



Portrait of Viscountess Hardinge by Lenare



MAYFAIR'S LETTER FROM OTTAWA

BY RIDEAU

Ottawa, June 1.

POLITICS should save the situation! If it were not for the forthcoming elections, and all the furore preparatory to them, the summer would be over-tranquil in Ottawa. But political gossip leavens conversation these days, and a series of luncheons, receptions and teas with a political flavor is under way. Miss Laura White gave a luncheon for Miss Bennett and her sister at the Country Club the other day; Mrs. Rowley held open house for the young Conservatives, and the home of Hon. Cairine Wilson has been the scene of rallies of young and senior Liberals.

Mr. Harry Southam, presiding genius of the *Citizen*, is slated for the post left vacant by Hon. Vincent Massey, at Washington, at the moment I write, and there is great interest current on that possibility. Ottawa has a lively personal interest in important appointments of this nature as, generally, the individuals concerned are well known locally. Mr. and Mrs. Massey lived here for some years, while Mr. Southam is an *old-timer*. Irrespective of party, the hope is everywhere held that it will materialize for him, and that he will accept it, for he would make an able and charming representative of Canada in the United States. His connection and patronage of art is not generally known. He is chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery, and recently presented a valuable ecclesiastical portrait of the Middle Ages, which is a source of great delight to the authorities, and about which Mr. McCurry tells me every time I call.

Politics, as I say, will give impetus to a season that was slowing down into a peaceful amble; and the prospects for the next month are stimulating. The spring, however, came to a pleasant close; marked by the I.O.D.E. ball, and the party given by the A.D.C.'s in the Quebec suite at the Chateau. Their Excellencies, no whit fatigued, apparently, by their extensive tour of the West, were present at the Laurentian Chapter gathering, and were received by Lady Borden, Lady Perley, and Mrs. H. A. K. Drury, the regent. Lord Willingdon led the way to supper in the Jasper Room with Mrs. Drury, followed by Her Excellency with Sir Robert Borden. The ball was the occasion for a number of merry dinner parties, Mrs. Fauquier, Mrs. Rowley, Mrs. R. M. Courtney, being among those to provide a pleasant prelude to the festivities.

It brings to mind the early days of the Order, when the Ottawa chapter came into being, and when it did so much to hearten the soldiers on their way overseas. Lady Borden, Mrs. Crombie, Lady Perley, and many of the other older members remember many quaint incidents. "Who that beheld it will ever forget the first knitting lessons given to the firemen in the stations at Ottawa," writes one. "With what grimness of expression and rigidity of spinal column they wrestled over the intricacies of casting on the stitches, training fingers that were strong to be deft also, and striving to comprehend the mysterious formula of *purl and plain*. They achieved proficiency with amazing rapidity, however, and over a thousand pairs of well-finished socks went overseas as the result of their labors."

Top: Viscountess Hardinge with her little son, Henry Nicholas Paul. Lady Hardinge is the former Margot Fleming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Fleming, of Wemyss, Rockcliffe, Ottawa. Lord Hardinge is a former A.D.C., to His Excellency the Governor-General. Lower picture: Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Rochester, of Ottawa, snuggled at Cannes, France

BUT the bewilderment of the firemen of fifteen years ago could be nothing to that of inexperienced guests at the luncheon party given at the *Capendish* by Li Tchuin, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul General of China, to Dr. Teyhi Hsieh. Food was prepared Chinese fashion and eaten with chopsticks. Mr. Arthur Beauchesne, K.C. [See also page 96]

At right: Mrs. George Cumpston, of Toronto, who before her recent marriage was Elizabeth Meredith Ramsay, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Ramsay, of Toronto, and granddaughter of the late Chief Justice Sir William and Lady Meredith. Mr. Cumpston is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Basil Cumpston



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