

The HAILEYBURIAN

Issued every Thursday from The Haileyburian Office, Broadway St., Haileybury, Ont. D. E. SUTHERLAND, Publisher. RUTH G. GORDON, Editor. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Canada—\$2.00 per year, in advance. In United States—3.00 per year, in advance. Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Assn. Authorized as Second-Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

PRESENT TREND DISCOURAGING

The downward trend in the net revenue of the Ontario Northland Railway continued through August according to an official statement of earnings and expenses released from headquarters recently.

The statement discloses that in the eighth month of the present year a difference of less than five thousand dollars separated the profit from loss. The actual figures are: Gross earnings, \$1,152,875.77; expenses, \$1,148,196.75; net earnings \$4,679.02. The net revenue in August 1952, was reported at \$100,859.81, which means a reduction for the month before last of \$96,180.79.

Accumulative earnings for the eight months do not show quite so drastic a drop proportionately but in the aggregate they were down \$924,845.74 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

No explanation is given for the situation but it is significant that while revenues fell off sharply in August expenses continued to climb and were up \$68,459.60.

THAT LITTLE BLACK BEAR

To the author of the editorial, "Casual Cruelty" which appeared in Monday's Globe and Mail—we feel bound to respond as we disagree heartily with almost all he has to say. Initially, we feel that it is a rare bear who wanders into the heart of civilization simply "because he has lost his way." His own newspaper in the same issue reports at length under a heading "Hungry Bears on Rampage" and from widely scattered areas throughout the province come tales of bears leaving their forest haunts in search of food—the season has been unusually dry and the berry shortage is common knowledge. We do not ever advocate cruelty—either "casual" or "impulsive" to wild or domestic life but we are primarily concerned with the preservation of human lives!

The task of shoeing back into his native habitat, a wild animal, hungry or lost, is no mean feat and such an endeavor might well have led to a loss of life, particularly in a community such as ours which boasts, and proudly so, a wealth of children. Had the bear been responsible for any deaths, we can all imagine that the correspondence column of his editorial page "which is a faithful mirror of the deep compassion of the public mind" (and this statement contradicts the main theme of the editorial) would have reflected not one expression of dissent (presented without a knowledge of the facts concerning the Haileybury bear) but a flood of irate letters. Surely when the daily papers carry such a breath of atrocity stories, we are to be congratulated more than criticized for making sure that a bear in our town did not add to the list.

And as to "the wholesale desecration of domestic animals" to which he refers—we also take exception. Oh, yes, household pets have been and are being deserted but certainly we feel that these cases are in the minority and that humanity en masse is more kind than cruel to its wild and domestic life.

In short, we feel he would do better to direct his concern in one-foot lengths of printer's ink to an attack on those elements of society who are perpetrating the wilful mutilations of human lives by rape, murder, kidnapping, etc. Man's inhumanity to man would seem to present a far graver problem than the controversial concern as to man's inhumane tendencies as evidenced in the death of one black bear.

Let us advance to better levels of "compassion" and "progress" in gentleness" first on the human level—MAN TO MAN.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Regarding Traffic Stop Signs In answer to our reader's query in this respect and dealing with the Rorke-Browning street intersection in particular, would advise that a short while ago we made a survey of such intersections and have submitted a recommendation regarding Stop signs. The recommendation dealt with the "switching" of Stop signs at this corner, just as the reader suggested and the entire matter of Stop signs is to be properly considered when Council draws up the budget for the year 1954. Thank you for your interest and observances.

Word to the Wise

Far too many motorists today entertain the same ideas as the man in the Bible who asked "Am I My Brothers Keeper?" You—motorist, are most certainly your brothers keeper and you might just as well realize that whatever you do when you drive a car will affect someone else. No one can live unto himself, especially in this day and age. Your responsibility to everyone else as you wheel your vehicle around is almost a full-time job. Too few drivers appreciate this fact, or at least they do not appear to appreciate it. In past issues we have dealt at length with the subject of the driver's responsibility to other drivers, and it has recently occurred to us that we have not considered the plight of the pedestrian.

The motorist's responsibility has always been greater than that of the pedestrian. We have watched as drivers have scooted by children on bicycles, children on foot and children at play. Children invariably act like sheep. They follow the leader, never caring much where the leader goes, and yet there are those motorists who do not seemingly recognize these facts. It is always too late to be careful after you have struck down, and perhaps, killed, one of our little ones. This goes for the adult too. It is too much to expect any pedestrian to have to suffer the penalty of death for jaywalking. The motorist may very well have the right-of-way but that does not give him license to strike any pedestrian. It is an established fact that of every five persons killed in motor accidents in Ontario, two are pedestrians. Motorist may be well advised to observe these driving rules to prevent their being involved in an accident themselves and a pedestrian:

Slow down when passing standing vehicles; watch for children and aged persons; observe school zone signs; give the pedestrian an opportunity to cross at an intersection—this may prevent him

from taking unnecessary chances elsewhere; slow down after dark and during rain or snow falls, in areas where pedestrians might be expected to walk—AND ABOVE ALL—When you drive "Drive as you would have others drive when YOU walk."

Ontario has not only too many pedestrians—Practice Care, Courtesy and Common Sense!

The LETTER BOX

Dear Madam:

On behalf of the Board of Education of North Cobalt, the principal D. McGugan of the North Cobalt Public School and the parents of the children, I would like to publicly thank the Haileybury fire chief, K. R. Watson for his thoughtfulness in including the North Cobalt school children in his program during Fire Prevention Week.

During the week, Mr. Watson visited the school for two hours and lectured to the pupils on how a majority of fires can be prevented. After the address six films were shown with a movie projector loaned by Major L.



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At a fire drill held later in the day, the 112 pupils of the school evacuated the building in a record 45 seconds.

We do appreciate the time and energy devoted to this important

phase of our children's training Sincerely, ALBERT GROOM, Chairman, North Cobalt Board of Education

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MEN OR MICE?

Every day the country is making fitful progress under the deadening effects of strikes and threatened strikes. Nowhere does there appear to be a single voice carrying even a breath of hope that a permanent solution can be reached.

From the northern gold mining areas we listen to the dreary story of two factions who cannot agree—it is an age-old tale of one or both wanting too much and it is not local, it is universal. Sometimes we wonder at the amount of time expended and the anxiety expressed concerning the state of the world. The world, like the community, is as good as the people in it and if we have a state of cold war at home, we need courageous government, we need (in this particular instance) courageous miners and we need courageous labor leaders—a few men from each with the vision and the capacity to tackle an enormous job.

What the man on the street would truly like to know is: Do the majority of miners believe in their union? If they do, why do they not pay their membership fees? Or are we to presume that they are happy to reap the benefits of belonging without any effort on their behalf? Who knows the answer?

Is the gold miner receiving a fair wage? The people believe that the miner should be paid to the extent that he may enjoy a standard of living in line with other industries throughout the country. Considering his cost of living in his particular area, does his wage compare favorably?

Does the government believe that it is of any importance to sustain the communities of Northern Canada? Are they of any strategic importance in our outer line of defence? Do they have any place in the economic or cultural life of the country? They would do well to decide now and act accordingly.

In any business when the demand for a product ceases, there is no choice but to go out of business. If gold, at the present time is not of sufficient value to the national or international economy to pay its way, then there are a great many people who think the answer is obvious. It is a drastic move but if things continue as they have been the ultimate outcome will not be any more disastrous to the communities now affected and at least the issue will be clear.

At the moment, strike statistics reveal that the situation has reached the proportions of a national crisis. When such a condition exists, the people look to the heads of their government to lead the way.

The man on the street feels that the leaders of government are taking an impersonal attitude because they are afraid to tackle a delicate situation. This attitude does not inspire confidence. The man on the street would like to see his government leaders step into the picture and talk, not to the company officials or to the union leaders, because unfortunately both are rightly or wrongly envisioned as power seekers—but face to face with as many miners as can be housed in one auditorium.

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