

# TEA TIME TALK

(BY WILMA MARCH)

Ceylon—or Lanka as the natives call this picturesque and colorful land—is truly an "Isle of Jewels." The gorgeous hues of the many flowers are reproduced with a depth of richness, in the gems found in the river beds. There and amongst the gravels of the ravines are found many varieties of precious and semi-precious stones such as rubies, sapphires, amethysts, garnet, aquamarines, tourmalines, moonstones, topazes and beryls, creating a rainbow of fascinating color. The largest ruby in the world, weighing 2967 carats (approximately 1 1/2 lbs.) was found this year near Ratnapura, the "City of Gems". The ruby is the emblem stone of Ceylon and no country in the world produces this costly jewel in such numbers or with such perfection. According to an ancient legend it was long ago believed that Ceylon's jewels were the tears of Mother Eve when she was expelled from Paradise.

In the open-front shops of the city markets, gleaming piles of gems dazzle the eyes of the traveller and quicken his pulse with visions of wealth. But Ceylon's pearls are her pride and joy. The fishing season lasts only a couple of months in the springtime and the pearl oysters are changeable creatures. Whole oyster beds may change in location from time to time. The most famous pearl banks of Ceylon, known for centuries, are found at Teynaar Paar and in the Gulf of Manaar, close to the group of islets called "Adam's Bridge" which links the island with India. In 1925 the government opened a pearl fishery and many of the divers earn enough during the short season to live comfortably for the entire year. These divers use no diving apparatus, merely holding the nostrils. The Ceylon oyster is much smaller than those found in the Southern Pacific, being less than two inches long and possessing a soft shell which is easily crushed. A government inspector seals the oyster bags and sends them ashore, where they are sorted and counted, the diver receiving one-third of the proceeds. It is an extremely fascinating experience to visit a pearl fishery and see the hopeful expectancy of the many countenances as the oysters are opened, disclosing perhaps (at there's the rub) a creamy, pink or golden bubble, which is very precious. If each oyster produced a pearl the thrill or value would not be so great but the mere possibility of good fortune keeps the hopes and prices high. Ceylon's most perfect pearl was found in 1909.

Ceylon trades jewels, rubber tea, spices, etc. for precious metals, creating handicraft, which can be excelled nowhere on earth. These Singhalese goldsmiths fashion intricate patterns, combinations of various metals, forming delicate pieces of jewellery, trays, jewel boxes and vases which are beautiful beyond description. Various hardwoods of the island are carved into lovely articles of ornamentation. Ceylon hand carved ebony elephants have found their way into every corner of the universe. Ivory and tortoise shell are made into creations of rare beauty, bringing fancy prices, according to the quality of the material used. The pottery poulder may be seen at the market places, busily engaged in moulding the colorful clays into various shapes and sizes. The Singhalese women weave many beautiful articles such as purses, bags and baskets from palm leaves. Their laces and embroideries satisfy the most meticulous purchaser.

The far East has been famous since Biblical days, for its sweet smelling spices. The coconut palm is used in many ways. The trunk of the tree is very tough and water proof thus the native makes it into boats, houses and even furniture. The milk of the coconut is a refreshing drink and the meat is prepared into various edible products. Rice is the staple food of the Ceylon people, though it is impossible to raise sufficient of the grain to supply the demand as some districts of the island do not receive enough rain. Unlike tea, rice is grown in the low regions where moisture is more assured. Irrigation tanks erected centuries ago give much of the required moisture. Quantities of fruit and vegetables are grown, giving a balanced diet.

The rubber industry has grown with rapid strides. Over half a million acres of table land are under cultivation to supply the ever increasing foreign markets. United States alone imports between fifty and sixty million pounds of rubber annually. The trees are tapped much in the same manner as we tap our maples. The rubber is exported in a crude state.

The picturesque clipper ships used years ago in the tea trade brought a trend of dignity and romance to a fast growing industry. The East Indian had the monopoly of the overseas tea trade dating back to the time of Queen Elizabeth. They felt secure in their privileges and refused to hurry or speed up the delivery, so the clippers served them well, plying through the waters with a stately and gentle motion. But the company was not popular with the

general public and in 1834 Parliament passed an act which cancelled this monopoly and the tea trade became an open field for all British shipping concerns. That same year the first Empire tea was planted in Assam. Shortly a reduction in the tea tax made it possible for the working classes to purchase the beverage. Tea exports jumped enormously and created a greater necessity for fast moving ships and more of them. British shipping had been protected by a law prohibiting imports into Britain arriving on foreign ships. In 1849 this law was repealed and the "Yankee Clippers" began carrying tea from the Orient at a miraculous rate of speed, demanding and receiving higher prices. Britain was agog with consternation but ever ready for an emergency, she set about building ships which challenged the best of them. Canada answered the call and soon the forests of the eastern provinces were giving up their wealth of timber. The coast lines became the scenes of much activity and in an almost unbelievable length of time, huge ocean-going ships were on their way to the homeland, to serve in a mighty Empire trade. Competition was keen and the race from China to the Thames became increasingly profitable. The stately old tea clippers gradually lost their sway, being unable to pay the help necessary on a long voyage. Speed had won against tradition but the glory of these historic ships is closely and beautifully woven into the fabric of the tea industry.

Chatelaine magazine carries an advertisement for the Ceylon Tea Bureau, and the accompanying picture is worth much more to those who love art, than the price paid for the book.

Over a thousand years ago a Chinese poet wrote the praises of the tiny leaves of the tea plant, stressing its fantastic powers of dispelling weariness and fatigue. Later an Englishman discovered the plant in Assam and from that day the Empire Tea Industry began its life of steady growth. The Chinese people used the plant as a beverage as far back as the 8th century. Travellers in the far east learned of its pleasing qualities and in 1610 it was brought to Europe by the Dutch East India Company. England soon adopted the golden liquid in her fashion circles where it was purchased for the luxurious price of \$15.00 a pound. Therein lay the opportunity of the smuggler, as the British government placed a high duty upon it. The caves along the coastline became hiding-places for tea chests and the tea smuggler, who became wary lest the bullet of an excise officer's gun should end his career.

Canada consumes approximately thirty-eight million pounds of tea annually. The Old Country, living up to her tea drinking reputation, drinks more than twice as much per head as we do. The Empire produces 650 million pounds a year and 355 millions of dollars are invested in this vast industry, employing thousands of British subjects.

The young tea plants are taken from the nursery, replanted in dry land, on hillside or vale. In about three years the first shoots are ready for plucking. They are pruned every ten or twelve days to cause a greater abundance of new leaves. The flower is very similar to our wild rose but much smaller. After plucking, the leaves are weighed, then placed upon wire or canvas to dry. After twenty hours of a drying process, the withered leaves are rolled and the juice extracted. This curls the leaves but causes them to adhere to one another. Next a roll-breaker separates them. Then they are spread on mats where they ferment or become oxidized. The air changes the color to a brownish hue and gives that tang of flavor which has won distinction. Now the leaves are ready for sorting, sifting and grading. The first sittings are the finest grades and bring the highest prices. Next comes the packing and shipping and finally the purchasing, brewing and the pleasant hours which are spent over the tea table. True "anytime is tea-time" when good friends chat together.

This year will go down in the history of the tea industry as one of special importance, honoring the centennial birthday of the Ceylon Tea Trade with the United Kingdom. As a mark of courtesy and appreciation the Ceylon Tea Bureau brought an exhibit of rare excellence to the Canadian National Exhibition. No foreign exhibit received and welcomed such continuous crowds of admiring visitors. The presentation was unique with its rotating stage, dramatizing the phases of native life, habitation, industry and labor. The handmade exhibits were art in the highest sense of the word. Those charming Singhalese gentlemen, whose colorful native costumes and quiet mien lent an air of dignity and respect, were most courteous and desirous of pleasing the interested throng. Mr. Wasantha Singh had charge of the exhibit and the press found him to be a gracious host with a mastery of English which was naive and lovely indeed. During their stay in Toronto the

Ceylon people were entertained in the offices and gardens of the Salada Tea Company.

One important feature of the Ceylon exhibit was the display of precious stones which was continually under guard. The Canadian Customs refused to allow a publication of the value of this exhibit. The most valuable stone in the collection was the "Star Ruby" which, when viewed at a certain angle showed a star in the centre. A beautiful golden necklace set with many precious stones received much comment and praise. It was a model of the marriage necklace used by well-to-do people. As we wear a ring symbolizing the matrimonial state their matrons receive at the ceremony a necklace and it is never removed. The Singhalese people believe in astrology as a guide to success and happiness. Their belief is based on altruism—the consideration for others, hurting oneself before the thought of doing so to anyone else. They believe in simplicity and contentment knowing full well that money cannot buy the vital things of life. The religion is called Buddhism and is held in the highest reverence by its worshippers. Mr. Singh was the possessor of a very artistic cane carved from the finest ebony and inlaid with ivory. The cane, as it broadened towards the top, was wound a snake, the emblem of wisdom. An elephant the symbol of religion, stood as a hand-piece at the crown of the cane. This religion, based on wisdom walked hand in hand with these people, who used it continually and consistently in their daily walk of life. Ceylon will be back with us—and our welcome awaits her.

## New England Ladies' Aid

The regular meeting of New England Ladies' Aid was held on Thursday, Sept. 20th at the home of Mrs. Matt. Devitt with an attendance of 15 members and 3 visitors and 4 children. The meeting opened by singing hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" and then Rev. McAuslan offered prayer. The president, Miss Lawson, read chapters 11 and 12 of Isaiah and this was followed by a paper read by Mrs. Devitt, "Signs of the times are visible by Oxford Group", which was very interesting and followed up the lesson read from Isaiah. It was decided to hold a congregational meeting on Wednesday evening, Sept. 26th, to make the final plans for the supper. The next meeting will be held Oct. 15th at the home of Mesdames Ed. and Gordon Wilcox. Lunch committee, Mrs. Frank Wiley and Miss Ella Wiley; program committee, Mrs. Devitt, Mrs. Jas. Kirkpatrick. Word for roll call "Thanksgiving". The word for roll call for this meeting was "Blessed". We then enjoyed a splendid program, as follows: reading, "The house by the side of the road", by Mrs. Gordon Wilcox; reading, "Unsung Heroes", by Mrs. Nelson Wilcox; violin music by Mrs. Gordon Wiley, accompanied by Mrs. Rourke; reading, "Can you hear Criticism?" by Miss Caroline Clarke; solo, "Jesus Loves Me", by Leona Kirkpatrick; reading, "Let us Smile" by Mrs. J. Morrison; piano duet by Mrs. Rourke and Miss E. Lawson; reading, "An Old Woman" by Mrs. Ed. Wilcox. This brought the meeting to a close and Rev. McAuslan closed by prayer.

Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. McAuslan and Mrs. Jas. Kirkpatrick. The ladies have completed the quilt and are now working on a second one. Collection amounted to \$1.25.

## Sports vs Education

The following clipping from the Globe will be of interest to a great many of our readers: "It is necessary to choose between the claims of education and football in high school activities, parents of the city will not be long in coming to a decision. Fathers and mothers of collegiate institute pupils will have little sympathy with the purposes of the reported 'strike' of several Oakwood players. The Principal, Mr. Walter Kennedy, like heads of some of the other Toronto collegiate institutes, has taken a stand against the encroachment of sports interests to an extent deemed menacing to the proper maintenance of academic standards. Mr. Kennedy is only insisting upon the enforcement of a rule requiring that the senior Rugby players shall have attained a 50 per cent. standing in their studies. Several prospective players are reported to have fallen short of the eligibility requirement. The regulation is in force in a number of other collegiate institutes, and is said to have been agreed upon informally at a meeting of Principals and the Secondary Schools Athletic Association some years ago. It may be conceded that there is a certain logic in the complaint of the 'strikers' that there should be city-wide application of the rule if it is to be enforced in their schools. But such an argument will scarcely lend a color of true sportsmanship to an attitude of defiance toward a Principal who is endeavoring to carry out a regulation that seems to be approved by the heads of several of the city's largest collegiate institutes. Even if there were no similar action in other schools, the Oakwood Principal is quite within his rights in insisting that studies shall not be neglected for the greater glory of Rugby. Principals of other schools puts the situation correctly: 'Some schools may desire to have an A1 Rugby team, though I believe the parents would rather have pupils succeed with the subjects which will fit them for after-life.' A proper balanced-ration of work and play is to be achieved in the secondary schools. Principals must be looked to for reasonable disciplinary measures. It is not conceivable that the school heads will wish to work any injustice to the interests of health-giving amateur athletics; nor will there be lack of encouragement to friendly rivalry among the schools. But education is not a competitive enterprise, and its true ends will not be served by the development of a spirit of classism conceit in playing-field statistics or by a straining after tawdry glories on the principle of 'win at any cost.' The game itself's the thing."

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## SCHOOL REPORTS

U. S. S. No. 15, Proton Station  
Sr. IV—Annabelle Jackson\*, Veronica Baker\*, Annie Lockart\*, Harold Sims\*, Ernie Batchelor\*, Ken Sims, Kathleen Barker\*.  
Sr. IV—Hilda Sims, Arlene Whyte, Joe Stainsby\*, Mae Corbett, Theodore Cole, Ernie Barker, Irene Bridge, Marjorie Bates, Clarence White.  
Sr. III—Dorothy Cole\*, Vern Corbett, Hazel Bridge, Bill Halliday, Marjorie Shrub, Laurie Sims\*, Jean Cathbertson.  
Sr. I—Audrey Cole\*, Marjelle White\*, Kenneth Bates\*, Mae Jackson\*.  
Sr. Pr.—Cecil Barker\*, Margaret Mills\*, Bert Badgerow\*, Velma Sewell\*, Marion Lyons.  
Sr. Pr.—Everet Lockhart\*, Henrietta Sims, Marion Baker\*, Paul Cole\*, Alfred Jackson\*.  
\* denotes perfect attendance.  
G. B. Littlejohns, teacher.

Orange Valley  
Sr. IV—Velma Alcox\*, Harvey Hill\*, Clarence Foster.  
Sr. IV—Muriel Teeter\*, Elmer Russell\*, Don Russell\* and Minerva Stafford\* (equal), Gerald Hill\*, Clifford Littlejohns.  
Sr. III—Verna Russell\*, Mary Whitehead.  
Sr. II—Anne Stephenson.  
Sr. II—Levi Stafford\*, Pauline Stephenson.  
Sr. I—Ernie Russell\*, Muriel Gilchrist.  
Sr. Pr.—Burton Russell\*, Jack Gilchrist.  
Sr. Pr.—Nina Teeter\*, Freddy Gilchrist, Eileen Stafford, Oscar Irving.  
\* denotes perfect attendance.  
H. I. Martin, teacher.

S. S. No. 10, Holland  
Sr. IV—Ernie Aitken.  
Sr. IV—Mary Priel.  
Sr. III—Mae Aitken.  
Sr. I—Wallace Cameron, Maurice Jackson, Florence Aitken, Joe Priel, Howard Aitken.  
Pr.—Dickie Whitney.  
Beginner—Irene Ransome.  
C. B. Traynor, teacher.

S. S. No. 5, Glenelg  
Sr. IV—Essel Hastie\*, Gordon McNally, Hughie Hughes.  
Sr. III—Esther Peart.  
Sr. I—Edna McNally.  
Sr. I—Raymond Edwards\*.  
Sr. Pr.—Carman McNally.  
\* denotes perfect attendance.  
S. E. MacLean, teacher.  
U. S. S. No. 16, Artemesia  
Sr. III—Blanche Sweeney 85%.  
Sr. III—Wallace Leitch 50%.  
Sr. II—Leo Hughes 74%.  
Sr. II—Nina Eagles 94%, Francis Hughes 52.  
Sr. I—Edward Sweeney 90%.  
Pr.—Angus Hughes, Mervyn Sweeney.  
J. Morgan, teacher.

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## Our Heritage

Being the Popular Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society for 1934, by Rev. John Patten, M.C., M.A., Literary Superintendent

"The Bible in the mother tongue is the rightful heritage of all men." Around this principle the current Popular Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society centres. Seldom has any report of any Society contained more useful information in regard to its activities, linked as it is with an historical survey of the English tongue, and the power this progress of Bible translation in the Book has had when translated into the mother tongue of many peoples. The titles of the chapters are indicative of the contents of the report: "The Priceless Heritage of the Bible"; "Sharing the Heritage with the British Commonwealth"; "Sharing the Heritage with the Whole World"; "The Blessing of the Heritage"; "The Heritage in the Mother Tongue"; "The Cost". The booklet is well illustrated and beautifully printed and produced, the front-piece representing the last moments in the life of the Venerable Bede. A section, short of necessity, is devoted to Canada and the spread of Bible Society activities in the Dominion. Each chapter is prefaced by quotations from leading representatives of the various churches, and some very apt quotations from poets and writers, ancient and modern, as diverse as Aristotle, George Herbert and W. Sackville West. The cost of this world wide task of publishing and circulating translations of the Scriptures is emphasized, and the need for increased support clearly indicated. In this respect the report concludes with a sentence from the late Sir Henry Jones: "How they are to be envied who, having the ability to do this kind of thing, have also the heart to do it."

This second report from the gifted pen of Rev. John Patten justifies the favour with which his last year's report, "Tell the World" was received by the general public, and none can rise from reading it without feeling how great has been the influence of the Bible on the British race and all its institutions; how dangerous it will be if that race misuses or neglects that heritage; and how urgent is the call to make this Book the heritage of "all kindreds and peoples and tongues."

## Presentation

At the community hall at Vandeleur recently Mr. and Mrs. Everett Graham, lately married, were the guests of honor at a community gathering. At an opportune time in the evening's enjoyment the following address was read and the presentation made: "Dear Everett and Pearl—Just a few friends and neighbors meet you here this evening to wish you both a very happy married life. We all welcome you, Pearl, to our neighborhood. And to show our good will and best wishes we ask you to receive these gifts, Not for the value of each little thing But for the good wishes that each of them bring. Signed on behalf of the Vandeleur community. Ken Teeter, Jack Boland."

Phone **C. R. King** 149

# HARVEST SPECIALS

Grocery Specials	Fresh from the Garden
Heinz Catsup . . . 23c	Pumpkins
P. & G. Soap 10 for 31c	Hubbard Squash
Maxwell House Coffee 1b. 45c	Celery
Grapefruit . 5 for 25c	Carrots
Fresh Salted Peanuts 1b. 15c	Beets
Jelly Powders 3 for 25c	Cabbage
Quick Quaker Oats with china 29c	Tomatoes
Fresh Sodas bulk, 2 lb. 23c	Vegetable Marrow
Kellogg's Corn Flakes 7c	Cooking Onions
B. L. Rice . 3 lbs. 17c	Cooking Apples
Mushroom Soup 2 for 27c	Grapes

## Publishers' Notice


With this issue of The Markdale Standard we are announcing an increase in subscription price to \$1.50 per year, effective on Monday morning, October 22. All subscriptions taken after that date will be charged at the new rate. As a result of our subscription campaign we will be able to give our subscribers two additional pages of home print and we feel that we are amply justified in returning our subscription price to a point commensurate with the value and cost of producing the newspaper. We trust that our new patrons, as well as the old ones, will consider the change equitable and favor us with their continued support.

During the first period of our subscription drive over five hundred new subscribers have been added to our already large list. Accordingly, our display advertising rate (effective immediately) will be twenty-five cents per column inch. And merchants throughout this trade territory can be assured that their advertisements in The Standard will reach a large majority of their patrons and prospective patrons throughout this territory.

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