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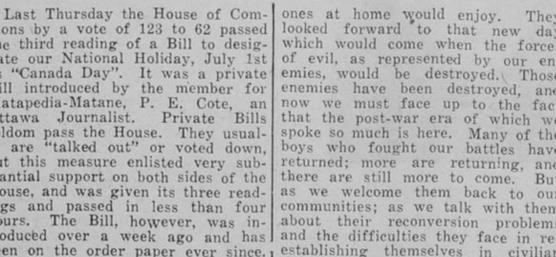
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OTTAWA LETTER
by
"Jack" Smith, M.P.
North York



Last Thursday the House of Commons by a vote of 123 to 62 passed the third reading of a Bill to designate our National Holiday July 1st as "Canada Day". It was a private Bill introduced by the member for Matapeia-Matane, P. E. Cote, an Ottawa Journalist. Private Bills seldom pass the House. They usually are "talked out" or voted down, but this measure enlisted very substantial support on both sides of the House, and was given its three readings, and passed in less than four hours. The Bill, however, was introduced over a week ago and has been on the order paper ever since.

The idea of the Bill arose out of the feeling that all across Canada the celebration of our National Holiday in July, in recent years, had lost much of its significance. It has been too much regarded as just another holiday. It was felt that a National Holiday, properly and wholeheartedly observed could serve a useful purpose in our national life, by inspiring a healthy spirit of patriotism. It was felt that by reviving interest in our national birthday we could build around it an educational campaign, paying tribute to the pioneers of Canada, to the Fathers of Confederation who welded the provinces into a united nation, and in many ways play up the colourful and interesting history of this great country. This, I think, is important, especially looking to the education of our young people, and the thousands of new Canadians who will come to our shores in the years that lie ahead. It was felt that celebrating Canada's national birthday, nothing could be more appropriate than that the holiday should be known as "Canada Day". Subscribing wholeheartedly to this view, I seconded the Bill which as I have already pointed out won very substantial support from every province in Canada and on both sides of the House.

Speaking in the House on the measure, I said as reported:

"I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to rise in support of this bill, because I sincerely believe that by its adoption we can make a real contribution to Canadian national life. Today we look out on a troubled world, a world bleeding and suffering after six long years of war. Here in our own country we have problems so perplexing and of such magnitude that sometimes I confess to a feeling of discouragement. I submit that in dealing with our national problems and in facing up to the problems of the world we must get down to a consideration of fundamentals. One great need in Canada today is for a patriotic spirit of determination to win the peace, comparable to the splendid spirit of patriotic determination shown by the people of Canada in the winning of the war. During the war years the Canadian people met every challenge with which they were faced during the most trying period in Canadian history. It did not matter whether the challenge was in connection with men for our armed services, whether it was in connection with money for victory loans, for the Red Cross, for munitions and supply, for food or for whatever cause it may have been the challenge was successfully met, no matter what the sacrifice. That was the spirit in which we made our splendid contribution toward the winning of the war, and I submit that is the sort of spirit we need to win the peace.

During the long, trying years of conflict, we spoke freely and hopefully of the new era which was to come after the war. The men in our fighting forces on the far-flung battle lines throughout the world were encouraged and buoyed up by the belief that they were fighting for a new world, a new era which they, their comrades and their loved



JACK RAE
CBC producer Jack Rae confesses to two unforgettable incidents in his life—the Winnipeg stage debut he made at the age of three, singing "Yes, We Have No Bananas," and more recently, the sight all around him when he flew as one of 200 Spitfires accompanying 500 Fortresses on a bombing raid over Germany. Now Jack is writing songs, a number of which have been published.

MAPLE
The village of Maple extends a hearty welcome home to three of our local lads from overseas: Cpl. Wm. Park of the Picton Highlanders arrived on Saturday after serving two years and four months in Bermuda, British West India. Pte. Gordon Ingram of the Brockville Rifles arrived on Monday from two years service in Jamaica. Also L.A.C. Ken Jennings, RCAF, arrived on Sunday from England. These lads are all looking very fit indeed. We are especially glad to see Gordon Ingram improved in health after his very serious illness some weeks ago in Jamaica. The families of these lads held "Open House" for friends who called to welcome the lads back. All Maple boys with but one exception, Lawrence Wade, are safely returned. We are exceedingly fortunate, that out of the fifty or more who were in the service all but one have escaped without an injury. Oscar Wilson suffered shrapnel wounds in his chest. Three of our lads married English girls over there, Ray Fuller, Dean Quinton and Harvey Wilson. One soldier, Roy Clegg, has married his pre-war job back and have settled back into civilian life.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Black of Kettleby were home at Ingram's on Monday to welcome Gordon.

We are sorry that Mr. Jack Ball has suffered another heart attack and hope he will soon be around again.

Maple C.G.I.T. group will hold their meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 8 p.m. in the United Church Sunday School room.

Clarence Milton Palmer, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Palmer, was baptised by Rev. C. E. Fockler at the evening service last Sunday.

Mr. Hilliard Fockler of Toronto visited his brother and family in the parsonage last week-end.

The Easter Day services of St. Stephen's Anglican Church will be held at 8:30 a.m. with observance of Holy Communion and at 7 p.m. evening. Good Friday service will be at 4 p.m.

Holy communion service will be observed in Maple United Church next Sunday, April 14th at 7 p.m. Good Friday service will be held at 11 a.m.

Miss Rhoda Pollock attended the wedding of her cousin Miss Marion Smith of Oshawa last Saturday.

Mrs. J. Manning spent several days this week with her son George at Aurora. George is very ill with Undulant Fever.

Mr. Frank Proctor of Weston is back clerking in Snider's store. Mrs. Gordon Ingram and Mrs. Higgins both left as their husbands are home from overseas. Mrs. Higgins has returned to her home in Wingham.

Several are on the sick list. Miss Margaret Fockler is ill with Chicken Pox. Also baby Leece has abstracted the Chicken Pox.

Dr. Fred W. Routley returned on Sunday from a trip to Halifax on Red Cross business. While there, the boat carrying Canadian soldiers from the West India docked. Dr. Routley went on board. Imagine Gordon Ingram's surprise and delight to see a friend from home when he least expected to see one. This is just one more of the kind, thoughtful and neighborly acts for which our Doctor Routley is noted.

Last Thursday St. Andrew's Guild enjoyed an evening of Roller Skating at the Mutual Street Arena and later lunch at Diana Sweets. A very pleasant evening was spent by all.

The members of St. Andrew's W. M. S. met at the home of the president, Mrs. Geo. Matheson for their April meeting on April 3rd. Mrs. R. MacNaughton took the prayer and then the scripture was read responsively. The ladies were favored with a piano duet by Mrs. Wade and Mrs. Hodge. Mrs. M. McDonald then took the study book.

The general store business of W. T. Robinson and Son, established in Maple 38 years ago, and the Egg Grading Station which they operated for a great number of years has been sold to Mr. Edward Walker of Oakville who took possession last week. Mrs. Austin Robinson wishes to take this opportunity of thanking all the customers for their loyalty and co-operation during the many years of business relationship, and sincerely trusts that the same loyalty and co-operation will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Walker and Kenneth.

In Zion Lutheran Church this Palm Sunday at 11 a.m. a class of young people and adults will be received into full membership of the church, some by confirmation and some by baptism.

The Sunday School rooms of Zion Lutheran Church have been renovated and the school will reoccupy them this Sunday at 10 a.m.

I do not suggest that by the simple adoption of this measure designating our national holiday as Canada day we can perform a national miracle, but in all sincerity I do submit that the taking of this step at this time can be made the basis of a crusade for a revitalized national spirit which can contribute a great deal to the future well-being of our people, the name "Canada" today stands high throughout the world. In this, the greatest conflict of all ages, our fighting men went into battle, bearing on their armour the name "Canada". The bill the house is now asked to approve simply provides that our national holiday shall bear that same glorious name, "Canada". It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, most fitting, following the measure passed by this house decreeing that Canada should have its own distinctive national flag, and following the bill so ably and eloquently introduced the other day by the Secretary of State (Mr. Martin) providing a new status of Canadian citizenship, that this house should follow through now and adopt this bill designating our national holiday as Canada day."

Langstaff Branch, Canadian Naval Cadet Corps

A grand turn out of members on Tuesday night for the regular meeting which is the ninth meeting for this unit. A few absentees were recorded, owing to school examinations, were unable to attend but we expect them to turn out for our next meeting.

Considerable time was taken up to welcome a distinguished organizer for Ontario Sea Cadet work in Mr. Haggerman, who gave the boys a very interesting talk of his work and experience, and what is expected of this unit, which he said the people of Langstaff should be very proud of. We hope to have Mr. Haggerman visit us again at some future date.

Owing to increased membership our meeting place has been changed to Lawrence Hall which Rev. Woods has kindly given to our unit for its future regular meetings.

We would like to thank Mrs. Heslop and the School Board for the use of the school, time and efforts, in helping to get this unit started.

In the near future we hope to have "Parent Night" to let them see for themselves what has been done for the benefit of their boys. Our very efficient instructor, Sgt. Major O'Connor is doing splendid work with this unit and is very proud of his boys.

As soon as a weather permits we hope to have a Sea Cadet ball team going with games between Willowdale, Newtonbrook and Langstaff.

A few new members turned out and we expect more to follow, so tell your pal and swell this unit.

Don't forget, be on deck at Lawrence Memorial Hall Thursday, April 18th.

For information re unit contact organizers J. Foxley and F. Morris.

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