

COMMENT AND DISCOMMENT

Having experienced the abiding joy of keeping up a column or two ourselves, Bert Leston Taylor's "Columbian's Confessional," published in one of the big magazines a week or so ago, struck our minds with something more than the usual dull thud. Mr. Taylor, who is more easily recognized by his initials, B. L. T., runs a column, "A Line o' Type or Two," in the Chicago Tribune, which in turn syndicates the dope to a large number of the big dailies, and B. L. T. is really better known than Finley Peter Dunne and, if the truth be known, considerably easier to read.

After expressing due appreciation of the contributors to his column—and there are simply hordes of them, B. L. T. interviews himself. Some of the questions and answers are worth reproducing:

Q. How many letters do you receive a day? A. Normally from eighty to a hundred. If there is some silly competition going on, the number jumps. If the competition is uncommonly silly, it snows contributions.

Q. Do you invent those paragraphs from country newspapers? A. You flatter me.

Q. Do the country editors mind? A. Rarely. They know that I used to be one of them, and that I believe that if Candide had not taken to gardening he would have become a country editor.

Q. Why don't you write serious stuff oftener? A. Too rich a diet for the reader. He needs a certain amount of "roughening."

Q. When are you going to get out another collection of your inimitable verse? A. Probably this fall.—Adv.

Q. What do you consider the best feature of your column? A. Its typographical arrangement.

Q. What is your honest opinion of what you have so wittily termed "the so-called human race"? A. If I have had a good sleep I am willing to admit that there may be a deadlier species in the universe.

Q. Are you fond of art? A. I perfectly love it.

Q. Do you ever get tired of running the column? A. What good would that do?

Q. How do you keep it up? A. I lean against it.

Are you still possessed of a thirst? If so, and your cellar is empty and the bootleggers have either been jailed or moved out of your neighborhood, you will be interested in "On Uncle Sam's Water Wagon," written by a woman. It is not, as one might fear, a dissertation on prohibition and the good effects thereof, but is an effort by Helen Watkeys Moore, the author, to come to the rescue of those who yearn for something that will take the parch out of the human throat.

Helen does not go so far as the authors of some books. In the whole volume of a hundred odd pages there is not a single recipe for home brew, and while we fear this may cause some of the men to turn away in disgust, others will turn its pages with avidity, seeking at least one recipe out of the five hundred that will be fit to drink. It is, perhaps, unfortunate, that the book contains such

drinks as "Castor Oil and Sarsaparilla," but after having tasted some of the home brew of your friends, that drink will sound appetizing. This is what Maurice F. Egan, formerly United States minister to Denmark, but recently author of "Every Man His Own Cook," has to say of it:

"The volume contains five hundred recipes for 'delicious drinks which can be made at home.' There is no doubt about the attractiveness of this admirably arranged little book; but why does it open naturally at an 'invalid drink' named 'Castor-oil and Sarsaparilla'? It has an air of melancholy, though on the next page one finds a brilliant 'Cranberry Cordial.' No matter how appetizing the chapter on 'Fruit Drinks and Cider' may seem, it can never approach the vividness and authority of the three-hundredth edition of the 'Bartender's Guide for Making a Hundred and Fifty Cocktails!' Still, nothing that can be done without the aid of the Demon Rum is omitted. Mrs. Moore's treatment of ginger ale and ginger shows great discrimination and a fine imagination, and her recipes for making chocolate are as satisfactory as if they were the work of a Mexican chef. There is a bewildering array of certain popular mixtures called 'Sundae's' and a distinguished maple sirup which would be an ornament to any table. Mrs. Moore tries to be gay and to give an air of festivity to her masterpiece; but even the abandon of her 'Grape High-Ball' cannot restore lost illusions."

"Pussyfoot" Johnson, who is now in England, busily engaged at the work that is at once his pastime and his

avocation, that of making the world dry, is in for a disappointment. He had entertained hopes of making the Englishman forswear his brandy and soda, the Scotchman his Scotch and the Canadian his Canadian Club. He may be successful in England and France, but he is simply "out of luck" in Canada. The wily Canadian have found a shield and armor that will protect them from a thousand Pussyfoots.

Travelers recently returned from western Canada bring cheering news to the thirsty souls who have been depressed by the recent press dispatches from that part of the neighboring domination to the effect that the American drought was in danger of spreading to that area. These press dispatches told of various forms of prohibition measures being voted on in the northwest, says a press dispatch.

According to these travelers, western Canada, from Hudson bay to Vancouver, will remain wet for a long time to come, 98 years and 10 months to be exact. This situation is due to a charter granted the Hudson Bay Co., by his Hanoverian majesty, George III toward the end of the 18th century. This charter not only gave to the gentlemen adventurers securing it the right to barter for furs and skins in the wilderness, but also bestowed on them the power to distill and dispense strong waters on the premises of their trading posts for all the years the charter ran. This charter was recently extended some years by the king of England and cannot be cancelled, annulled or even curtailed until 2018.

The question, as a result of the recent prohibition elections in several of the provinces of western Canada, will be fought out in the highest courts of the Dominion and then taken to London for action by the law lords of the British empire, with the lord high chancellor presiding.

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