air life without exercise is much more healthful than indoor life with it.

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