

THE HAILEYBURIAN AND COBALT WEEKLY POST

Founded by C. C. Farr in 1904



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The Conservative organization in Temiskaming seem to have decided that it is "dirty politics" to say anything unpleasant about the Liberals or CCF. As a result, Mr. Rice has scrupulously avoided any opportunity of making political capital, even when he had the chance of doing so.

At the recent meeting of farmers in Earleton, Mr. Rice could have blasted the Liberals for the fact that the contract forms used by Trans-Canada Gas Lines were drawn up under their administration. And he might have blasted the CCF for making political hay, while at the same time not doing too much to help the situation. And, he might well have asked, what kind of arrangements were made for the farmers in the CCF province of Saskatchewan?

But Mr. Rice did none of these things. He made a fair, but virtually non-political speech at Earleton, and in the meantime the extremely effective CCF publicity machine, managed to get itself two headlines in the Kirkland Lake paper, and a modest but fair amount of space in the North Bay paper.

Then the Conservative organizers decided they had better do something, so they held a party meeting at Englehart. After laboring mightily the Conservative mountain managed to pro-



NO HEARTS AND FLOWERS IN COMIC VALENTINES

duce an innocuous mouse in the form of the rather dull and meaningless statement reprinted elsewhere in this paper. And while Mr. Peters got two headlines in Kirkland Lake, Mr. Rice got the bottom left hand corner of page three.

Now, we do not doubt that Mr. Rice has been working sincerely and quietly on the farmers' behalf. And Mr. Peters deserves to be congratulated for some extremely astute and clever politicking. But in the minds of the general public who don't look beneath the glaring headlines, and who don't take the trouble to read between the lines of Mr. Rice's rather dull statement, Mr. Peters is the boy who got the action.

The only way we can see

Foster winning this election is if he first of all has a really good organization. And this he seems to be getting, and secondly if he and his organizers smarten up and beat the CCF at their own game of getting favorable publicity, and taking advantage of every opportunity to win votes and influence people.

As a famous hockey coach once said, "Nice guys don't win."

Are We Getting Soft?

The following commentary on a question that is often discussed was taken from the editorial pages of The Farmers Advocate.

Are We Getting Soft?

Do Canadian parents care about what sort of education their children get?

K. R. Swinton, chairman of the conference committee of the Canadian Conference on Education to be held in February, suspects that they don't.

"I sometimes think," he said in a progress report on the conference, "that the Canadian family is becoming so eager in the pursuit of soft living that it is in great danger of turning out a generation whose most intellectual pursuits consist of watching TV serials and reading the comic papers. . . . I would refer you to a recent report in Canada's leading national magazine, which claims that even after Sputnik, the biggest question in education is: should driving be taught in our high schools?"

The arguments with which Mr. Swinton follows up this point are good and cogent. But all the responsibility cannot be thrown on the parents. Educators have to take their share. In the past ten years, many parents have protested that their children are not being taught to read properly. Books have been published about it, and the evidence that the system used was inadequate was overwhelming. Phonics had been tossed out, and word-recognition was used almost exclusively. Many children simply did not learn to read and many of them read badly; remedial classes in reading had to be instituted.

Parents who protested were snubbed, and snubbed heartily on this matter. The educators knew best. Parents who wanted to take a hand and help Junior by teaching him his "sounds" were requested not to interfere—it would only confuse the child and make the teacher's task more difficult.

As soon as this "we know best" attitude appears—in whatever context—it usually indicates that someone is trying to defend the indefensible. If your system is good, it will stand up against scrutiny and criticism if it isn't good, you cannot conceal its deficiencies by trying to forbid scrutiny and criticism. Education isn't something that begins at 9 a.m. sharp and ends at three or four in the afternoon with a break for lunch. It is continuous, inescapable, whether it's directed toward a good end or a bad. Teachers and parents simply must work co-operatively and understandingly together, instead of carrying on little undeclared wars. If they fail to do this, everyone suffers—teacher, parents, but most of

all, the child. Our educational system will be very frankly discussed when the Canadian Conference on Education meets in Ottawa, February 17 to 20. We cannot all attend in person to present our views as to what we may consider needed reforms in our educational methods. Among the sponsoring organizations, however, are the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Home and School Federation and the Parent Teachers' Federation. We can use their organizations to place our views before the Convention.

SQUARE DANCE CONTEST

For the first time a North American Square Dance Championship is being attempted.

These Championships will be held in conjunction with the Rotary Spring Fair, May 5th to 10th, 1958, at North Bay.

The prize money is the largest ever offered for Square Dancing totalling \$3,000.00.

First prize for Adult Sets, those over 20 years as of May 5th will be \$1,500.00.

First prize for Junior, under 20 years but over 14 years is \$400.00.

The closing date for entries is April 15th, 1958.

All interested groups can ob-

tain Rules and Regulations. Entry Forms and Judging sheets by writing: The North Bay Recreation Committee 491 Worthington Street East, North Bay, Ontario.

First Voter: "I don't want to vote for any of the candidates. I don't know any of them."

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