THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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F. J. THURSTON, Editor.

VANDELEUR

The Christmas entertainment held in the school Friday evening, Dec. 19th, was a real success in every particular. A splendid program of songs, recitations, dialogues, drills, etc., was given by the pupils. There was also a couple of short plays by the young people of the community. Following the program Santa Claus arrived and unloaded the tree, to the delight of children. It was a good entertainment and the teacher, Miss Dawn, and pupils are to be congratulated on its success..

The service in the church Christmas Sunday was appropriate to the occasion. The choir rendered a couple of special numbers and the pastor, Rev. Annis, delivered a fine Christmas message. Ten young people were received into church membership. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was also observed.

Mr. Geo. Kelso of Hamilton was home over the holiday.

Mrs. Kirktown of Holland Centre visited with her daughter, Mrs. R Sewell.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Haw of Swinton Park and Helen Stewart of Shrigley visited with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Graham and Ruth.

Christmas passed off quietly in this community with the usual happy family gathering. The weather exceptionally fine and added greatly to the pleasure of the day.

We wish the Editor and all readers of The Advance a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Kelso family visited friends at Collingwood.

ORANGE VALLEY

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Cook and Shirley of Zion, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart of Jackson and Miss Verna Jenks of Walkerton spent a day with the McFadden family.

L.A.C. Raymond McFadden of Belleville spent Christams at his home here.

Signaller Wm. Sprung of Debert, N.S., is spending a couple of weeks at the McFadden home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Porteous and family of Maxwell, Mrs. Davidson and Katherine of Barhead and Mr. and Mrs. Byron Hill spent Christmas at the Alcox home.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fry and son, Earl, of Nashville visited Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hill and fam lipsy netC rr C bg aslr
ily spent Christmas with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, of Walters Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hargrave and Mrs. Hargrave Sr. spent Christmas at the home of John Hargrave, Rock Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Russell and family of Rock Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Littlejohns of Flesherton, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Hogg and family and Mr. Clifford Littlejohns of Toronto were Christmas visitors at the Littlejohns home.

Miss M. Stocks, our teacher, is visiting this week at her home in Dundalk.

Our school had a very successful Christmas concert at the close of school, which was very creditable to the teacher and children. Some of the old boys gave very humorous recitations. Lunch was served at the close and the visitation of Santa Claus was well received.

TORONTO LINE NORTH

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to the Editor, Staff and Readers.

Miss Evelyn Brown of Toronto spent the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Richardson and family spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Smart, Barrhead.

Miss Gertrude Lever of Richmond Hill spent Christmas with her mother, Mrs. T. R. Lever, returning to the Hill on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wood and a few friends from Markdale spent a very pleasant evening with Mrs. T. Lever and family on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Wickens and Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn McFadden spent Christmas with relatives at Owen Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Lever and children spent a couple of days with Rev. and Mrs. Wolstencroft at Ohsweken.

Why British Churches Are Burned While the Factory Buildings Escape

In a previous story, told something about the bomb damage in London The subject ofbombing and its results on the people of England is too large to dismiss in a few sentences*It is or has been the most important fea- London has been seriously bombed. The raids on the city began more than a year ago and continued until April or May, 1941. When daytime bombing became too costly for the Germans, the enemy turnd to night bombing, which cannot be so effective in hitting partcular targets. Since early summer, the night raids on London have stopped. Hitler no longer has the planes to spare; the R.A.F. has command of the air over Britain and around the coasts; inland defences are more numerous and better orfanizeo. Air raids continue, but they are mostly aiong the eastern and sbuthern coacts.

I think Londoi looked much as I had expected to find it. I did not expect to see such a large area east of St. Paul's Cathedral so thoroughly laid waste. In two other areas, both south of the river, the damage struck me as terrible. In both these cases, it was the little houses by the score that had suffered, which seemed to me worse than old office buildings or ancient landmarks. That was simply because there must have been so much loss of life: as for the houses themselves, some of them are better gone and the buildings that replace them will improve these districts.

Why Churches Are Burned

I have been asked hundreds of questions about bomb damage. Perhaps other readers would like to know a few of the answers.

Is it true, for instance, that the churches are almost invariably destroyed and important factories escape?

It is true. It is obvious to a Canadian in England that it seems uncanny until one knows the reasons.

In London and other badly bombed cities, it is obvious that most of the damage was done by incendiary bombs. They are small and light. I brought parts of one home with me It is cylindrical, not over two inches in diameter and about a foot long—something like a fat Roman candle. The head is flat, not pointed like the tip of a high explosive bomb. That is the heavy end. The tail has fins on it to keep the bomb upright as it falls. Dropped from a height of 10,000 feet or so, an incendiary bomb will penetrate through a slate roof or the fender of a car, leaving a small hole. It will not go through a brick wall. The bomb ignites two minutes after it strikes and develops a flame said to have a temperature of about 5,000 degrees. A large bomber might carry thousands of incendiaries and drop them out literally by the ton.

Nowadays, the British know how to fight the incendiary bomb. Volunteer fire watchers are always on the lookout for bombs. They have the simple equipment to render bombs harmless before they can develop heat.

But even yet, the churches are not safe. The beautiful old buildings, designed by Christopher Wren and other great architects, have slate roofs. Inside the building is another false roof, often of lead. The incendiary goes through the slate, but hasn't force enough to penetrate the second roof. Before it can be reached, it has exploded and started a fire. Sometimes, there was an oak ceiling as well. No matter how faithful the watchers at the churches might be, it was impossible to rip off the slates and the lead in time to reach the bombs.

It wasn't that churches were deliberately attacked. Everything was attacked. It was simply a matter of the way the churches were built.

Factories Have Really Escaped

The story of the factories and the production of war materials is something else again. It is literally true that many of the important ones have never been bombed. I saw a great aero engine factory in the Midlands, built since the war started. It was undoubtedly the finest factory I ever saw. It was built by a larg automobile company solely for the production of radial engines of 1,500 h.p. or so. It is several miles from the nearest city. Every precaution has been taken to see that a bomb dropped nearby won't affec the people inside. If one makes a direct hit, a series of blast walls will minimize the damage. But there has never been a direct hit.

Twice I passed the original Hurricane factory. This is an older one and still makes the famous fighting planes which the R.C.A.F uses. I was pointed out to me by a ferry pilot, who was going to the factory to take a new plane to a fighter station. Above the factory floated a group of barrage balloons, an unusual sight away from the large cities. I would have known it was an important factory. Yet the pilot told me that the Germans had never found it.

It sounds mystifying. Actually, it is simple. The cartoonists love to show a man or a building so camouflaged that it looks ludicrous. That is actually what happens. At night these factories literally cannot be found.

Some of the Bomb Damage

It is impossible to mention many of the buildings that have been damaged, but I might list a few. By this time, the streets have all been repaired, railways are in full operation, and there is little or no sign of bomb damage in the railway stations. The docks, which must have suffered, are in operation again. Barges, drawn by tugs, are continually going up and down the Thames at Westminster. I saw a convoy going out the mouth of the Thames one day that I visited th East Coast. As I said before, all the bridges over the Thames escaped damage.

On one of our first days in London, the editors were conducted through the Houses of Parliament by two interesting and humorous guides, Lord Snell, representing the House of Lords, and Sir Patrick Hamon, from the House of Commons. They took us even into the basement rooms where Guy Fawkes stored the gunpowder to blow up Parliament centuries ago, and into the underground chapels where Cromwell stabled his horses to show his contempt for the institution of parliament. The chapels are lovely. There is no longer any horsey smell.

Here and there I saw the damage done by bombs. In the great Westminster Hall, where the bodies of the kings lie in state, workmen were repairing a broad hole in the roof where a bomb came through. Big Ben has almost escaped. One corner of the clock tower and one face were damaged, but the clock still goes.

The worst damage is in the House of Commons chamber itself. It simply does not exist any longer. There is no roof, and only a small pile of rubble and twisted girders marks the spot where many a great debate has taken place. Yet, strangly enough, the rooms around it ar almost untouched.

St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey

It seems impossible that St. Paul's Cathedral should have survived when all the area behind it is bare and dreary. I visited the cathedral and found only one large hole in the roof, made by a high explosie bomb that shattered the altar beneath. Again it was explained that the roof structure supplied the answer. The incendiaries bounced off the great dome and the arched roof. Fire engines and fire fighters are massed all the time in the square in front of the cathedral.

If Westminster Abbey was hit, the damage must have been repaired, although one portion was closed on the Sunday afternoon I visited it.

Fleet street, with most of the daily newspaper offices grouped together, suffered much, yet not one daily paper ever missed a single edition. The editor of one of Lord Beaverbrook's papers told that £75,000 had been spent to protect two buildings he owns in that area. I saw the results. The record of the newspapers is remarkable, but no more amazing than the attitude of the people at large. It is said that it was a great help to morale when a householder came to his front door after a night of terror, and found both the daily paper and the bottle of milk on the doorstep.

At Buckingham Palace, only one small building has been hit, but the iron fence is being removed to be used to make munitions. Many stores on Oxford and Regent streets have suffered. Tenants in rich apartments in the West Eend have lost everything they owned, just as thoroughly as the poor in the dock areas, though not such a large proportion, perhaps.

It surprised me to find many Londoners still steeping in air raid shelters after four months of immunity from bombing. visited the great "Underground" station at Piccadilly Circus twice during my stay. Some 300 people were still sleeping there, but they seemed to be mostly men and women who had been bombed out of their own homes and preferred the semi-independence of this life rather than being billeted with strangers.

Coventry Has Suffered Most

It wasn't until I visited Coventry that I realized how bad a concentrated bombing can be. Coventry was (and is) an industrial city about the size of Hamilton, Ontario. Twice the Germans concentrated the full might of their air force on Coventry in an attempt to demonstrate just what they could do. To some extent, they succeeded; but they did not stop production to such an extent as they hoped, and they did not terrify the people. They did not even kill as many as one would xpect.

We drove from London to Coventry one fine September morning. The British Council supplied us with cars that had Canadian ensigns on the radiators. I admired the beautiful English countryside and wondered at the patience of the British farmers cutting their second crop of hay in fields dotted with plane traps.

Coventry's city hall remains almost untouched on the border of acres of ruins. The car in which I was riding was the last to drive up to the door. A curious crowd, mostly women with market baskets, had gathered. As I stepped out, I heard someone ask: "Who are they?" I answered: "Canadians." The nearest woman with a basket over her arm responded, to my surprise, with "God bless Canada "

Later, I understood. Mayor Mosley welcomed us in a room which had a model tank and a large vegetable marrow on the table, symbols of greater production. Mrs. Pearl Hyde, head of the Women's Voluntary Services, told me that many of the people of Coventry were clothed in Canadian garments, and they had been fed for days from fleets of mobile canteens, donated to cities around by various Canadian war funds. Canada ranks high in the estimation of Coventry.

A few minutes later, I stood amid the rubble in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. On one side stood Mrs. Hyde and on the other, Captain S. A. Hector, Chief of Police. Both, I learned later, are members of the Order of the British Empire because of heroic services performed.

Major Christie, of St. John, N.B., moved through the rubble with the Provost of the Cathedral and laid on an improvised altar a wreath which the editors had brought from London. My eyes were moist and I thought the Chief wiped away a tear. Two days later, Prime Minister Churchill visited Coventry and asked about the wreath. He thought it a splendid idea and the next day two more arrived to place beside our own, one from Winston Churchill, the other from Mrs. Churchill.

The buildings in the heart of Coventry are literally wiped out, in two great raids, one in November, 1940, and the other in April. 74,000 houses out of a total of 91,000 in Coventry were damaged. "It was a beautiful moonlight night," said Mayor Mosley, "the most beautiful I think I ever saw in my life."

A visit to Coventry now is depressing. Here, it would seem, the German Luftwaffe really succeeded.

But they didn't, even though they sent over 600 planes to bomb for 11½ hours in the moonlight, and even though they had immense luck, for the large water main was broken by high explosives and three lucky shots hit the canal bank and drained away the secondary water supply.

The buildings which made up the business section are gone, and so are many of the houses. The hospital and the Cathedral and the Roman Catholic church are but shells. But amazing enough, only 1,246 persons were killed in both raids, and I saw with my own eyes the war factories going again at top speed.

That afternoon, before we left to visit a bomber station, a dainty young lady served tea to a dozen editors. I asked if she lived in Coventry during the raids. She did. She wasn't in shelter either. It was her turn that night to be on Air Raid Patrol. She travelled through those streets with flames and death all around and the sky full of enemies. She was terrified, she admitted, but she never thought of taking shelter. Anyway, she had no home to go to that night: one of the first bombs got it.

You can't defeat people like that.

There will be no violent objection from anybody if an election in Ontario next year is averted. After all there is something more important to be done than playing the old political game of the Ins and the Outs.

BEST WISHES

To our Customers and Friends we extend our wish for a Happy New Year.

We are appreciative of the patronage we have received during the year just closing and trust that we may again be allowed to serve you during the coming year.

BAILEY'S
FLESHERTON

EUGENIA

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all.

Sergt. and Mrs. Welton and Sergt. and Mrs. Gorrell and daughter, Vic Campbell of Highland Creek, Doris Smith of Blind River and Gladys Cutting of Markdale were Christmas visitors with Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell visited in Toronto with Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Campbell.

Art Proctor spent a couple of days with Elward Campbell.

Mrs. Wm. Hyslop visited with her brother, Mr. Geo. Campbell, Ceylon.

At the service on Sunday the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Campbell was christened Myron Henry Campbell.

Friday evening, Dec. 10, the school teacher, Miss Taylor, and pupils held their Christmas concert in the L.O.L. hall. The program consisted of recitations, folk dances, choruses and a cantata. Mr. E. Baker impersonated Santa Claus and handed the gifts from the well laden tree to the children and older ones. The program was enjoyed and the proceeds amounted to over $20. Mr. Wm. Walker was chairman for the evening.

The Red Cross unit of this community will hold their first meeting on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 6th, at the home of Mrs. E. Proctor. The meeting will be in charge of the president, Mrs. Jack Campbell. All interested please attend.

Mrs. Virgie Graham and daughter, Miss Ruth, of Toronto visited friends here during the holiday season.

L.A.C. Argyle Martin, instructor at the Service Training Flying School at Dunnville, spent a five day Christmas leave at his home, returning to Dunnville on Sunday.

Pte. Douglas Cairns of the G. & S. Foresters, returned on Saturday to Debert, N.S., after spending his Christmas leave at his home here. His sister, Mrs. Stewart Elkins, husband and family of Niagara Falls were also home.

Misses Winneta and Carmelle Martin of Toronto spent a few Christmas holidays at their parental home. Carmelle returned Monday but Winneta remained for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Pedlar of Brampton were home for Christmas.

Mr. Ray Genoe of Ferland is spending a couple of weeks with his wife and family here.

Miss Marjorie Taylor is spending her Christmas vacation at her parental home at Palmerston.

Misses Lilian and Doris Magee of Toronto were home for Christmas, returning the first of the week to the city.

Miss Irene Martin of Islington spent the Christmas holidays with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gorley.

Mr. Reggie Fawcett of Galt was home for a few days at Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Fawcett.

Little Miss Shirley Cairns is spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Porteous, near Feversham.

Miss Irene Dinsmore, who teaches near Paisley, attended the school oncert here and visited with the Proctor and Walker families.

Pte. Allan Love of Debert, N.S., spent his leave with the Phillips family.

Miss Marjorie Proctor of Toronto is holidaying with her grandmother, Mrs. Proctor, and her uncle, Ernie.

Misses Mary and Isobel McKee and Mr. McCarthy of Toronto spent a few Christmas holidays with the former's parents Mr. and Mrs. Thos. McKee.

Mr. Chas. Williams received a letter from Trooper Norman Williams of the Tank Corps, that he had arrived safely in England.

Miss Dorothy Jamieson of Lake Rosseau is spending her Christmas vacation at her parental home.

Mr. Ben Shortt of Toronto spent Christmas at his home here. His wife accompanied him to Toronto to spend a few days.

It isn't practical to provide a telephone system BIG enough for all those who want to chat across the miles on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Hundreds of us will be on duty to put your calls through. If they're delayed — and some are bound to be — please understand and be patient.

Thank you.

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