

AN ENGLISH ELECTION.

Some Campaign Incidents Which Relieve Seriousness.

A general election is the nearest approach among our English cousins to our quadrennial Presidential contests, but in English as in American campaigns incidents crop up which add to the gaiety of the electorate and tend to relieve the serious side of the issues.

In September or October the first real skirmish takes place, when the lawyers appointed to revise the register hold courts to decide upon disputed claims. Each side watches the process, and no effort is spared to defend or impugn a doubtful vote. A technical error in filling up a form, a doubt as to the value of a lodger's premises—any possible flaw is eagerly debated. Experienced election agents say that a contest is often lost or won in the registration court.

When the mutations of Parliamentary life point to a speedy call for a new House of Commons, political activity becomes general throughout the country. The campaign just closing opened with "keynote" addresses by the

to give you a message it is this. "Learn to eat imperially!"

Another pictorial campaign device was the extensive use of picture postcards. Taking advantage of this craze, candidates often succeeded in introducing picture postals into households where printed speeches and other literature would have gone promptly into the fire. One London firm alone is reported as having sold more than half a million political cards, of which at least two hundred and fifty thousand were intended for distribution by candidates for Parliament as handbill cartoons.

Some of the candidates' appeals to the humbler class of citizens were of an elementary nature. Childish admonitions like "Vote for White and a big loaf," or "Vote for Black and a big joint," or "Higher wages," were abundantly distributed in poor neighborhoods. Even an East Side New-York politician would hardly venture to make such bald requests for support, unless he meant to furnish the loaf and joint himself. But some districts of London are so paved with want that only an appeal to hungry stomachs can be sure of a response.

The peculiar weapons of political offence—namely, horseflesh sausages imported from the Continent, which were exhibited by a Free

heckle the speaker, but veteran debaters are always ready with adroit replies to pertinent questions. Sometimes these are ridiculous, as in the case of a City man who was put up in a country constituency at the last election and was asked how much milk a cow should give daily. For a moment the man from the Stock Exchange was nonplussed. Then he slid out of his difficulty by replying, "That depends how far the farmer is from the village pump."

DUELS IN AMERICA.

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Secretary Berthelov of the Marine Bureau, with whom he had a disagreement upon some question of policy in the local administration, and who touched him in the shoulder, escaping unharmed himself. M. Le Gasse has also had the distinction of wounding a naval lieutenant, a commander of gendarmerie and an artillery captain.

As elsewhere, many of the duels fought in St. Pierre are about the fair sex, for with a town of only six thousand five hundred inhabitants, and the majority fisherfolk, the aristocracy is limited in number, the belles are comparatively few, and when the small coterie of eligible gallants have to face the overpowering competition of an onrush of naval officers in all the bravery of gold and lace while the squadron makes its headquarters here every summer it is not surprising that there should be quarrels and cartels, disagreements and duels.

The favorite spot for all the duels fought in St. Pierre is a stretch of level sandy beach on the west side of the islet, which is less than three miles wide. The town is situated on the eastern face, and a fine road stretches across

considered. Among the inducements offered were that St. Pierre would reduce the duty on Newfoundland cordage, footwear, tobacco, butterine, soap, clothing and other necessities for the Pierrois fisherfolk, it being also suggested that St. Pierre would be willing to administer its customs and marine regulations so stringently as virtually to shut out the American fishermen, who now use it as a baiting and smuggling base, if Newfoundland would consider more favorable treatment of French fisherfolk in the matter of bait, now that there is an entente cordiale. From this it is evident that M. Le Gasse is a duellist as much to be dreaded in the arena of commerce as on the field of honor, and is as skilful in conducting a business warfare as in wielding the weapons of a French gentleman.

SILK FROM SPIDERS.

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several hundred spiders, but the natives have learned that it is unwise to capture more than fifty at a time, and these should be taken from one part of the grove, as the "halabes" spin in clans and each clan or tribe keeps to itself. In and about one clump of mangoes will be found a certain tribe of spiders living in comparative peace and not more than fifty feet away will be spinning another clan, a deadly enemy to the first. If these separate and warring tribes are packed in the same basket, trouble results. Captured in the early morning, the spiders are sleepy and less antagonistic than when disturbed in the heat of the day, after they have taken up their activities.

The silk worm uses its silk for the cocoon, whereas the spider uses its valuable thread in weaving its web. Therefore, it is necessary to draw the silk from the "halabe" in life, if an even thread is to be secured. In order to accomplish this satisfactorily, the Madagascar spiders are housed in a peculiar way, both at the school and at the factory. Comfortable and scientific homes, which greatly resemble a case of pigeonholes, have been built for them. Into each compartment is placed a spider, and far from showing any sign of loneliness, they seem to enjoy their lofty seclusion, for they spin quite contentedly in their separate compartments, when in the mood, but a sudden, unusual noise or a decided change in the weather will be sufficient to send them all into sulks and stop their looms.

When healthy and happy, one spider will yield about 14,000 yards of silk a month, given one winding each week. If taxed to their fullest capacity for longer than three months at a time they weaken and die from overwork. The Madagascar girls have a delicate but sure touch. One girl usually works one entire box of twenty-five spiders at a time. This is done by lightly touching each insect in turn, then slowly and evenly, without trembling or jerky movements, withdrawing the hand. The fine, silky thread clings to the fingers and is carried to a mechanical twister, from which it is sent to a wheel, and from here the spinning goes on in the usual manner. The thread thus obtained from the "halabe" is of the finest quality, shining like gold.

AN HONEST MAN—NEW SCHOOL.

Cassius R. Peck, Assistant United States District Attorney of Oklahoma, at a banquet in Guthrie recently spoke on honesty. One thing he said was this:

"What are we coming to? Are we coming to such a pass that our ideas of an honest man will correspond with the idea of old Hiram Stroode?"

"Hiram Stroode, for the seventh time, was about to fail. He called in an expert accountant to disentangle his books. The accountant, after two days' work, announced to Hiram that he would be able to pay his creditors four cents on the dollar.

"At this news the old man looked vexed. 'Heretofore,' he said, frowning, 'I have always paid 10 cents on the dollar.'

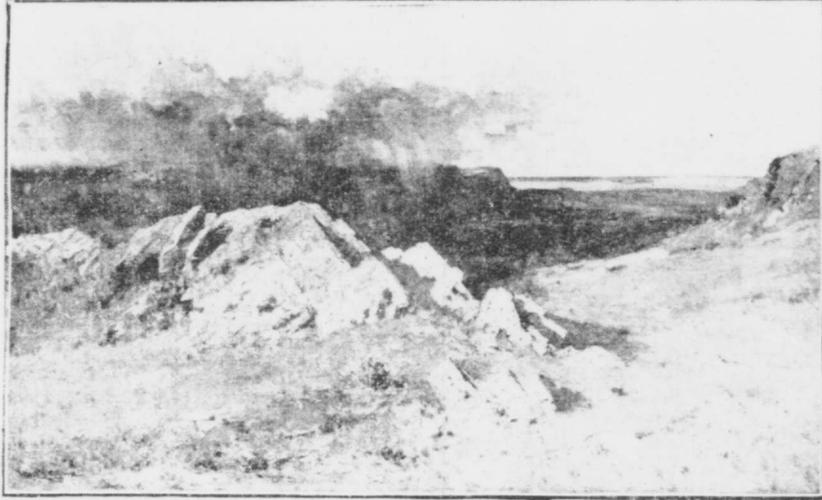
"A virtuous and benevolent expression spread over his face.

"And I will do so now," he resumed. 'I will make up the difference out of my own pocket.'"

Advertisement for Superfluous Hair removal. Includes a portrait of a woman and text: "Superfluous Hair positively permanently removed. CURS GUARANTEED. Free trial treatment at office demonstrating latest scientific method. Registered 1905, Washington, NO ELECTRICITY OR POISONS. Sample package \$1. Mme. MAYME, face specialist, 320 Fifth Ave., 32nd St. Tel. 6557 Mad. Sq."

Advertisement for ALL SUPERFLUOUS HAIR. Includes two portraits of women and text: "RADICALLY DESTROYED MME. JULIAN'S SPECIFIC is the only unflinching remedy. 36 years' experience. Protected by law. Trial treatment at office, \$1. Beware imitations. No connection with any other person. Mme. Julian, 123 5th ave."

Advertisement for RECKWELL, Specialist in Hair COLORING. Includes a portrait of a woman and text: "Specialist in Hair COLORING, 123 W. 42d St. Tel. 833 Bryant. Harmless vegetable process, guaranteed not to turn green or yellow. Easily applied; does not rub off. Marcel Waving, Swedish Facial and Scalp Massage. MANUFACTURER of finest human hair goods for 30 years. Mail orders filled."



THE PASSING SHOWER, NEWPORT. By R. Swain Gifford, N. A.



THE YOUNG SHEPHERD. By G. S. Truesdell.

Selections from collections of the works of these two artists which are to be sold at the American Art Galleries on the evening of February 1.

leaders of the two parties before large London audiences.

Attendance at these meetings was restricted to ticket holders. Nearly one hundred thousand applications were said to have been received for tickets to the great Liberal demonstrations just before Christmas in Albert Hall, a huge building seating about nine thousand persons. When the meeting began the house was consequently filled with partisans of the speaker, who vented their feelings and whiled away the hour of waiting by hearty singing of pointed political rhymes, some set to well known American tunes. Thus "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching" became "Stamp, stamp, stamp upon protection," and "Old Black Joe" furnished the air for this doleful refrain about Mr. Chamberlain:

Gone are the days when I beat my little drum. Gone are the days when I made the bullets hum; My store of tricks is running very low, I hear their angry voices calling "No more, Joe!"

Large numbers of women attend these meetings, from the wives and daughters of the leaders who sit on the platform and fashionable beauties in the boxes to young girls of the working class and woman suffragists, who try to interrupt and are sometimes suppressed in a rougher manner than an American likes to think would be used here. A woman interrupter in Manchester recently was told to "go and get married." More men are to be seen at English meetings in evening dress than would show their "boiled" shirts at American assemblages.

Poster cartoons appeared everywhere in the late campaign in Great Britain, and were employed to an extent never thought of before. Tons of pictorial ammunition were spread broadcast throughout the constituencies, ornamenting dead walls, giving variety to billboards, filling committee room windows and even being stuck up in front of private houses. These posters were printed in eye attracting colors; each presented as a rule few figures and one idea, worded so simply a child could take in the argument. Some were genuinely humorous, and the picture campaign is said to have proved more effective in some localities than a flood of speeches. One Conservative artist took a hint from Homer Davenport's much admired "He's Good Enough for Me" of the last Presidential campaign, but instead of Uncle Sam and President Roosevelt, John Bull was to be seen indorsing Mr. Balfour's administration with the same words.

A popular pictorial poster among Liberals was one showing Mr. Chamberlain as the little boy blowing bubbles. The bubble of protection was in the air, while "old age pensions" and "three acres and a cow" were bubbles which had just burst. Another Liberal cartoon construed Mr. Chamberlain's famous utterance, "Learn to think imperially," into "Learn to eat imperially." The statesman is represented as a baker offering a small loaf to a widow and starving child, with the characteristic remark "If I might venture

Trade candidate in the window of his headquarters in a thoroughfare of cheap stores, marked "7 1/2d. per pound"—led a zealous constable, of the other party presumably, to apply for a summons against the candidate because he had not carried out the requirements of the Horseflesh act of 1889 and stated in letters not less than four inches deep that the sausages were of horseflesh. So the candidate had to explain to a magistrate that the sausages were exhibited for political purposes only and were not for sale.

Another peculiar campaign exhibit was a theatrical "super" with painted face, a pigtail and coolie costume, who accompanied a London candidate, making speeches on the question of Chinese labor in the Transvaal. An ingenious country candidate made speeches into a phonograph to be taken among those electors he could not address personally. Another, charged with using a motor car built abroad, displayed during the canvass a huge "Made in England" sign on his automobile. A white goat was seen in North London one day bearing a request chalked in red on both the animal's sides to vote for a certain local candidate.

As is well known, women play no small part in British electioneering. Candidates' wives often accomplish as much as their husbands in canvassing for votes. Some lively comment was caused by the action of the fair life partner of a South London candidate who drove up to a party of forty or fifty workmen as the men stopped for lunch. Immediately they crowded around her.

"Will you give us a kiss if we all vote for your husband?" asked one of the bold ones.

"Which one is foreman?" asked the woman, equal to the emergency. The foreman stepped forward. "Smack!" resounded the salute. "Now just pass that around," added the woman; "I'm not going to kiss you all."

At many election meetings it is customary to

to the remoter shore. Here the duellists retire for the performance of this rite, sanctified as it is by the memories of its continuance in the motherland for centuries. The beach is unpeopled, and rarely is an onlooker about in the early mornings, when these encounters take place. Even the gendarmes are absent, for a French gendarme is the last man to disturb such an engagement, and the fisher folk take no interest in these essentially "gentlemanly" pastimes.

M. Le Gasse left St. Pierre shortly after New Year's for Paris to participate in the election of the new President of the republic and the deliberations of the Colonial Council, to which he is the Pierrois delegate. It is rumored in St. Pierre that while there he will challenge an Angevin Deputy who during the debate on the Anglo-French fishery agreement of last year, which terminated in the French Shore difficulty, questioned the honesty of the representations made by M. Le Gasse on behalf of the fishery interests of St. Pierre, as to the damage this accord would do them and the people of the colony.

M. Le Gasse is not in appearance any way like the accepted type of duellist or fire eater. Thin, slight and rather bloodless in color, quick and nervous in movement, his whole aspect betokening the student rather than the man of affairs, he is about the last person whom one would suspect of such pugnacious characteristics. M. Le Gasse, however, is not only aggressive in this wise, but in business also. While in St. John's, N. F., on his way to France, he approached the Newfoundland Ministry and Chamber of Commerce with a proposal for an Anglo-French fish trust on the lines of that already organized by him at St. Pierre, with the idea of enabling Miquelon and Newfoundland to combine and thereby dictate the price of codfish in the markets of the world. The scheme is a Napoleonic one and is being carefully