The Boy Who Never Played

By W. M. Morris

I read a story the other day from a Western Journal about a boy who never played. In the morning or at recess time, while the other boys were out playing games in the school yard "Henry" remained in the school reading a book. He never went out catching gophers or on a "hike" like most boys do. The fine smooth ice or football field had no attraction for him. He was not strong as other boys were and so did not even try to take part in their games.

Henry was very clever in his studies. The head of the class was always his by reason of his studious habits. His demeanor in school was always exemplary. The teachers regarded him as a very good boy because he never caused any disturbance and made good marks in his examinations.

After completing high school he became a teacher, but never made a success because he had never learned the great and many things that play teaches. He had no understanding of children nor did he know how to get along with other people, having always lived the individualistic life. Children are quick to read character and so these pupils very soon discovered his weakness, rendering him a failure in the profession.

One year of strenuous life undermined his health. His parents discovered he had become consumptive. They were advised to try a change of climate and moved to British Columbia, where he seemed to improve for a time, but then his health again turned for the worse and in a few months Henry died. I wonder if there had been some organized play at school in which Henry would have been required to take some active part if he would have grown up to be a strong and useful citizen? Someone may say that Henry was destined to die at this young age, but if his untimely death was due to neglect of the common laws of good health and exercise we should not blame Providence for the results.

This brings up the question of the value of the play ground as a factor in education and this again involves our conception of an education. Each individual has his own ideas on the subject and consequently his own estimate of the means of acquiring it. Can we find some common ground with reference to the training of the young candidate for manhood, womanhood and citizenship? If we mean the mere acquisition of knowledge regardless of physical health, moral standards and a preparation for citizenship when Henry was educated. But if we regard education as the preparation for complete living, including whatever we do for our food and shelter as well as for its pursuers for the express

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purpose of helping us to live the very best kind of life, then education is more than mere book learning. We have all seen many failures among the so-called educated and too many brilliant successes among those who refused to follow the grooves. It is the mere acquisition of knowledge that counts but the ability to apply the information that is the real test of success.

What is a person educated? When he finds himself able to adapt himself to every social environment which he finds himself in he is here educated when he is able to take his part in the little journeys of the home life, going to and from the city and carry in the wood. The man is educated when he makes a success of his business or profession, assumes his responsibilities as a citizen, knows how to spend his leisure moments, appreciates the beautiful and spiritual and finds some response in his soul to the eternal. It does not matter whether he has acquired this development of character in the home, on the street, in business, or in school. Abraham Lincoln was regarded as a splendidly educated man and yet he was very little the product of any school. We have all known some men who had very little of what is commonly called an education but who were men of deep thought and solid judgment and who were as well, if not better qualified, to vote at elections and succeed in life as some of their grandchildren who read only society or sporting news in the papers and revel in the cinema.

But what has play to do with this? People in the country used to have apple parings, cornhuskings, debating societies, singing classes and many other social, literary, political and religious gatherings where they talked about the current events and played together. There was a much higher average attendance at the school in those days. There they all learned to play games and incidentally learned to live together, for after all the great purpose in going to school is to learn to live with other people in the small circle of the home, the larger circle of the community and the largest circle of the world.

The supervised play-ground is just as potent a factor in education as the formal classes in the school. When the question arose among the Athenians many centuries ago, as to whether they should build a great public school or open a playground it was decided to open the play-ground. It came to pass that the citizens of that city advanced so far beyond the rest of the human race that the nations that have gone on building public schools and neglecting to open play-grounds have not been able to catch up with them. We are beginning to place more value on the school grounds. Sites have sometimes been selected for schools in cities, towns and rural parts because the piece of ground was no use for anything else. The first school built in Gary, Ind., had two acres of playground, the second had four, the third eleven, the fourth twenty-five, and I wonder what the next will be. I was at a school meeting in Keswick, North York, recently, when they unanimously decided to purchase five acres of splendid land for the site of a new school. They mean to use it for a community play-ground. The school is the one public institution that is in every community and it makes the best possible community centre, but the school yard has been one of the least utilized of our educational resources.

Supervision of the playground increases its educational value many fold. I was at a meeting of the Brant Trustees' and Ratepayers' Association recently when a resolution was passed recommending School Boards to provide for the supervision of the pupils during the noon-hour. The whole county of Brant is organized for recreational purposes. The schools in England are organized to promote football and cricket. Our public school teachers should be given a course in supervised play that would enable them to teach the children games and assist in the recreational activities of the community. This would encourage backward children like Henry and restrain the domination of the bully.

Trying to estimate the value of the playground one thinks of the innumerable ways in which the sense percepions of the children are quickened and aroused to recognize and respond to the things going on around them. They gain self-control and learn the art of readily and pleasantly co-operating with others. Such attractive and fundamental traits of character as politeness, honesty, loyalty, justice and obedience to law can best be acquired when children are practising the art of living together on the playground. Playing is as great a reality to them as work is to adults, and if people learn in childhood to play together they will be able to work together. The boy without a playground becomes the man without a job.

Plenty of room for dives and dens
(glitter and glare and sin!)
Plenty of room for prison pens (gather the criminals in!)
Plenty of room for jails and courts
(willing enough to pay!)
But never a place for the kids to race;
no, never a place to play!

Plenty of room for shops and stores
(Mammon must have the best!)
Plenty of room for the running sores
that rot in the city's breast.
Plenty of room for the lures that lead
the hearts of our youth astray,
But never a cent on a playground spent
no, never a place to play!

Plenty of room for schools and halls;
plenty of room for art;
Plenty of room for teas and balls, plate
form, stage and mart.
Proud is the city—she finds a place
for many a fad to-day,
But sacs more than blind if she fails
to find a place for the boys to play!

Give them a chance for innocent sport,
give them a chance for fun—
Better a playground plot than a court
and a jail when the harm is
done!
Give them a chance—if you stint them
now to-morrow you'll have to
pay
Larger bill for a darker ill, so give
them a place to play!

Boat for Arctic Work Secured by Capt. Buernier

A despatch from London says:—Captain J. E. Buernier, the well known Arctic explorer, will return to Canada in a few days after spending two months here. Captain Buernier's mission was to procure a vessel suitable for Arctic exploration and chasing poachers who prey on seals in Canadian waters. He has been offered a boat of the desired kind with a fair turn of speed and he will recommend its purchase to the Government on his return.

Capt. Buernier lectured at the Royal Colonial Institute during his stay here and was congratulated by well known British explorers and sea captains on the energetic manner in which he has painted the Arctic a patriotic red.

OTTAWA HOCKEY TEAM, 1923

Top row, left to right: Ted Day, Benedict, Nighbor, Darragh, Clancy, Tom Gorman, manager; R. D. Green, coach. Bottom row, left to right: Broadbent, Boucher, Gerrard; Dennony, Hellman.

DEBT OF DOMINION TOTALS $419,379,993

Huge Payment on Debt First Charge on Annual Revenues.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Canada's revenues during the ten months of the fiscal year ended January 31 totalled $328,142,085, an increase of $9,652,196 over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. In the same periods, ordinary expenditure declined $5,241,022, the total ordinary expenditures in the ten months ended January 31 last being $263,072,228. In January alone, as compared with January, 1922, ordinary revenue showed an increase of $3,748,785 and ordinary expenditures a decline of $1,654,029, the latter figure indicating increase in expenditure in some of the earlier individual months as, compared with the previous year. However, in spite of decreased expenditure and increased revenue, $7,483,342 was added to the net debt of Canada last month. On December 31, 1922, the net debt was $2,412,496,151. On January 31, 1923, it had grown to $2,419,979,993. The increase, it is explained, is mainly due to railway advances.

The total customs revenue for the ten months of the present fiscal year was $97,314,753, an increase of more than twelve millions over the previous year when the customs revenue was $85,262,370. The total revenue from excise in the fiscal year so far is $30,781,748, as compared with $31,006,842 for the ten month period of the last fiscal year. Interest payments on the public debt totalled $120,637,418 for the ten months closing January 31, 1923, as compared with $114,579,577 during the same period a year ago.

Flame.

"While I was musing the fire burned." A fire on the hearth incites to reflection and affection. Flame seems to have a life of its own, distinct as the life of animal or vegetable. Each flickering tongue of it seems a vital spirit taking form. In a wild work of destructive anger the same fire that now blesses a home will be malign to destroy it. Here are the watchful fire-dogs holding in the logs from breaking their mates and bounds—though they cannot keep the sparks from leaping out like fleas to the feet. But those red embers that glow and are like small pictures of the sunset, ever in motion, and passing through soft changes—these embers might be not the radiant glow at the heart of the house, but the cooling and crumbling evidences of ruin.

We come to the cold ashes, where a home or a city used to be, and we mourn for the tragedy, and we praise the spirit of those who do not succumb to it, but rise up and rebuild. The flame that keeps little children warm is the same that at other times and in other places is ruthless to maim or to kill them.

What a stimulus to the imagination is a flame! The pyromaniac, who must set fire as the kleptomanias must steal, shows the love of fire, the religion of the fire-worshipper, proceeding to an insane extreme. The mere moderate desire to watch a burning is innocent enough, and the pleasure in the spectacle is easy to understand. The word "bonfire," whose derivation points to a curiously varied range of speculation, seems to be in its oldest sense a "boon" fire, a fire that bore in its own skyward aspiration the token that men received it as a blessing from on high. When the Scotch said it was a "bane" fire, they did not mean that it was a curse—it was a fire of bones—that is, of sticks like bones.

The flame as it mounts is taking the solid substance and transmuting it to that which is invisible. It is the bond between what we see and what we cannot see. It seems to link the physical world with the ethereal realm. In that fact lies the peculiar fascination of a fire. It is a kind of soul in matter, taking form before our eyes, only to pass out again—seemingly, not really—into a void.

Human life is like that flame. Out of the dark we come, and into the dark—apparently—we quickly pass again. Out of the cold for a little while we make a warmth for some one, and create a light that shines to see by, and then we are extinguished. Is that all? No, for a light once seen is forevermore a star, wherever it may be; and a flame once kindled ceases not to burn.

Three Stone Cutters.

How do you view your job? Much depends upon your attitude toward your work. Listen to this story. One day there were three stone-cutters, chiseling away on huge boulders. The question was asked of each of them, "What are you doing?" and one replied, "Just cutting stone." Another said, "I am making $7 a day," and the third one answered, "We are building a cathedral." The one was a drudge, a plain drudge whose interest in his work was confined to putting in the required time. He could be just as well satisfied, no doubt, in any position, whether he fitted it or not. Life to him must be a hum-drum existence. Are you like him? The second man boasts that he is making money. He is the typical laboring man of the present day. His interest is centred first, last and all the time, on himself. Seven dollars a day coming to him. He would drop his work to-morrow and follow you if you offered him $8. Selfishness, greed; the pay is the big thing; the work is secondary. And his efforts are bent on grasping everything within reach for himself. Do you belong to this class?

The third man has a vision of the finished structure. He is building a monument to himself. He watches from day to day the stone that he has cut, swing into place in the great structure that is to stand until the end of time, and he is proud that he is having a part in the work that marks the progress of the world. Naturally he strives to do his best. One little flaw on his part will forever stand to mar the future beauty of the structure. His interest is keen, his mind alert, and he gets much joy and satisfaction from seeing the work progress.

Which of these three do you think has the best job? Please note they are doing the same thing.

First Canadian Wool Combing Plant Begins Operations

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Department of the Interior says:

The first wool-combing plant in Canada to produce tops for the trade, that of the Dominion Combing Mills, Ltd., has just begun operations at Trenton, Ont. The company is capitalized at $2,500,000 and their factory is of the most modern type.

Last year Canada produced over 22,500,000 lbs. of raw wool, a large percentage of which was such that it had to be combed before it could be used in the worsted industry. During the same period this country imported from England and foreign countries over 7,000,000 lbs. of tops or combed wool, for use in the Canadian spinning mills. The new Canadian industry will produce the tops or combed wool, which are now being imported. Heretofore about 80 per cent. of the wool grown in Canada has had to be exported to be combed into tops for use in the spinning mills of this country.

Canada Has Huge Surplus

Hon. W. S. Fielding, veteran statesman and Minister of Finance announced in the House last week that the Dominion will have a surplus of nine million dollars after meeting expenditures, except those in connection with the railways.

Few pearl divers are able to follow the occupation more than five years.

WHERE MORE TROUBLE IS BREWING

Memel, the Baltic seaport, which was the cause of much friction, when the peace terms were being settled, has once more come into the limelight, since the Lithuanians seized the city and district, ignoring the allied officials who were administering its affairs. It was a coup d'etat after the style of D'Annunzio's affair at Fiume. The port opens a way into the heart of Russia, and the population of the city is mostly German but the district population is Lithuanian. A British warship has been sent to Memel to support the allied rule.

TEN-DAY AMNESTY GRANTED BY FREE STATE TO HASTEN REBELS' SURRENDER

A despatch from Dublin says:—Richard Mulcahy, Minister of Defence, has issued a proclamation granting ten days' amnesty to facilitate the surrender of Republicans.

This is a highly significant peace move, which was first revealed in an announcement from army headquarters that, following upon an interview with Richard Mulcahy, Minister of Defence; Liam Deasy, Deputy Chief of the Irregular forces, now under sentence of death, was trying to induce Eamonn de Valera and other leaders to surrender, and that, pending the negotiations thus instituted, the execution of Deasy and other prisoners had been suspended.

This explains the mysterious rumors which have been current lately concerning the impending executions. Nothing is known regarding the attitude of de Valera towards Deasy's appeal, but hopes are running higher than for some time past.

Army headquarters also issued a copy of a statement submitted by a number of prisoners in Limerick Jail to the General Commanding in Limerick, and claiming to represent 600 prisoners, denouncing the instituting peace negotiations and preventing the continued warfare of men.

The statement asks that four prisoners be permitted to leave on parole to visit the leaders outside in an effort to induce them to cease the struggle and put forward measures, and that while negotiations are in progress the Government suspend all executions.

GRANDSON IS BORN TO THEIR MAJESTIES

H.R.H. Princess Mary, Wife of Viscount Lascelles, Gives Birth to Son.

A despatch from London says:—Princess Mary, wife of Viscount Lascelles, has given birth to a son.

The following official announcement was issued from Chesterfield House:

"Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, has given birth to a son at 11.15 p.m., Wednesday, February 7. Her Royal Highness and son are doing well.

(Signed) "Henry Simson,
"Stanley Hewitt."

The son born to Princess Mary and Viscount Lascelles is the first grandson to come to King George and Queen Mary, for none of their other children is yet married, although the engagement of their second son, the Duke of York, to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, was announced last month.

As conditions of inheritance now are, the baby is sixth from the Throne, being preceded by the Prince of Wales and his surviving brothers, the Duke of York and Princess Henry and George, and their sister, Princess Mary.

LIVING COSTS AGAIN RISING IN CANADA

Increase Has Been Steady Since Early Part of 1916.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The cost of living is again increasing.

The average cost of a weekly family budget covering 29 staple articles of food in 60 Canadian cities was $10.52 at the beginning of January, as compared with $10.39 at the beginning of December, 1922, according to figures issued by the Department of Labor. In January, 1922, the same family budget cost $11.63, as compared with $7.79 in January of 1911 and $16.92 in June, 1920, the highest point reached.

Including the cost of fuel and rent with that of food, the cost averaged $21.18 for January, as compared with $20.97 for December and $21.52 for January of last year. Meats and dairy products accounted for most of the increase in foods, though potatoes and sugar were also slightly higher. Evaporated apples and salt pork were somewhat lower. Fuel was slightly higher. Rents showed a continuance of peak prices. The rise was continuous since the early part of 1916, and reached the present high point last August. Agricultural products were generally lower, while nearly all other groups were slightly higher.

Beauty attracts us, but charms win and kindness of heart holds us.

TEN WORKMEN DEAD IN TORONTO FACTORY

Employees of Consumers Gas Company Overcome by Poisonous Fumes.

A despatch from Toronto says:—Ten workmen were suffocated by gas and a score or more overcome by poisonous gas fumes following an explosion in the valve house of the Eastern Avenue plant of the Consumers' Gas Company on Thursday. The explosion was followed by terrifying scenes when hero rescuers put up a valiant fight to check the tremendous flow of gas from an eighteen-inch main to which the workmen were in the act of making a connection for a "shorter" main, which regulates the distribution of gas throughout the city when the accident happened. The work of rescuing the victims trapped in the lower chamber of the valve house was a most perilous undertaking and resulted in the death of ten men who were overcome by the escaping gas. At the two hour mark, when making the valve connection expired with their lives is regarded as little short of marvelous. Rescue work was under way within a few seconds after the explosion. Seven men were rushed to St. Michael's Hospital, where they died a few minutes after their admission.

Premier Taschereau.

Arthur Sauvé, the leader of the Opposition in the Quebec parliament, who led the Conservative campaign in Quebec. Mr. Sauvé is keenly interested in agricultural affairs and all rural problems, and has had a wide editorial experience in the leading French Canadian papers.

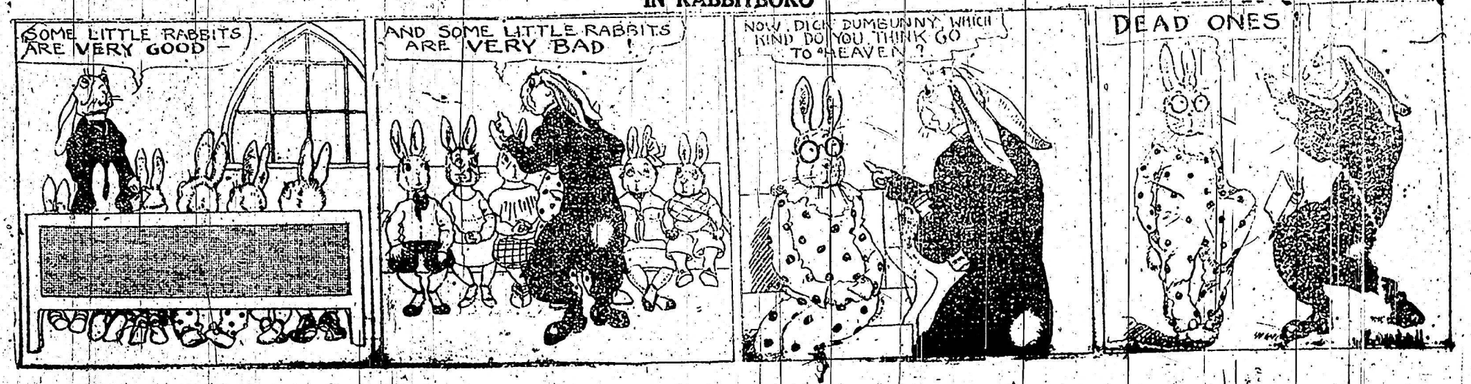
Royal Wedding to be Celebrated on April 26

Weekly Market Report

Toronto.

Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.25½.
Manitoba oats—Nominal.
Manitoba barley—Nominal.
All the above track, Bay ports.
American corn—No. 3 yel., 90½c.
No. 4 yellow, 87½c.
Barley—Malting, 59 to 61c, according to freights outside.
Buckwheat—No. 2, 75 to 80c.
Rye—No. 2, 85 to 87c.
Peas—No. 2, $1.45 to $1.50.
Millfeed—Del., Montreal freights, bags included: Bran per ton, $26; shorts, per ton, $28; middlings, $28.50; good feed flour, $2.
Ontario wheat—No. 1 white, $1.11 to $1.13, according to freights outside; No. 2, $1.03 to $1.10.
Ontario, No. 2 white oats, 45 to 47c.
Ontario corn—Nominal.
Ontario flour—Ninety per cent. pat., in jute bags, Montreal, prompt shipment, $5.10 to $5.20; Toronto basis, $5.05 to $5.15; bulk seaboard, $4.95 to $5.
Manitoba flour—1st pats., in cotton sacks, $7.10 per bbl.; 2nd pats., $6.60.
Hay—Extra No. 2, per ton, track, Toronto, $14 to $14.50; mixed, $11 to $13; clover, $8 to $12.
Straw—Car lots, per ton, track, Toronto, $9.50.
Smoked meats—Hams, med., 26 to 28c; cooked ham, 38 to 40c; smoked rolls, 26 to 28c; cottage rolls, 32 to

Montreal.

Corn—Amer., No. 2 yellow, 91½ to 92c; Can. western, No. 2, 62½c; can. feed, No. 1, 56½c; No. 2, 56c; No. 3, 55½c.
Oats—Can. west., No. 2, 58 to 58½c; extra No. 1 feed, 55 to 56c; No. 2 white, 53 to 54c.
Flour—Manitoba spring wheat pats., firsts, $7.10; seconds, $6.60; Ontario, 90 per cent. patents, strong bakers, $6.60; winter wheat, choice, $6.50.
Rolled oats—Bags, 90 lbs., $2.75 to $2.85.
Bran—$26.
Shorts—$28.
Middlings—$32.
Hay—No. 2 per ton, car lots, $14 to $15.
Cheese—Finest easterns, 26c.
Butter—Finest creamery, 42c to 43c.
Eggs—Fresh, 35c; selected, 36c; eggs, No. 1 stock, 31c.
Potatoes, per bag, car lots, $1.05.
Country hides, $3 to $3.50; do., mixed, $3.50 to $4; calf, cows, $3 to $4; canners, good, $2; do., very thin, $1.50; calves, good, $10.50 to $11; veals, com., $2.50 and up. Hogs, selects and good quality butchers, $11; western hogs, $10.50.

IN RABBITBORO