

# DIARY 1921

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Crociferia

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CONSUMERS' GAS 4<sup>TH</sup> COLUMN

TO the psalmist's wicked wish that his enemy should write a book, he might have added, had he been aware of that later literary form, "especially a diary." It is in the diary that the writer reveals himself; that is, if it is to be an honest diary. Of course if it is written with the idea that it will be published later on or used as evidence then it sinks to the value of all other fiction. It becomes special pleading. We read one which was the most moving document we ever saw. It was literally a diary, the daily record of a Godly man, sore beset of the events of the day, and concluding usually with "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills whence cometh my help", or other trumpet blasts of courage.

### Failure as Diarist.

Our father used to try to encourage us to keep a diary, and bought us several. The first week in January would be fully reported. For March there would be perhaps half a dozen entries, and not more than a dozen for the rest of the year. Maybe we were lazy—May, let us not qualify this; we are lazy—but maybe we could not convince ourself that what we were thinking and doing was of importance. Perchance we were honest and knew that the things which we thought of most importance were not the stuff that applauded diaries were made of, especially the diaries of juniors. We had never heard then of Samuel Pepys, the world's supreme diarist, who never suspected that a word he set down would ever be read by anybody but himself.

### Danger!

So why adults keep diaries is somewhat mystifying to us. If a man conspicuously moves amid great events, or if he is an observer like White of Selborne; if he is sailing in dangerous waters of which soundings ought frequently to be taken then perhaps a diary may be of great importance. But it seems to us that the average man who keeps a diary faithfully must be pretty well immersed in himself. He is likely to have an undue sense of his importance in the world, and there is just a chance that his diary may make trouble for him some day. The diary confronting the man may destroy his life.

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Went this morning to help Pickford build & started to rain soon after he left and all day so they couldn't work at the cellar taged over till after noon visiting. We thing over here but chores but sat ad most of the time. So night I went boy meeting and then down to the train the train was in at 9.30 and Mary & I gis to stay all night as the walking was turning colder the night.

17<sup>th</sup>

Before Sunday school this morning I went straight here and to church Bishop's secretary was preaching in Mr. as Mary knew him having made his last summer at Lake Couchiching, we & him over to Jack Martin's where he Jack's mother is sick again so ch. Frank stayed down at Auntie's I spent most of the after noon doing