

**DEBUNKING THE FAIRIES AND SANTA CLAUS**

By Lewis Milligan

Charles Dickens was a keen student of human nature, and while some of his characters may have been overdrawn in certain features, they are mostly true to life. The characters he depicted were, of course, typical of the times in which he lived and it may be said that they were the product of the social conditions prevailing in England, particularly in London, in the early part of the nineteenth century. But although times and conditions may change, human nature is fundamentally the same in all generations.

We have our Pickwicks, Micawbers, Dombey, Bumbles, Fagins, Gradgrinds and the rest of the Dickensian species with us to-day under different guises and circumstances. Outstanding among these in this age of science and realism are the Gradgrinds. They may not be very numerous, and our Gradgrinds may not be quite as outspoken as their original; they are usually more subtle and scientific. But occasionally one of these realists blurts out his suppressed contempt for anything and everything that is not strictly in conformity with "Facts." The realm of imagination is outside of their mental orbit, and as for poetry and fantasy, they are so tone-deaf and color-blind to the things of the spirit that they impatiently dismiss them as non-existent or as perversions of "Fact."

The latest of these modern Gradgrinds to reveal himself is Maj.-Gen. Brock Chisholm, Deputy Health Minister at Ottawa. In a speech at Washington recently he derided the theology and moral teachings of the Christian churches, and he followed this up later by cruelly exposing the myth of Santa Claus. In an address at the Women's Forum of the Young Women's Christian Association at Ottawa, the General said that children should be told "the literal truth about everything." He said that "no child can believe in Santa Claus and not be afraid—because Santa Claus was then a ghost—unless he (the child) was moron or an imbecile." He was sure that everyone present, including himself, would have been afraid during his teens to sleep on a grave in a cemetery. The reason was that magic and ghosts were believed in and thinking was distorted. He went on to say that if mothers would make sure children understood that fairy stories and Santa Claus were a pretence and only "for fun" the distorted thinking would vanish as a result and would increase the chances of the human race surviving for 100 years by 75 per cent.

The General himself seems to be entering into the realm of fantasy when he talks about a child sleeping on a grave in a cemetery, and claims that human life would be extended to 100 years if children were told that Santa Claus and fairy stories were only for fun. No child, unless he were a moron or an imbecile, would ever think of sleeping in a graveyard, and there is something deficient in the child who cannot, without explanation, enter into the fun and enjoy the mental stimulation of Fairyland. To the normal child-mind the world into which he has just entered is itself a wonderland.

"Heaven lies about us in our infancy," said Wordsworth, "shades of the prison-house begin to close upon the growing boy" soon enough; but when the "vision splendid" fades into "the light of common day," the realms of fancy and imagination, poetry and religion, remain. That man is to be pitied who is shut out from those romantic and refreshing regions of the mind. If children are to be told "the literal truth about everything," then they must be taught that music is merely a combination of air-waves impinging upon the tympanum, that poetry is an arrangement of words, syllables and rhymes, and that the emotions stirred up by these arts are unreal and deceptive. General Chisholm would probably agree with some modern psychologists who tell us poetry and religion are the products of hyperacidity.

We live in an age of economics and mechanical realism, but yet "the child is father of the man," and we are "moving about in worlds not realized."

"But for those first affections, Those shadowy recollections, Which, be they what they may, Are yet the fountain-light of all our day, Are yet the master-light of all our seeing."

**WORLD SPEED RECORDS HELD BY BRITAIN**

LONDON — With the Meteor's six hundred and six miles per hour flight Britain now holds world speed records on water, land and in the air. On the water Sir Malcolm Campbell established the world motorboat record when he made his 141.74 miles per hour over Coniston Water in August 1939. In the Atlantic the fastest passage in both directions was made by the Queen Mary; 21 hours, forty-five minutes from Bishop Rock to Ambrose Light and twenty hours, forty-two minutes from Ambrose to Bishop (1938). On land the world record was won by John Cobb at Bonneville Flats, Utah, in August 1939, when he achieved a speed of 368.85 miles per hour in a British car powered by a Rolls Royce engine. The rail record is held by the London North Eastern Railway, "Mallard", which in July 1939 achieved 125 miles per hour.

**The Week at OTTAWA**

By H. L. JONES  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Talks lasting a total of just 20 hours took place among a dozen men in the nation's capital this week. From them may spring sweeping changes in the whole of Canada's life. The nine provincial premiers and Prime Minister Mackenzie King and some of his cabinet were the conferees. Their goal was the successful planning of a new agreement on division of authority between the Dominion and the provinces.

It was a meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Dominion-Provincial Conference which first met last summer. When it adjourned to Jan. 28 after four days of talking it was announced that an economic committee consisting of three representatives of each of the 10 governments would be set up and would hold its first meeting Dec. 4.

Beyond the announcement that there had been "a frank exchange of views of all participating governments" and that discussions were "co-operative and constructive", there was little to indicate exactly what went on behind the closed and guarded doors of the parliamentary committee room that was the meeting place.

Newspapermen who kept a four-day vigil outside those doors got nowhere questioning the conferees as they went back and forth. They were left with only speculation. One story circulated that there was a difference between Mr. King and some of his ministers but the Prime Minister later denied this.

**A Success**  
Parliament hill observers, weighing the outward facts, concluded this second Dominion-Provincial conference had made progress, had been a success. It was believed that the provinces had received partial assurance, at least on the point most made: that any agreement must do something more than put them in as good a financial position as they would be under the pre-war arrangements of taxation.

It was believed, too, that any final agreement would be within the framework of the Dominion proposals made last August, though there might be considerable modification as to detail. Those proposals involved exclusive Dominion collection of income, corporation and estate taxes and larger subsidies to the provinces, based on a minimum of \$12 a head of population.

For most provinces that arrangement, coupled with other proposals on health insurance, social security and Dominion assistance for public works, appeared to promise them as good a financial position as if they collected taxes on their own in the three fields.

A day after the conference ended, Premier Manning made public Alberta's submission. It disclosed he had asked the federal government to adopt the essential doctrines and policies of his Social Credit party in conjunction with the writing of any new Dominion-Provincial agreement.

The Alberta brief also had asked these five things: 1. Increase of the per capita grant from \$12 to \$16; 2. Payment of substantial contributions by the Dominion by educational costs; 3. Amendment of the old age pension plan to have the Dominion assume the entire cost of pensions starting at the age of 65 and increase of pensions to assure an adequate standard of living; 4. That the Dominion take responsibility for those previously self-employed such as farmers who, from circumstances beyond their control, needed assistance; 5. A definite undertaking from the Dominion not to enter any new fields of direct taxation other than those specified, and not increase rates of taxation in the fields it now occupies in excess to present rates.

What the Dominion proposed to do about the Alberta proposals was not disclosed but one fact stood clear—no insurmountable barrier yet had been met. Next spring may see the new agreement actually begin to take shape.

**New Tax Plan**  
Parliamentary discussion during the week disclosed that the federal government is working out a new system of income tax for farmers and fishermen. Under it their incomes would be averaged over a period of years for income tax purpose, Finance Minister Hsley told the Commons. It would be complicated—the minister said "an awful job"—because of the distinction which would have to be drawn between classes in the community.

The disclosure came after the Commons had defeated two want-of-confidence motions in the government in the form of amendments to the budget motion. Thus the budget debate, second major debate of the session, was disposed of as the Commons strove to adjourn by mid-December. It would be a tight race, but parliamentary observers believed the parliamentarians, now sitting from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with only breaks for lunch and dinner, would make it.

At the week's end the Windsor strike still was the nation's labor sore spot following rejection of the latest settlement formula by the strikers. Labor Minister Mitchell, who helped

work out the formula with union and company representatives in conferences at Ottawa, gave the formula had provided for limited negotiation between the company and union with an arbitrator sitting in. At the end of the negotiation period the arbitrator would have given a binding ruling on points still in dispute. The company accepted but the union, by a vote of the membership, rejected the proposals.

There was no immediate indication what steps, if any, the government might next take. Meanwhile, the sprawling Ford plant, its reconversion scarcely begun on new model cars, stood picketed and idle for the 12th week.

**WINGS FOR THE GIRAFFE**

Broadcasting from London a few days ago, L. A. G. Strong recalled his school holidays when he used to go over every year from Plymouth to Dublin to stay with his grandparents in Sandycove, part of Kingston as it then was (Dun Laoghaire, now-days).

He remembered "a beloved, regular visitor, Percy French"—since become known world-wide as the author of "The Mountains of Mourne," "Phil the Fluter's Bail," and other humorous and tuneful Irish ditties. He sang his own songs, accompanying himself. And as he told them, he would "execute spirited paintings on large sheets on the guitar. And he told stories, of paper, and, after one had admired his skill and dexterity, he would turn the picture upside down, and lo! it was something quite different."

By the time Strong saw him, French was white-haired, but he still had his pleasant light tenor voice. And no one that Strong has met since could better point or time a story.

One that French used to tell, Strong related to radio listeners. It was about an English visitor who had come to an Irish country hostel. As the grinning Boots led him up to his room, the guest looked apprehensively about him. He'd warned that Irish hotels were a bit on the primitive side. And when the Boots had left him in his room he gave it careful scrutiny. Sure enough there was something wanting. So he went to the landing and called out: "Boots!" "Yissor?" came the answer. "Boots, the carafe." "What's that, sorr?" "The carafe—the water bottle. It isn't on the washstand." "O-oh, the water bottle, sorr," came the drawn-out comment. "Sure, I'm just going to fill it at the pump. Ye know, sorr—I always thought a giraffe was a bird!"

**Toronto Planning Germ-Free Schools**

**Educational Officials Try Out Disease-Killing Lamps and Sprays**

TORONTO (CP)—If and when the Toronto Board of Education introduces the use of health lamps and sprays in school classrooms, children of public school and pre-school age will no longer be subject to such so-called "child" diseases as measles or influenza.

Dr. C. C. Goldring, director of education, said the object is to "have these lamps kill off germs, particularly those of measles, so that pupils will not take germs of measles and other ills home to children of pre-school age."

He said the equipment is expensive and still in the experimental stage. The method of introducing antiseptics in school classrooms in the form of mist or spray is also in the experimental stage.

That is not the case with glycol vaporization, now fairly well developed. Glycol mist killed "all sorts of disease germs" in wartime army camps, said C. H. R. Fuller, business administrator.

"It is recommended," he said, "that the local department of health be asked to give consideration to setting up a plan of testing the possible control of air-borne germs in school classrooms. Such tests should be carried on under the supervision of qualified nurses and medical doctors."

He said it will be necessary to keep careful records in classrooms where continual vaporization of glycol is used and in other rooms where no antiseptic is used. If the records were kept for a three-month period and a comparison made of the treated and untreated rooms he thought important data could be produced. Classrooms accommodating children eight to ten years of age should be chosen for tests, he said.

**BRITISH DEVICE SUNK THREE HUNDRED U-BOATS**

Secrets of the deadliest submarine killer of the war, the "Hedgehog," a British rocket device, have just been released. The "Hedgehog" which is credited with sinking more than three hundred Z-boats, almost entirely replaced depth charges. It fires twenty-four projectiles at one time which are lobbed over the position of the U-boat. They fall in an elliptical pattern, sink through the water and do not explode until they make contact. Hence an explosion means a "kill." The "Hedgehog" was developed by British experts and first used in North Atlantic escort groups early in 1942.

**Bring Education To Lonely Farms**

**Education Films Shown in Rural Areas Despite Weather**

REGINA (CP)—Slogan of the 12th field representatives' of Saskatchewan's visual education department is "the show must go on." It takes a rough blizzard or a bad snowstorm to keep these determined young men from reaching their objective on schedule as they transport their portable motion picture equipment into remote parts of the province.

For communities which have no theatres, the arrival of the field man is a big event. Residents of many lonely settlements in the hinterlands of the province had never seen a moving picture until the visual education service moved.

Visual education service kept the people of isolated communities up-to-date on developments during the war, since many films with a war-time theme were displayed. With the end of the war the mobile units have switched to films with peacetime themes of current interest. Each field man covers five towns weekly by car or train. Each is a qualified projectionist and trained to lead group discussions.

**BETTER FARMERS**

KITCHENER, Ont. (CP)—Ontario in the future will need not more farmers but better farmers, according to Agriculture Minister T. L. Kennedy. He said that at present 95 per cent. of the farm products of Ontario are produced by fewer than 50 per cent. of province farmers.

**GROUP PURCHASES OF TURKEYS**

Following the practice usual at this time of year, many office and factory workers are pooling their orders for Christmas turkeys. Turkeys are also often used as gifts by firms to their employees and are commonly used as prizes in raffles and bingo games. Under some conditions, the wholesale price may be obtained on turkeys purchased in this manner.

"If the turkeys purchased under any such pooled arrangements are delivered in bulk to one address, the maximum wholesale ceiling price will prevail," stated F. L. J. Seldon, Prices and Supply Representative of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. "On the other hand, if deliveries are made separately to individual homes then the retail price will apply." He further stated that, continuing the practice of past years, any contract made with a producer before the announcement of ceiling is illegal.

Maximum wholesale prices for Central Ontario (either boxpacked or loose) for deliveries made between December 15th and the end of the year are: Special Grade, 39 1-2c, Grade B, 36 1-2c, Grade C, 33 1-2c. Retail maximum prices are: Special Grade 47c, Grade A, 46c, Grade B, 43c, Grade C, 40c.

**IT COULD HELP**

All politicians should serve an apprenticeship as editors so they would realize that what they say is down in black and white.—Elmira (Ont.) Signal.

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**COUNTY OF HALTON  
1946 - LOCAL COURTS CALENDAR - 1946**

Place of Sitting	Day of Sitting	Jan.	Mar.	May	June	Sept.	Nov.	Jan. 1947
1 Milton	Friday	11	5	10	28	9	8	10
2 Oakville	Tuesday	8	5	7	25	10	5	7
3 Georgetown	Wednesday	9	5	8	26	4	6	8
4 Acton	Thursday	10	7	3	27	5	7	9
6 Burlington	Monday	7	4	6	24	9	4	6

All Division Courts Open at 10 a.m. Standard Time

Names and Addresses of Clerks—1, B. Knight, Milton; 2, John Chambers, Oakville; 3, Elmer Thompson, Georgetown; 4, Wilfred Coles, Acton; 6, C. D. Bull, Burlington.

County Court and General Sessions, Monday, 3rd June, 1 p.m.; Monday and December, 1 p.m.

Sittings of County Court without Jury, Monday, 1st April, at 10 a.m.; Monday, 7th October, at 10 a.m.

Audit of Criminal Justice and County Accounts, Tuesday, 8th January; Tuesday, 9th April; Tuesday, 9th July; Thursday, 3rd October.

By Order **W. I. DICK, Milton**  
Clerk of the Peace

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