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The Fall of a Titan
by Igor Gouzenko

It isn't very often that a book by a well-known person, other than a writer, is actually excellent on its own merits. Of course we think right away of Winston Churchill. Similarly, the critics, who are a great deal more critical than this column, thought Fall of a Titan by Igor Gouzenko was a surprisingly good book.

It's been thrilling Acton readers ever since it arrived at the library recently. We've heard several say they "couldn't put it down".

It's fiction, but it's reminiscent of Gouzenko's own story. It's about an idealist in Russia whose ideas are enmeshed in the regulations of Communism. Often the figures in the book actually parallel top Russian politicians.

We hear so little of Russia that we don't know how the ordinary families like ourselves live. Gouzenko knows, and his characters are thoroughly real.

Halton's Pages of the Past

Hornby School Reunion Brought Reminiscences Of Youthful Days to Former Pupils in District

by GWEN CLARKE

In June, 1961, there was a reunion at Hornby School which over 50 former students attended, many coming from a considerable distance to meet once again with those with whom they had worked and played in the good old "golden rule" days. Of particular interest was a group of eight old boys and girls who had attended in the 1880's. At that time the school was divided into two sections as there were about 80 pupils and two teachers. Featured in the group photograph are two who have since passed away — Mr. Leonard Maude of Milton and Mrs. Bridgen, Hornby.

One of those particularly interested in the Hornby School Reunion was Dr. Frank O. Gilbert, who lives in British Columbia, and who came east for the express purpose of meeting his old school-mates. Dr. Gilbert is both a minister and a doctor and before his retirement a few years ago he served as a mission doctor in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Even now he frequently takes charge when a houseboat is required to bring in Indians from up the coast who require hospitalization.

Dr. Gilbert spent most of his young life in Hornby and he makes no secret of the fact that his parents were very poor. At the reunion he recalled the days when his family's main diet was mashed potatoes and onion gravy. His family did not live on a farm but made a meagre living selling merchandise in the district. Dr. Gilbert remembered receiving 25c a month from Miss Jean Armstrong for bringing in her cows every night and morning from the pasture. "But," said Dr. Gilbert, "the 25c wasn't all. At night-time there was always a piece of pie



HORNBY SCHOOL REUNION a few years ago was enlivened by the presence of eight former pupils who attended in the 1890's. They are, back row, left to right, age given at time of reunion: John Cudson, Hornby, 80; Will Robinson, Milton, 85; Leonard Maude, Milton, 85. Front row, Robert Pews-Tress, Hornby, 83; Mrs. Bridgen, Hornby, 83; Mrs. Joe Boyd, Mount Forest, 86; Mrs. Metcalfe, Milton, 81; James Lindsay, Trafalgar, 80.

H. S. HOLDEN
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GLASSES FITTED
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112th ANNIVERSARY
Acton Baptist Church
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REV. CHAS. R. GOWER, Dresden, Ont.
former Pastor of Acton Church
EVERYONE WELCOME

waiting when I came in with the cows."

Worthy "Old Doc"
When Frank Gilbert was still a lad there was also living in Hornby a Dr. Anthony Fox, the only medical doctor to practice in Hornby. Dr. Fox was born in Trafalgar but came to the village at an early age and continued to make Hornby his home after he started practicing medicine. His home in the village was where Garnet Howden now lives. He was twice married and had one son by his first wife and four children by the second.

Dr. Fox began practicing medicine in 1869 and remained active until a serious illness laid him low, resulting in his death in 1888. He was considered an excellent doctor sparing neither himself nor his horse when called to an urgent case. The roads in those days were deplorable which did not make his work any easier. Diphtheria, typhoid and scarlet fever were all too common in those far off days and during an epidemic the worthy doctor was kept going day and night. The Hornby class of the 80's remembered very clearly the "Old Doc" going his rounds with his gray horse and buggy—or cutter, according to the weather.

Barefoot Mourners
When the good doctor died none was more grieved than little Frank Gilbert and his playmate Wilmer Boyd—now deceased. Perhaps it was their genuine concern that impelled the two little boys towards Hornby Church where the service was to be held. Perhaps they still needed to be convinced that their friend, the Doctor, had really been taken from them. Be that as it may, the two little barefoot boys, with tattered overalls, sidled into church. They saw plenty of people in the side pews but none in the centre aisle, the mourners not yet having arrived. The boys, unconscious of

their bare feet and overalls, but anxious for a good seat, walked up to the centre front pew. Here they sat, over-awed and perturbed, wondering what was to happen next.

Presently they saw the casket being carried into the church, followed by the mourners—men in their "good" clothes and the women heavily draped in black crepe veils. Never before had the boys seen anyone in deep mourning dress. They looked at the women and almost choked with fear. Afraid to move they sat doggedly through the service but after it was over they ran home as fast as their legs would take them.

When Frank brought the cows home that night Miss Armstrong chided him. "Surely," she said, "you boys must have known you shouldn't come into church like that, even if it wasn't Sunday." The little boy wrangled uncomfortably, having no words to explain the motive that impelled him and his playmate to act as they did. But it could be, that outside of the Doctor's immediate family, there may have been none that mourned more deeply his death than the two little barefoot boys.

Pulled No Punches
Dr. Anthony Fox was first and foremost a doctor, but he also took an active part in the life of the community, and we rather suspect from the wording of his obituary that he was a man who refused to pull any punches. The obituary read, in part, as follows: "Dr. Fox was highly esteemed, not only for his skill as a physician, but for his kindly, sympathetic and gentlemanly character. The long train of carriages filled with sympathetic and mourning friends testified to the high esteem in which he was held. Not a few had known him from youth and many had been his former patients. All bore testimony to his upright and benevolent character and while they believed that he had not an enemy, he nevertheless had strong convictions on certain public questions, and had the honesty and courage to avow them and to act accordingly."

"The pall-bearers were Drs. Freeman, Robertson and Stuart, of Milton; Dr. Webster of Norval, the Hon. G. C. McKindsey of Milton and John McMillan, Esq. of Hornby."

"When Dr. Fox became convinced that his days were not to be many in this world we understand that, in a satisfactory manner, he indicated his preparedness and well-founded hope for happiness in the world to which he was about to enter. We sincerely sympathize with his widow and family and rejoice to know that they are not left to mourn as those who have no hope."

In conclusion we would like to add another word about Dr. Frank Gilbert. In 1962 Dr. Gilbert again travelled east—this time to a reunion at Toronto University, where he, along with 10 other doctors, was honored as being the only surviving members of the class from which Dr. Gilbert graduated. The 11 doctors between them totalled 550 years of service in the practice of medicine.

Next week—"Ploughing Matches in By-gone Days"

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Esquering Assures Brick Plant Road

A special meeting of Esquering township council was held at Terra Cotta on September 23 to discuss with Henry Puchall a road into his property. Acting reeve Walter Linham presided and members present were Messrs. Currie, Sinclair and Wilson.

Council agreed that as soon as Henry Puchall of New York starts construction on the brick plant at Terra Cotta the township will start construction on a road to give access to the plant.

L.O.L. Observes 100th Anniversary

Members of Loyal Orange Lodge 68, Stewarttown officially recognized the 100th anniversary of its founding Monday, October 4, when members from half a dozen district lodges joined with them to pack the lodge hall.

Dignitaries present included District Master Ernie Wilson and County Master Jack Fox. Lodges represented included Hornby, Milton, Georgetown, Campbellville, Acton and Oakville.

A highlight of the evening was exemplification of the Royal Arch Purple degree on candidates George Greigh and John Beattie.



As the desert camel-rider once said, "There's always a bump ahead."
Yes — even the folks who claim life is a merry-go-round have their ups and downs.
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