

Pastures infected with Canadian this-
He should only be cut under Government
inspection. The noxious weeds trouble
must be faced. Farmers were put to
much trouble to obtain good seed.—*Mrs.
Ngata, M.P.*

He hoped someone could suggest a sys-
tem by which the identification of sheep
could be made quickly while the sheep
were in the race. It needed to run 900
combinations, and these could be used in
one large district, and duplicated in an-
other where there was no danger of the
duplicated marks coming into contact.
He had not much hope of finding a sys-
tem which would keep pace with the
enormous multiplicity of transfers of
stock.—*Hon. R. McNab.*

The Socialists in Japan seem to be
definitely organised. Discontent is every-
where, and is becoming more intense.
Agitators speak unceasingly of the peo-
ple's rights and do not mention duties.—
Count Vay de Vaya.

The workers have had their position
very materially improved during the past
10 or 12 years. But there is growing in
our midst an importation from Germany
originally and latterly brought in from
Australia, who are now trying to upset
everything that has been done, and be-
cause I won't fall in with them and say
that their lines are my lines, of course I
am everything that is bad.—*Hon. J. A.
Millar.*

If the Council thought it was, by resolu-
tion, going to make God-fearing people
of all citizens it made a great mistake.
—*Mr. Patterson, Auckland City Council.*

In Sydney, since the fences had been
removed, and the Sydney Domain and
Hyde Park lighted at night, those places
had lost their evil reputation after dark.
His own experience was that the less re-
striction put upon the public in such
matters the more they appreciated the
privileges.—*Dr. Purdy.*

Your houses here are just about equal
to those erected in the more respectable
portion of the East End of London; even
Bromley can beat anything you have got
here.—*Lord Plunket.*

The only human agency capable of
seriously delaying the realisation of the
hopes of Home Rule was dissension
among themselves.—*Mr. John Redmond.*

In its aspirations towards a more el-
evated ideal of social life, in its efforts
to establish public instruction on prin-
ciples of morality and justice, and in its
ambition to instil in the minds of the
young a nobler idea of their duties, Japan
offers an example worthy of being fol-
lowed by many other nations.—*Count
Vay de Vaya.*

I do not intend, so long as I occupy
the honourable position in which I have
been placed, to allow any of these ex-
tremists to influence me in any way at
all. I am not going to be influenced in
doing a single thing which I do not
think is for the benefit of the country.—
Hon. J. A. Millar.

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The Club Smoking Room

By HAVANA

THE cynic seemed to regard our po-
litical member with a genuine
and affectionate interest. At
last he asked him what he had
on his head. The politician
patted his scanty locks, and his bald
crown carefully and tenderly, but, fail-
ing to discover anything, he rose reluc-
tantly from his comfortable arm-chair,
and surveyed himself in the glass. This
proving no more satisfactory, he asked
the first speaker what he meant.

"I was not quite certain," replied the
cynic, "but I thought I saw signs of a
halo forming round your head. You
political people are making us all so
pious by Act of Parliament, that I am
daily hoping to see you all develop wings,
and fly far away. A wicked monster
was heavily fined the other day for
publishing a tip for a horse race. He
should have been sent to gaol. Now, I
rejoice to see that you are bent on pre-
venting that much-harassed individual,
the bona-fide traveller, obtaining the
harmless but necessary cup of tea on
the Sabbath. But, why stop here? Why
not legislate against the hot Sunday din-
ner? Look at the work it gives, con-
sider the washing up of greasy plates
afterwards, and the bad language used
by the head of the house if the cook
should happen to have burnt the joint.
People should be made to subsist on a
bun and a glass of milk, and, instead
of gadding about, they should be taught
to find what pleasure they want in read-
ing the 'Sunday at Home.'"

"I think," put in the journalist, "that
we badly want a law to prevent a man
kissing a girl unless he is engaged to
her. The habit of promiscuous kissing
is one of the crying evils of the day.
It can only be stopped by the most dra-
matic legislation, and the severest punish-
ment, being meted out to offenders. Our
legislators have been criminally careless
in neglecting to deal with this hideous
form of moral corruption. I would sug-
gest that upon conviction the culprit be
ordered to kiss ten assorted members of
the Pious Females' Association. The
selection of the females to be left to the
discretion of the magistrate, according
to the heinousness of the original of-
fence. The alternative should be ten
years' hard labour.

"Give me the alternative," quoth the
sporting youth. "We are going clean
crazy with our absurd laws. People
want to prevent us betting on a race,
or watching a boxing match, or having a
split B. and S. If they are so pre-
cious keen on things, why don't they
legislate against women's extravagance
in dress? Many a decent fellow has
had to suffer through his wife's habit
of running up bills to get f-l-l-l-l she
doesn't really want. Talk of a man
wasting money on booze, why many wo-
men spend more on hats alone in a
twelvemonth than most fellows do on
drinks all their life. They want us
to practise total abstinence. Why don't
they start with themselves and their
clothes?"

"Sh!" said the schoolmaster, "such a
suggestion makes me blush. But I
think we ought to have a law regulat-
ing the length of skirt to be worn by
hockey players. It is shocking to read

of skirts eight inches from the ground.
I see that the matter is already being
taken up. Our legislators might im-
port Anthony Comstock as arbitrator.
George Bernard Shaw said of Comstock
that he had spent his life in trying to
keep dark the awful secret that woman
was a biped."

The padre gave a slightly deprecating
cough. "We labour under the delusion,"
he remarked, "that we can make people
good by cleansing the outside of the
cup and of the platter. I don't blame
the many really excellent people who
hold this view. They mean well, and
they are actuated by the highest moti-
ves. But we were warned of old that
the thing is impossible. We only pro-
duce men who are like whitened sculp-
tures if we regulate their outward acts,
and fail to regulate their inner dispo-
sitions. The truest and best way to
conquer evil is to fight it, not to run away
from it. You remember Tennyson's
Northern Cobbler. When he wanted to
conquer drink, he bought a quart bottle
of gin, and stood it where he could see
it every day. "Wouldn't a pint 'a'
served as well as a quart? Naw doubt;
but I liked a bigger feller to fight wi', an'
fowt it out." That is the sort of re-
form we want to encourage, the reform
that lasts."

"I remember," put in the dominie,
"that Gilruth once said that he was
surprised at the number of strong, able-
bodied young fellows who applied to
him to get them Government billets, in-
stead of going on the land and making
their own way. The returns just issued
of the number of Civil servants in the
employ of the State furnish rather a
startling commentary on the veterinar-
ian's remarks. The total number, includ-
ing school teachers and railway em-
ployees, reaches 40,000. That is to say,
that of our entire population one person
in every twenty-five is drawing Govern-
ment pay. The wages paid amount to
over £4,000,000 a year. A speaker re-
cently declared that if everybody receiv-
ing pay from the State was compelled
to wear a uniform, one out of every
five adult males would be so attired."

"That may be so," retorted the school-
master, "but I am sure we earn it. If
your figures are correct the average
rate of wage works out at less than £2
a week per head. That is considerably
under what most trades unions now de-
mand as a living wage. Some fellows
draw good salaries, of course, and have
pretty soft billets, but most of us work
jolly hard and get precious little for
it. I have known men wear their lives
out in teaching up-country schools for a
wage that few crossing-sweepers would
deign to accept. Nor, from all accounts,
does it appear that the railway em-
ployees exactly wallow in luxury. Peo-
ple get an idea that we all live on the
fat of the land, and do precious little
for it."

"Some of the new legislation proposed
to-night," suggested the commercial,
"should open up a few good posts for
inspectors. The journalist might be ap-
pointed to preside over a royal commis-
sion to report on the prevalence of pre-
nuptial kissing, and our sporting friend
might do the same for female extrava-
gance in dress. What I would like
would be a good soft Government bil-

let at a thousand a year and travelling
expenses to supervise an industry for
making smoked glass to observe total
eclipses of the sun visible in New Zea-
land. I might get a chance then to have
a day or two off."

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