

OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

It's real winter here in Ottawa now, and quite some charge from the sweltering September 6th when the first session of the 20th Parliament was formally opened. There is considerably more snow here than in North York and here on Parliament Hill the cold December breezes get a wide open sweep.

There is general satisfaction here with the success of the conference last week of Provincial Premiers with members of the Federal Government. Commenting in the House on the conference Mr. King said: "The meeting was characterized by the most harmonious proceedings throughout and I could not imagine better meetings." A splendid spirit has been evident throughout the proceedings which augurs well in the future. The success of Canada's post-war program including the extension and broadening of social services depends a great deal on the establishing of a complete understanding and a spirit of co-operation between provincial governments and the national government. The success of the conference thus far once again reflects credit of the Prime Minister's good judgment in holding the conference this fall, rather than last winter or spring when the country was on the eve of a general election.

All the provincial premiers were in attendance at the conference. We didn't have the opportunity of meeting all, but did meet Premier Angus L. Macdonald of Nova Scotia, Premier McNair of New Brunswick, Premier Duplessis of Quebec and Premier Stuart Garson of Manitoba. We were most impressed by McNair of New Brunswick and Garson of Manitoba. Both are young men of outstanding ability and I would not be surprised if we hear much from both of them in national politics in the coming years. Both have been mentioned as possible candidates for the National Liberal Leadership when the present Leader chooses to retire.

Parliament is speeding along these days to the close of the session, and progress has been so satisfactory that the prorogation date may be December 12th. There is rumor here that Canada may be honoured by becoming the permanent home of the League of Nations organization, with Vancouver Island being the favoured site if this country is so honoured. The preparatory session of the U.N.O. is now on in London and Canada has four representatives over there.

During finance estimates this week Hon. J. L. Ilesley let it be known that his department is trying to work out a system under which incomes of farmers and fishermen will be averaged over a period of years for income tax purposes.

Mr. Ilesley said at best the system would be complicated and rigid, with farmers and fishermen not being allowed to average sometimes and not at others. "It is going to be an awful job because you will have to draw a distinction between classes in the community," said Mr. Ilesley. "You cannot average everybody. If we are going to avoid charges of discrimination we will have to go very slowly in this. The proposed plan has some considerable merit but also presents many difficulties in administration. "Controls" are rapidly disappearing and few are likely to remain in effect by spring is the general opinion here. That is controls as related to rubber, timber, motor vehicles, etc. There is no intention of relaxing as far as price control is concerned, as the considered view here is that we must continue at all cost the fight against inflation.

Canada's growth in stature among other countries in the world, during the war years, is being shown in the steady increase of foreign representatives along the diplomatic row in Ottawa. From the farthest corners of the earth have come diplomats to establish embassies and legations, until today there is literally millions of dollars worth of property owned and leased by foreign governments in and around the Capital.

Canada had diplomats here from the British Commonwealth, France, the Netherlands and Belgium a number of years ago. But it was not until the war years, when the world spotlight swung round to shine on Canada and the name of Ottawa was spoken as often as Washington, London, Moscow and Paris, that other countries began to take notice.

Then Canada won for herself an identity of her own. She was a country in her own right—not just a daughter of the British Empire—and recognizing this, other nations began appointing diplomatic representatives.

From Russia, and China, Mexico and Peru they came. From Cuba, Argentina, Greece and Turkey came their first envoys. From South Africa, which had only had an accredited representative here, came the Union's first commissioner, and from the Commonwealth of Australia came its first high commissioner to Canada.

Today there are representatives of 25 countries in Ottawa. As late as 1943 there were no envoys in Canada holding the rank of ambassador—yet today, eleven diplomats are ambassadors.

It isn't going to be an easy task to handle the question of the Japanese in Canada and the question frequently is referred to in the House, particularly by members from British Columbia. We have some 24,000 people of Japanese origin in Canada and of these over 10,000 are likely to be deported to Japan as soon as shipping space permits. These 10,000 some time before the fall of Japan signed requests that they be returned to their homeland. It is likely to be the government policy to prohibit concentration of Japs in any one province such as obtained in British Columbia before the war. There is some criticism of this deportation and general policy, but it comes from communities which have not experienced Jap concentration, and in fact from some communities which refuse to give business licenses to Japanese.

The House and the country are anxiously awaiting the pronouncement of Prime Minister King on Foreign Affairs expected every day in the House.

MAPLE

Last Saturday afternoon a very successful bazaar was held in the Masonic Hall under the auspices of St. Stephen's Church Women's Auxiliary. Everything sold rapidly. The lucky ticket on the beautiful quilt was held by Mr. George Taggart of Teston. The second draw, a beautifully dressed doll, went to little Miss Heather Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Miller of Maple. Over 100 people enjoyed the sand plate supper and \$165.00 was realized.

Christmas cards have been received by his congregation from Rev. Capt. E. W. G. Worrall in England. Pte. Ross Robson has obtained six months industrial leave and is now employed at Milton Palmer's, coal merchant.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles White and family have moved into their lovely new home on Richmond Street. Mr. John Bassant has moved into his house formerly occupied by Charlie White.

We are glad to know that Mr. Jack Ball who has been confined to bed with a heart attack for some weeks is now favourably convalescing.

Miss Hilda Patton of King was a visitor at the parsonage over the week-end.

Sapper Roy Clegg has returned from Montreal where he obtained his discharge from the Royal Canadian Engineers. Roy has secured his former position in the rose gardens of Concord Floral Co.

Thirty-eight bags of Xmas candy have been sent to Capt. Worrall by St. Stephen's Church W.A. for distribution among children in England who have not seen candy for six years.

Each member of the Knit-Wit club received a pair of wooden shoes from Harris Mathewson, a souvenir of Belgium.

"Mike" Miller and "Chuck" Ingram, both of Maple, met recently in Holland near the town of Arnheim where Mike's camp is located. The two lads had breakfast together in camp. This is the first they have seen one another since leaving Maple early in the war.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Arthur Wells is steadily improving in health.

At the election of the trustees for Maple Police Village on Monday, December 3rd Mr. Wilbur Cousins was returned to the board. Two new trustees were elected, Mr. Arthur Lawrie and Mr. Wm. Noble.

Mrs. Neil McLean, a former resident for many years in Maple, died in Toronto and was buried in Maple cemetery on Thursday.

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GORMLEY

Miss Marion Hunt of Toronto spent Sunday afternoon at her home here.

On Wednesday of this week celebrations took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Harvey. The occasion was the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey and also the birthday of Mr. Clarence Doner. Congratulations!

Mr. Walter Newns has been engaged as night watchman at the hydro extension camp which has temporarily located here.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Moorby and Mrs. Sproule visited on Sunday with Mrs. Mrs. Moorby of Sunderland.

Last Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock the wedding of Vernon Gooding and Miss Beth Evans was solemnized in the Streetsville United Church. Over 70 guests were present. The bride's dress was ivory taffeta and she carried Talisman roses. She was also wearing a lovely pearl necklace, the gift of the groom.

The young couple were travelling to Buffalo for their honeymoon and on their return will reside in Streetsville. We wish them every happiness.

On Tuesday Mrs. Styrmo and her pupils of S.S. No. 7 held a bazaar. Much lovely work was presented. Mrs. Laura Drummond, sister of Mr. Bert Leek, has gone to British Columbia to spend the winter months.

Mrs. McWhirter began her teaching duties on Monday in the school on the third south of Gormley. She takes the place of Mr. Harold Thompson who has been there since the opening of the fall term.

UNIONVILLE

On Thursday afternoon, Nov. 29th a fine turnout of ladies attended the meeting of the W.A. of Central United Church. This was held in the S.S. room. The president, Mrs. Milner, presided. The scripture lesson and Bible message given by Mrs. Stephenson and Mrs. M. Cook were well rendered. The theme was National Security and God's Protective Care. The minutes of the last meeting were read with 38 members answering roll call. Thanks was tendered the committee who supervised the tea on Nov. 14th which was so successful. A letter from the speaker, Mrs. Paytman, was read thanking this society for donation received. Mrs. Newton gave several short interesting readings. These were taken from the book "Woven Fragrance" by Wilhelmina Stitch. Then a poem on "The Johnstown Disaster" by Rev. J. Chant was read by M. Miller. Two lovely duets were given by Mrs. J. Russell and Mrs. H. Snowball entitled "Come Back to Bethlehem" and "Fairest Lord Jesus", accompanied Mrs. McCormack. The Mizpah benediction was repeated in union. The hostesses, Mrs. W. Snowball, Mrs. M. H. Thompson, Mrs. LaRose and Mrs. N. Ogden served a dainty tea and a social time was spent together.

The village council have evidently been doing a satisfactory job and have been acclaimed for office for the coming year.

A very fine White Gift service was held last Sunday by the Sunday School and congregation of Central United Church. Members of the Young People's classes took active part with songs by the juniors and intermediates. Rev. McCormack gave the message.

The C.G.I.T. cordially invite all of you to their Christmas Vesper and Candlelight Service on Sunday evening at 7.30.

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