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by Kay Dee

It really is good to see the snow whirling around to-day. I was glad for the dry roads at Christmas and New Year's but didn't realize till to-day that we were missing what really is winter's only charm—snow.

Sunday was reading day at our house. I read the last half of "Least of All Saints" by Grace Irwin, and then D. took it and read it straight through. Knowing the authoress gave me a most personal feeling while I read! I don't know if the book is in Milton library or not, but you may have read about it in reviews, or own it.

Anyway, it is about an intelligent (and handsome) young man who becomes annoyed with the sermons he hears and ridiculous arguments against factual Christianity. He goes through as a minister at Victoria College in Toronto. He graduates, gets a city church, wows the teen agers and impresses the adults (all but one)—without faith.

Some of the things young Andrew Conington thinks, I've heard Grace Irwin speak about. She would ask us if we ever paid attention to the words of the hymns we were singing in church. Do you remember "Faith of our fathers, living faith"? Its words tell that our fathers, chained in dungeons, still sang God's praises. In the last verse, though, it says "How sweet would be thy children's fate, if they, like them, could die for thee."

And Miss Irwin asked us if we really thought it would be sweet. We didn't—and I haven't sung that last verse since.

New Year's Eve we went to a travelling dinner party, and crowded into the group in our car was a young man just recently come to the States from Scotland. He's a doctor, studying surgery there on a scholarship.

He was brilliant; he didn't have much to say and sat quietly by himself in the crowd as if deliberating incisions or something. I asked him, though, what impressed him most about the American way of living. He said most Scots who came over went back home with nothing to talk about except the food. He was different—his main impression wasn't that, but—Pogo.

He told us almost delightedly that during the American election he wore a huge "I Go Pogo" button on the campus. A kilted surgeon on scholarship!

Walt Kelly, Pogo's originator, came to the university and spoke to them, drawing quickly on a blackboard all the time to illustrate what he was saying.

David Kerr was the name of our fellow traveller for dinner. He instructed us in pronouncing "Kerr" half way between "care" and "car." It most certainly wasn't pronounced "cur", anyway!

After a longish drive, we were glad to get to the warm house where dessert and coffee were ready. The house's warmth was one of the main topics of conversation there—electric radiant heat. Gwen's was one of the first houses in the district to have it, and her family was very pleased with it. Each room had a separate thermostat and a neat grill in the wall. The number installed is strictly limited, because of the load on power.

We wondered if it would be pretty expensive.

After New Year's, there is nothing to look forward to but spring, and I certainly am! The seed catalogues have come, and I'm mapping out what will go where in the new garden around our frail new grass under the snow. The cost could be tremendous — already I have offers of cast-aways when thinning time comes, thank goodness!

Night school Tuesday keeps up my interest in winter. Otherwise spring could come just anytime now—just anytime.

Time Loss Drops In November-Minister

Time loss through work stoppages arising from industrial disputes in Canada during November, 1952, declined sharply from the preceding month and was the lowest for any month during 1952, according to a preliminary summary of strikes and lockouts, released by Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Labor.

Preliminary figures showed 22 strikes and lockouts in existence during November, 1952, involving 5,084 workers with a time loss of 44,176 man-working days, as compared with 38 work stoppages in October, 1952, with 13,347 workers involved and a time loss of 165,009 man-working days.

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Fashion Hint



Five special royal colors have been chosen for the Coronation this year. They have been announced by the British Color Council and are—Elizabethan red, Marguerite blue, beau blue, princess gray and spun gold.

Styles are being influenced by the Coronation as well, with evening gowns especially taking the first Queen Elizabeth's gowns as suggestions.

While few of us purchase "specials" like these Coronation issues of styles and shades, a basic dress is often what we shop for. This coat dress could be the background of a winter wardrobe. They are especially nice in soft, lightweight wool. A two button leader sends a single file marching right down to the hem.

Green corn on the stalk is attractive to raccoons. In areas where they are plentiful, these animals will sometimes eat a complete patch of sweet corn in a few nights.

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THE TUNDRA WORLD MEN AT ARMS

A mild story with the main stress on the authoress's own interests, plants and wild life, is "The Tundra World" by trained naturalist Theodora Stanwell-Fletcher. Although it's located at Churchill in Northern Canada, with an attractive young girl studying nature amid many men, wild life is distinctly confined to its aspects which can be studied, preserved and classified.

The book is based on the authoress' own experiences in the Arctic and northern British Columbia, and the information included in the narrative is genuinely interesting.

Plants and animals of the north are rarely considered in many descriptions of it, apart from the husky dogs and reindeer. Dangers and excitement in the course of searching for botanical and zoological facts are surprisingly good subject matter.

Naturally, Rosamund found time out from naturalism to make friends with a young man called Eric Grey.

"Men at Arms", the much discussed latest book of Evelyn Waugh (a man, by the way), is also in Milton library. Guy Crouchback is the hero, and Waugh hopes to make the book the first of a trilogy. In the war Crouchback hopes for personal revitalization. Divorced, living in Italy, he had been "in a rut". The army, however, created its own rut.

One is surprised to find a story about the army in wartime so calm. "Brideshead Revisited", for instance, had much more vitality.

This reviewer has heard a paper "In Defense of the Mystery Story", and hopes to obtain parts of it for this column shortly.

CORONATION SEATS

Want a seat at the coronation parade? Of the 100,000 available, Canada, reports The Financial Post, has been allotted 8,000. Some confusion has been caused by reports of prices which ran as high as 10 guineas (about \$30). These, it is explained, were mainly official seats allotted to foreign countries. Visitors from the Commonwealth get a break with prices running from three to six pounds.

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