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OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

The first session of the 20th Parliament is fast drawing to a close, and possibly by the time you read this has prorogued. Generally speaking there has been a fine measure of co-operation among members of all political parties. There have been some differences, but these are generally magnified in news reports for political purposes and very often tend to give an untrue picture of Parliament. In the main a very fine and friendly spirit prevails throughout Parliament, much different from that often pictured by inspired writers.

The session has for me been an enjoyable and enlightening experience, even though a busy and demanding one. It takes quite some time to learn the ropes about Parliament Hill, and while we still have much to learn we have made the acquaintance of many people, ministers, members and friends and made many contacts which will make the next session easier and more enjoyable.

The actual reported proceedings of Parliament represent a very small part of a member's work. My mail has averaged over 15 letters from the riding per day, and I may say that while each entailed a certain amount of work it was a great pleasure to be of service to the people of the constituency. We were not always successful in all we sought, and I do want to express to the people of the riding my thanks for their kindly consideration when requests could not be granted.

As Progressive Conservative Leader John Bracken is finishing his first session as leader of his party in Parliament, I am asked often just how he measures up to the job. He has been criticized and there are rumors he is to be replaced by Premier Drew of Ontario. My personal opinion is that Mr. Bracken has done an excellent job. He has been critical but not obstructive. There has been from him no bitterness of expression and no hitting below the belt. The same may be said for Mr. M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. Leader, and Solon Low, Social Credit Leader.

During the past two weeks Parliament has got through an amazing amount of business, despite quite lengthy debate on a couple of issues. The members are anxious to complete the business and get home in time to prepare for Santa Claus' visit. This was evidenced the other night when while waiting for division bells to cease ringing members broke into singing Christmas Carols and "Show me the Way to Go Home."

One of the measures this week and one which will have far-reaching influence on Canada's employment and production schedule, was the credit to the Allied countries, outside of the United Kingdom and the sterling area. This is called The Export Credit Insurance Act, and the \$750,000,000 involved must be added to the \$500,000,000 of export credit to Britain alone. It should be made quite clear that these credits are not like the huge gifts given to Britain and mutual aid to other countries during the war. The credits will be paid back though the interest rates will be very low.

The effect of the credits will be to give foreign countries opportunities to buy goods in Canada, keeping Canadians employed and keeping Canada's natural resources in the production line.

It may look like a formidable job on behalf of the Canadian people, but it is a job which will be accomplished despite its size, and when accomplished will produce unimagined good results for the nations of the world, not to say the little people who make up those nations. The measure received the support of all parties in the House.

The Bretton Woods agreement was adopted in principle also with the support of all parties except the So-

cial Crediters. This bill is high international finance in a big way and is far reaching in its aims. However, it is an attempt by nations of the world to bring about some stability to the economy of the world. It was the expressed opinion of Finance Minister Ilsley that the Bill involved "higher stakes" than any economic issue under discussion in the world today. The economic systems of half the countries of the world have been turned topsy-turvy by the war and Bretton Woods agreement among the nations is simply an attempt to organize international monetary co-operation. The \$300,000,000 which Canada will put into the International Monetary Fund will be used to purchase goods from Canada.

The joint committee of the Senate and Commons appointed to recommend a suitable design for a distinctive national flag for Canada has had several meetings but will not bring in a final report this session. The committee has heard representations of several expert witnesses and examined many designs submitted by interested citizens from all parts of the country. There is a vast difference of opinion on the subject and lengthy debates in future sessions are probable before the matter is finally settled. We have discussed the subject with members from all parts of Canada and our prediction still is that Canada's national flag when adopted will be very close to the Red Ensign.

Complaints are frequent regarding the difficulty in securing children's clothing, particularly underwear. Our enquiries to the department officials here brought the information that the production of underwear for civilian use, despite large military demands, has been maintained at high levels. Special emphasis has been placed on the manufacture of children's underwear and current production is approximately double previous rates.

Honourable Brooke Claxton, Minister of Health, stated in the House this week that in October, 432,984 Family Allowance cheques were issued for the Province of Ontario. The number for all Canada was 1,334,592.

How rumors start will ever remain a mystery, but somehow or other the story was almost throughout the land that a large proportion of the furniture being manufactured in Canada is being exported to South Africa. Of course objection was taken in view of the fact that returning veterans were having difficulty in procuring furniture for their homes. Enquiry at the Department of Trade & Commerce revealed that there has been no exportation of furniture either metal or wood to South Africa since 1942.

This will likely be the concluding letter of this session so may I again extend thanks to the people generally for their kind comments, questions and suggestions.

My sincere best wishes to all the people of North York with the hope that the approaching Christmas season may be one of genuine pleasure and enjoyment.

UNIONVILLE

Capt. and Mrs. Snowball have taken up residence on their farm recently purchased from Mr. J. H. Champion. We welcome them to our community.

F.O. Willis Miller, RCAF, who has been in the air service overseas, arrived home last Sunday. Welcome home, Willis.

F.O. R. W. Perkin has arrived in England to resume duties in the R.C.A.F. after a few weeks leave home.

The C.G.I.T. Vesper Service was held on Sunday last and very capably handled by the girls of the Sr. Quizz and the Intermediate group. Miss Nancy Hiltz sang the carol "Infant Holy" as a solo and the choir sang the carol "Angels from the realms of Glory". Miss Corrinne Danby read the story "Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh". Others taking a leading part in the service were Misses Marion Dzwini, Sylvia Coulson, Beth Brown and the ushers Mary Hiltz and Norma Middleton.

On Tuesday evening the Scouts met at the Public School to form a Scout troop. Mr. Bill Sharon will be Scoutmaster. A new Group Committee has been named and will give assistance to the Scout and Cub leaders. They are Messrs. A. M. Hill, H. F. Stiver, E. J. Appleton, A. K. Harrington, Earl Bratton and Vernon Trunk. The Cubs have had several meetings under their new leaders, Ted Hiltz and Gordon Kent.

Mr. G. I. Hamby and Miss Hilda Blundell have left our community to take up residence in Florida where Mr. Hamby says he can get away from the ice and snow. Sometime ago he reported that an albino sparrow had taken refuge on his farm. Never having heard of such a thing before he thought that worthy of the "book".

Young people in the public schools and Sunday Schools are beginning to practise for the programmes which will present Christmas to us all. The following dates are the only ones that have been given in: Dec. 21st, the public school in the Township Hall; Dec. 23, the sacred service of the Lutheran S.S. and congregation; Dec. 30, the presentation of the Christian Crusade and Christmas service in Central United Church.

Mr. and Mrs. James Russell and Mr. K. E. Deacon attended the Chicago Stock Show last week.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Sabiston is in hospital and hope she is soon out and in better health.

MAPLE

Miss Nancy Martin of London, recently out of the Navy, is home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Robertson and Miss M. Walkington were week-end visitors of the Misses Walkington.

Commencing next Sunday evening service in Maple United Church will be at 7 o'clock instead of 7.30 as has been the hour of service during the period of daylight saving.

Mrs. R. A. Bigford spent a few days in Niagara Falls this week.

Mrs. Sodden left on Monday for Three Trees, Alberta, to live with her son. We understand her Maple residence on Richmond St. has been purchased by Mr. Harvey Wilson, recently home from overseas. Harvey was married while in England and expects his wife some time early in the New Year.

The annual Candlelight Service in St. Stephen's Church will be held on Friday evening, December 21st at 8.30 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brock have moved into Miss Hanna's house this week.

Mrs. John Watson who for some years now has made her home with her daughter Mrs. Carl Saigeon moved to the home of her other daughter Mrs. Harry Taylor last week.

Maple Red Cross Unit met Monday afternoon in the work room for the closing meeting of the year. The unit voted that the present officers remain in office until the end of March 1946 when all Red Cross work will end. A prize, a lovely English crystal jug donated by Mrs. F. Routley for the greatest number of finished garments sewn or knitted made outside the work room by any member was won by Mrs. T. F. Jackson. The attendance prize, a pair of beautiful Irish linen pillow cases donated by Mrs. Ramsay was won by Mrs. Jesse Keffer. The unit presented the president and convenors with lovely bouquets of 'mums. Afternoon tea was served. The unit will not meet again until Monday, January 7th. A complete list of garments, quilts, etc. made during the year will appear at a later date. The president of the unit, Mrs. Jackson, wishes to thank all those who helped the unit either at home or in the work room during 1945 and also wishes to extend an invitation to anyone to come to the work room each Monday afternoon for the next three months to quilt. The need is still very great.

On Saturday evening, December 8, St. Andrew's Guild met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Snider. This organization has been newly formed in the Presbyterian Church and plans to meet every third week during the winter months, the meetings to be of a variable nature including worship service, literary and social functions. The newly elected executive includes: Hon. Pres., Rev. C. H. Bowman; Pres., Campbell Snider; Vice-Pres., Bruce Constable; Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Earl MacNaughton; Asst. Sec.-Treas., Miss Louise Matheson. The Guild extends a cordial welcome to all members of the congregation and their friends to join with them on any of these occasions.

The combined meeting of the United Church Women's Missionary Society and Women's Association will be held at the parsonage on Wednesday, December 19th at 2.30 p.m. A Christmas program will be presented and the election of officers for the New Year will be held.

St. Andrew's W.M.S. met at the home of Mrs. M. McDonald Wednesday, Dec. 5th with the president in the chair. Rev. C. H. Bowman reviewed a chapter in the study book. Mrs. R. D. McNaughton read two short Christmas stories. A special offering was received for the "Peace Thanksgiving Fund". The following officers were elected for the coming year: Pres., Mrs. George Matheson; Vice-Pres., Mrs. A. Lawrie, Mrs. M. McDonald; Sec., Mrs. J. M. McDonald; Treas., Mrs. R. D. McNaughton; Glad Tidings, Mrs. E. Keffer; Supply, Mrs. C. H. Snider, Mrs. J. Ross, Mrs. A. Robinson; Press, Mrs. B. McDonald; Home Helpers, Mrs. A. Robinson; Home Service, Mrs. A. Rumble, Mrs. W. Hodge; Mission Band, Mrs. C. H. Bowman, Mrs. C. Miller; Pianists, Mrs. E. Wade, Mrs. W. Hodge.

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Legion Meeting

A meeting of the Canadian Legion Branch for Richmond Hill will be held in the

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14th
AT 8 P.M.**

This will be the nomination meeting and election of officers for the year 1946.

All Veterans are cordially invited to attend.

Christmas Gifts for the Men

Christmas gifts of clothing are practical, useful and economical. We have a nice assortment of quality goods, and invite you to shop here in comfort for your Christmas needs. We will be pleased to show you our goods and advise you to make your selections early.

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