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THURSDAY, APRIL 28th, 1938.

TAG DAY FOR THE BLIND

A Tag Day will be held next Saturday in aid of the blind. The cause is one which appeals to the heart of every citizen and we look for a generous response to the appeal for funds for this very worthy work.

The most outstanding event in the world of the Canadian blind during the past year was the passage by the King Government of an amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act which makes applicable the provisions of the Act to blind persons forty years of age or over. This was a splendid move on the part of our government, but no pension scheme can ever take the place of the work being done by Canadian National Institute for the blind. What pensions will do is simply to regularize and put on a secure acceptable basis, the furnishing of certain basic necessities. Pensions will leave the Institute more free to proceed with the main object for which it was created; the discovery of industrial and commercial openings for capable blind artisans and merchants; the conduct of more active campaigns for the prevention of blindness; the training and rehabilitation of those who lose their sight after school age; the maintenance of a library service; social service; the administration of privileges and concessions accorded to the blind; the establishment and maintenance of residences and the consistent advocacy of the right of blind men and women to live normal lives and to take their places in the normal life of the community.

Tag day for Canadian national Institute for the Blind to be held in this district on Saturday, April 30th.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY LIFE

The public should approve and support work being done — and to be done — by the Community Welfare Council of Ontario. This organization aims to aid and encourage all activities that have as their basis a desire to improve community life. This may mean a travelling library for a centre, promotion of handicraft enterprises in another, or, again, the establishment of wisely directed study groups. All these are needed.

The Council is interested in the new Canadians; and here is a field in which much useful work may be done. It is recognized that, particularly in the matter of language, the new Canadians are at a disadvantage, especially socially, which tends to isolation among people of their own racial origin. Therefore the Council provides them with opportunities to learn English. For example, a young law student, a new Canadian, has been spreading a knowledge of his acquired language among other newcomers in Northern Ontario, and this work will be carried on.

One of the perils to which the foreign-born individual is exposed is the activity of the Red propagandist, who plays upon his ignorance of Canadian affairs, his handicap in the way of language, and perhaps the lack of that very encouragement which the Welfare Council aims to provide. If the Council worked in no other field, its activity here will be of great value to the future of this country.

But the Council conducts other activities. As one of its spokesmen puts it: "One of the goals we seek is that communities shall, in that curious way that some communities have, develop a sensitiveness to community life. We might express it this way; that some communities in Ontario have found a common soul that reacts spontaneously to the things that are for the common good. By that I mean that a community comes readily to recognize that town planning, adequate nursing services, adequate libraries, good, wholesome moving pictures, schools with well-trained teachers, churches with a live social progress problem—that all these are things which make for a good community."

Undoubtedly the material that may be worked on is at hand. There is in every district a strong element eager to develop the spirit of friendliness and co-operation that means so much to humanity. The Welfare Council can provide for this spirit the direction that will make it effective, thus giving a public service that will improve community life in this Province.

KEEPING A SMALL TOWN SMALL

One of the things which keeps a small town small, and which makes doing business or practicing a profession so hazardous, is the number of people in that town who earn their income there and spend it in a nearby city.

The small town dentist is irritated by the local citizen who goes to the large city to patronize a dentist when he himself goes to the big town tailor to have his clothes made. The small town lawyer complains when the big city lawyer is called on in an important case, but when he is getting married, he goes to the big city to buy his fiancée's engagement ring. The local druggist is annoyed when the woman who runs the beauty parlor goes to the big city for her soaps and creams, yet he allows his wife to go to the same big city for bargain permanent waves.

When a man makes his living out of the citizens of a town it is his duty to spend every dollar of that income in the town, if possible. If he expects the people of that town to do business with him, then he should realize his own obligation to do business with them.—Kiwans Magazine.

WHAT NEED FOR COUNTY COUNCIL?

When you come to think of it, just what reason is there in these days of easy communication for the existence of county councils. Algoma, for example, finds that it can get along quite well without one.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

MORNING'S THE TIME

A watch that is wound in the morning will last longer. The tightly wound main spring will stand the shocks and jars of day better than a loose main spring. For the same reason people are fresher and do better work in the mornings. By night they get run down.—Windsor Star.

A BIG ATTRACTION

Every effort must be put forth by the authorities at Queen's Park to conserve and increase the game fish and wild life in general in this province. That the great Northern Ontario playgrounds and fisherman's paradise are the main attractions to American tourists who left something like \$295,000,000 in this province in 1937, is evidenced in the constant stream of inquiries flowing into the Canadian Travel Bureau each spring. — Guelph Mercury.

Son of Uptergrove Manse  
Now North Vancouver M.P.

By Gordon Graydon, M.P.  
Grant MacNeil, sturdy descendant of sturdy Scottish forebears has quickly proved his worth in the House of Commons. It is his first Parliament but it didn't take this C.C.F. Member very long to be regarded by all the House as a very outstanding representative. In addition to this, he is well liked by the Members. Down here this is almost essential to ultimate success. Grant, undoubtedly, has achieved the essential.

This North Vancouver M.P. was born 45 years ago in the manse at Uptergrove, Ontario. He is the son of a Cape Breton Presbyterian minister, who was stationed there at the time. Upon inquiry, I found that his father is still living and that he is still in good health, having passed his 86th birthday. Grant went to several schools, including Seaford and Meaford secondary institutions of learning. After getting his senior matriculation at Meaford, he struck out for Western Canada "on his own". That was about 1911. He saw France in less than a year from enlistment and after serving in the line for fifteen months he was severely wounded in the head and leg and invalided to England, where he spent a long period in the hospital. In 1917 he was sent back to Canada to convalesce and for more than a year he was a patient in the Moose Jaw hospital. He had more than his share of misfortune. As he slowly recovered in that Western city he was detailed for vocational training and while doing this work the Moose Jaw branch of the Great War Veterans Association attracted his interest and attention. He became its Secretary. This was the commencement of an extended period of service in the interests of returned soldiers in Canada. Few have a better record of service in "this country" in that respect. The new Veterans' Association was just coming into being when Grant MacNeil identified himself with its promotion and advancement. I asked him if he knew the late Dr. W. D. Sharpe of Brampton, who was one of the pioneers of the Great War Veterans' Association, after which followed a fine eulogy of the splendid work this Brampton soldier and physician accomplished for the Veterans in those earlier days of their organization. Grant had no hesitation in saying that Doctor Sharpe was "in his heart and not afraid to make real sacrifices on behalf of his fellow overseas Veterans. It was a tribute of great worth, for it came from a man who had occupied for some years the post as Secretary of the Veterans' organization in Canada. Dr. Sharpe, as most of my readers will recall, was the first President. In 1926, when Earl Haig and others attempted to bring the various bodies of organized veterans into one body, MacNeil resigned as Secretary of his organization so that a brand new set of officers would command the newly-formed Canadian Legion.

From Veterans' organization work to the District Sales Managership of the Ford Motor Company in Vancouver he went. Later, he was with the Chrysler Corporation and when his health broke down in 1929 he was forced to abandon this type of work and lead a life in the open air. He was Manager of a Summer Resort in B.C. for quite awhile until he was bitten by the political bug. That is usually fatal but Grant, so far, has managed to survive. This young Veteran, while in Ottawa as Secretary to the soldiers' organization, made friends with Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, Leader of the C. P. Party. Grant was attracted to Mr. Woodsworth's theories on economics and politics and while through the years that followed he did not take any active part in political affairs he did continue to study. At a meeting in Vancouver about 1933 this future M.P. was present. He had something to say while there and those in attendance asked him to organize a C.C.F. club in the city. He took on the job and from then on it was a continuous advance in the circles of that Party in British Columbia. In 1934, he took the C. C. F. nomination in North Vancouver and when the general elections were over in October, 1935, he was Grant MacNeil, M.P., by a majority of nearly a thousand.

Not many new members have taken a more active or more important part in the work of the House of Commons than this C.C.F. follower. In Committees especially, where the interests of returned soldiers are in question, his advice and knowledge is held in high esteem. The famous debate on National Defence last year was largely precipitated by Mr. MacNeil, and his name was emblazoned on the front page of almost every newspaper in Canada. Tolerance for others with opposing views, courtesy

and kindness in his public and private life, are some of the characteristics of this soldier Member. There are not many members of his Party in this Parliament but the addition of Grant MacNeil to this number is universally regarded as a valuable and distinct acquisition. He is a fluent speaker of serious mien and convincing earnestness, and none would question the undoubted sincerity of his personal views on public questions. One need not stretch the truth when one states that the 18th Parliament of Canada has gained much by having Grant MacNeil as one of its sitting members. A grandpa he is too—three times a grandpa, he tells me. Besides the one daughter who is married there is another young lady of 16, who is nurse. Mr. and Mrs. Grant MacNeil are a good combination. He is Scottish and she is English. Their home is in the coastal city of Vancouver.

BOY SCOUT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 27th annual meeting of the Boy Scouts Association, Provincial Council of Ontario, was held at Kitchener in the large auditorium of the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate. There were nearly 600 enthusiastic Scout and Cub leaders present from many parts of Ontario. The conference lasted two days. Cub and Scout demonstrations took place in the Gym and very fine training was shown by the boys of Kitchener and Waterloo where scouting is going ahead in leaps and bounds. Mary H. Connor, Cub mistress of the 48th Pack, Hillcrest School, Toronto, returned yesterday with a very pleasant week-end spent with old friends both in Waterloo and Kitchener where her father, the late J. W. Connor, was principal of the Collegiate for many years and whose painting is hanging up in the school library. A very distinguished friend of our country, Sir Alfred Pickford, commonly known all over the world as "Pickie" and who for many years was Chief Commissioner of India, addressed the Scouts and Commissioners on Saturday evening. Sir Alfred is now prominently connected with Scouting Imperial Headquarters.

"It is a fine argument for democracy that it has survived even its demagogic friends."—Sinclair Lewis.

SLATS' DIARY

(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: The I must insist that Jake is mitey dum he sum times has a rite idee. 1 of them was this a.m. at S. S. He had a dime to give to the hethens but diddnt. He sed he thot it best to buy a ice cream sody & let the drugest give the dime to the hethens. Monday: Ma red in the noosepaper out loud where it sed a man married 9 wives and finely became en-sane. Pa popped off & sed how could a crasey man beok ensane. I uspose they was a joak about it sum wheres but it diddnt seam to tickle Ma none. Tuesday: Pa rote up & put in yesterday p. m.s want ad a ad about an antek bed room sute that are neerly new. The editur got mad when he red same & sed he are strictly vs. such boneheds. So are intire famly are wandering what were rong with it. We no theys a erer sum wheres tho. Wednesday: So many of the dames in are city smoke siggerets that I bleeve the ones who dont smoke attract the most atenshen. So I wonder if that is why they dont smoke for I no Jane & Elsy deerly love to be notised by us boys. Me a speshelly. Thursday: I win a prize in school today. The teacher ast what are the sum of 9 times 7. My anser were sixty 2. I win the prize becous I cum closter than eney other skoller in are class. Friday: I am scared that Jane is a going to turn me vs. womenhood altogether. When I missed a word in the class she giggeled & laft like she was glad of it. I am about redy to throw her over. But these mitey cute tho & I love her. Very trooly & deerly. Saturday: This otto be a day of rest for school kids but with me that issent the sitcheashen. My mother leads the world thinking up things for a kid to do on Saturday. And among same they issent no base ball and roller skateing and fishing and etc. I am attented to declare independents and war and etc. Also in the words of Napoleum to tell the world to gimme libterty and deth and etc.



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