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LEGION NOTES

Leellie M. Clark

This past week-end was a strenuous one, being the annual meeting of all provincial officers. It started on Saturday afternoon and ran all day Sunday. There was an excellent turnout of all provincial officers down to and including the zone commanders. A large amount of work was handled in a very fast manner... it had to be that way, with some 40 scheduled important items to be gone into. The work that goes into planning this convention is terrific, and a special vote of thanks should be given to Pat Biggs, provincial secretary, who does such a wonderful job in provincial command.

The convention was held in the Yellow Room of the King Edward Hotel and included the following items of business: reports of provincial secretary, by P. Biggs; report of Provincial Poppy Committee; constitution and law committee, public relations, service bureaus, membership, provincial convention arrangements, scholarship program, provincial map in districts and zones, Springhill disaster, by president; sports, explained by two branches, provincial housing, resolutions, CNIB, TVS report, Legionary, chamber of commerce brief, Canadian Olympic training plan, branch lists, general business, and last but not least, the Composers, Authors and Publishers Assoc. of Canada, Ltd., came in for some discussion.

Dominion president Dave Burgess from Ottawa got a great hand from the meeting, and told of his recent tour of Manitoba and attendance at the bonspiel in Winnipeg. He also gave us a great deal of information regarding pensions... but unfortunately, not for publication (even in the Herald). He urged a great push for membership, and asked each branch to get busy on it NOW, and also explained the technical difficulties of publishing the Legionary. The writer had an interesting chat with Dave afterwards, as well as provincial president Henry Harvey, who promised to help in any way possible to spur the drive in Zone B-7 and Georgetown in particular.

The provincial president, Henry Harvey, made, to us, at least, the outstanding speech of the convention. He stressed the membership drive, asking that each and every zone and district commander as well as all branch officers get in there pitching to double our membership by '58. He stressed the need to set an example in each and every community, saying that it was by the type of members we attracted as well as our present membership. He felt that a real campaign of public relations in every community was necessary, and to this end all branches should try to attract the leading industrialists and professional leaders of their cities and towns to the branches, and to see the great strides made in their attempt to better conditions for the less fortunate, of the citizens of the Legion and country, but of course always remembering the principles and precepts on which our group was founded. Mr. Harvey hoped that all zones would have a series of dinners, in effect to let the rest of the non-veteran population see what type of members we had. He said that many had been holding a night of some sort, inviting a prominent speaker, and having Legion officials present to explain our membership drive and aims. He felt this program could be accelerated and that Ontario should exceed by far the basic quota for Canada in the present drive. April has one week set aside to try an arrange something for each night of that week to do with membership.

One of the vice presidents, Reg Cleator spoke saying it has been his good fortune to see the membership drive in action, and he had great hopes for the future. The Legion could go on to be even a greater force in public life in Canada with a doubled membership. He said great interest was being shown by senior officers in helping "sell" the Legion to the public. He mentioned Gen. Guy Simons, who was speaking in Timmins, Gen. Frigo in Montreal and Gen. Peakes in Oshawa and Georgetown, all in the near future. He praised all these efforts to enlarge our group, and said as always, he was willing to help in any way humanly possible, and that he would attend all affairs he possibly could.

Pat Biggs, provincial secretary, said he hoped to see a great new year in '57 Legionwise, and that great things had been accomplished this year. He hoped that the branches would go on showing the great interest they had in the scholarship project, and like ventures. He thanked everyone for the co-operation given to the provincial command by the branches. The Legionary was discussed at some length, and this vastly improved book is to be constantly increased and enlarged in every way, as can be done. The Friday night banquet and "kick-off" for Branch 120's membership drive is well under control, and a real big evening is expected. Last Thursday night the executive met to make plans for it, and entertainment chairman Jim Murphy was on hand for it. Everything has been arranged, and even a banquet permit obtained (first one in a long time). Last Friday final arrangements were made, by the executive to obtain some really

and all in all it should be a great night. Just everyone keep one little item in mind... the reason for it... it's not just to hear a good speaker, have a good meal, and see some good entertainment... but to create a spark of interest in each and every member to get out and "sell" the Legion to other veterans, and sign them up, and to show various community leaders what a fine type of organization it is, and convince them that it has a very necessary and useful place in each and every community. So let's see each member take a membership blank home and go out to bring in a new member.

Crack of the week... in going through the questionnaires we see one we really love, from one of our long time members... where it says hobbies, he's got "people,"... and to us that's the greatest hobby of them all. You have to like people in this world and to watch human nature is a wonderful thing. Sounds a lot like our friend who wrote it, too. If we all had that hobby it would be a wonderful world, wouldn't it.

Had Jim Murphy and Bill Roney telling us some of their experiences in "public relations" work of many years ago. "Talk, talk, talk" we wonder just how you managed to get away with deals like that!

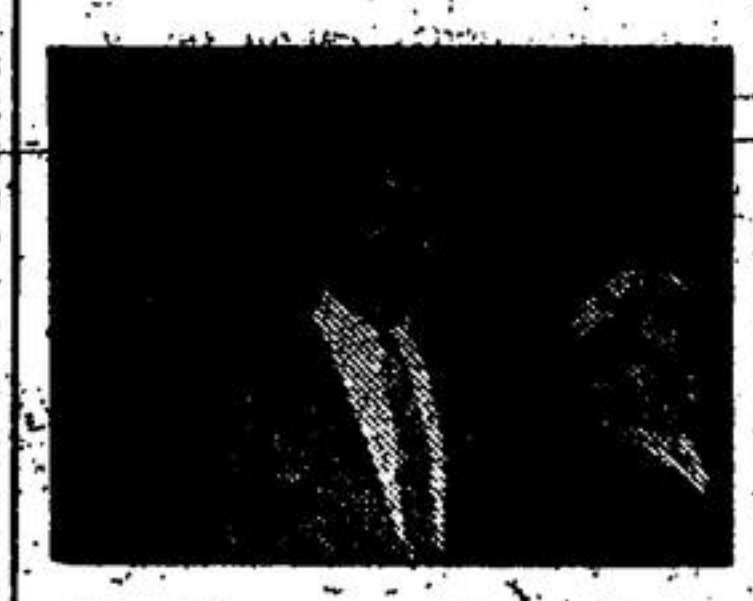
Week-end after next is Acon's big anniversary week-end. Last year a number of us from town attended their Friday night ball, and it was really wonderful. They deserve a very great deal of credit for the way they organize things up there. Their week-end starts off with the aforementioned ball, and it is expected that about 350 will attend. Then on the Saturday they have their annual banquet, and on Sunday a service of Remembrance.

Speaking now as zone commander, we would judge from the general "tone" of the Liquor Control meeting a week ago last Sunday, that regulations are being enforced fairly stringently at present and will likely continue to be. Actually, Georgetown, and other branches who obey the law can be reasonably sure of not being bothered, but when we heard some of the fantastic suggestions by some of the delegates there, we can only shake our head in amazement, and wonder how dumb some people can get! One character in particular, could ask more questions that were insignificant than you could possibly dream up. Seeing some of those laddies in action makes us pretty proud of our membership in town... we had to laugh when the registrar said that there was just one question he hoped would not be asked. His name is Brown, and he's a lawyer, and a good one, in fact, he had to be to keep the meeting on a straightforward and clear course... at any rate, he neared the end of his interrogation, in which he answered questions skillfully for over an hour, every now and then saying "I'm doing fine, nobody has asked that question". Finally, at the end a chap jumps up and says "why can't lady Legion members..." Brown interrupts him by saying "that's the question, my boy." And for the information of any one interested it is definitely against the law and forbidden to allow lady members in beverage rooms, at any time and beverage rooms are NOT allowed for the ladies use in veterans' clubs in Ontario. Also as a matter of interest there are only 197 licensed Legion halls in the province, and they are licensed under a special clause in the Liquor Act, dealing with veterans' club licenses (restricted). You notice the use of the word "restricted". That is the part that makes a world of difference between an ordinary club licence and a veterans' club licence. For any one who is interested, we have a copy of the liquor licensing act at home and any one interested in reading up on this particular bit of legislation are always welcome to it. George McLean, the chief inspector, was particularly interesting, and laid it on the line as well. He expects the Legion to run a better, clean beverage rooms and his inspectors are ordered to close them up otherwise. He says most of them cooperate willingly, and in the main relations with the Legion have been very happy. As a matter of interest, all the people speaking were Legion members, from the registrar and chief inspector down.

There were a good many other points that were brought up, but for obvious reasons not to be discussed here. However, zone commanders were told they would get a copy of the minutes, and could answer any questions to the branches at their meetings, confidentially of course. We are going to move at the next provincial convention that a meeting of this sort be held twice a year at least, for different members of branch executives, so that a larger section of each branch can attend. For instance, if the conference could be made to include entertainment chairmen and sergeants-at-arms, it would go a long way to helping.

HEADS CANADIAN JERSEY CATTLE CLUB

Maurice C. Beaty, Lindale Jersey Farm, Milton, was elected President of the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club at the annual meeting held in Montreal. Shown with him is Mrs. Beaty.



Mr. Beaty is one of Canada's outstanding Jersey breeders and judge, and has been twice designated a Constructive Breeder, the highest honor a Jersey breeder can receive. His herd did exceptionally well at Chicago International Dairy Show last fall. His cattle have won many top awards at the Royal Winter Fair and he has developed and bred many outstanding Jersey sires. He has judged Jersey shows from Halifax to Vancouver, and is one of Halton County's outstanding farmers.

STEWARTTOWN

RECALLS FORMATIONS OF JUNIOR AUXILIARY

Noticing in the Georgetown Herald, date February 27th that the Junior W.A. would be 27 years old on March 3rd, Mrs. C. A. Grant visited the meeting on that date. Mrs. Grant was the first secretary and she had the original minute book. She read the minutes and after telling about the organization she brought out a birthday cake and ginger ale for the branch to celebrate its 27th birthday. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Baily were both there at the organization. The Rector Mr. Boyd and a member of the Diocesan Junior Board also were present at that meeting. The meeting was held in the house across from the school where Mr. and Mrs. Carhart live now. Mr. Boyd and Ted Baily had quite a time helping the lady get her car out of the spring mud.

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