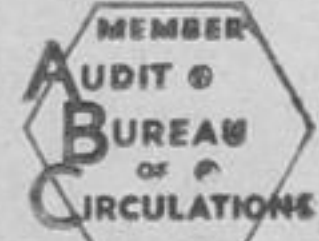


# The Liberal



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## "Inasmuch"

Christmas gift-giving and the United Nations World Refugee Year, June 1959-June 1960 is an all-out World Humanitarian venture of special help for the world's forgotten people, the REFUGEES.

Christmas is a time for thinking of others and of gift-giving. For Christians there is a special significance in the exchange of gifts. For virtually all Canadians Christmas is the occasion for remembering family and friends with gifts. Frequently one hears complaints that Christmas has become only a commercial enterprise from which the real spirit of giving has disappeared. However true this may be, Christmas 1959 — the Christmas of World Refugee Year — offers an opportunity to give

to those in need.

This year a special attempt is being made to bring substantial help to refugees the world over and in particular to refugees still remaining in post-war camps in Europe.

The United Nations urgently needs your help to close these camps and to give refugees their rightful opportunity to find the renewed faith, hope and usefulness they yearn for.

In your Christmas giving this year you can transform a refugee into a friend. York Branch of United Nations, Committee for World Refugee Year solicits your co-operation and help. Cheques may be made and contributions sent to "World Refugee Fund", Bank of Montreal, Richmond Hill.

## Longer School Hours Necessary Today

One of the most important trends in American education is about to be initiated south of our border. American children living in the United States, who now attend school for about 1,000 hours a year, are headed for longer stints in the classroom. Washington has disclosed that districts throughout the country are taking steps to (1) Lengthen the school day, (2) the school year, or (3) lengthen both.

Dr. Shirley Cooper, associate secretary of the American Association of School Administrators says that prolonging the total period of instruction has become "almost a necessity. Children of today have more to learn than ever before in cultural subjects as well as the sciences," she has stated.

The solution, as far as the United States Department of Education is concerned, is "more time in the classrooms for a better education". At present the school day averages about five and a half hours in the classroom.

Dr. Lloyd E. Blanch, Assistant United States Commissioner of Education says, "There are three ways to stretch the hours of learning".

Dr. Blanch's suggestion of (1) a regular eight-hour day, from nine to five with all homework done at school has not stirred widespread enthusiasm. However high schools in three states of the union have added one classroom period this term. In a central school system near Ithaca, N.Y., at Lansing, a "voluntary" period has been instituted for children who want to work on special projects in science or business educa-

tion. (2) Another alternative is for children to attend classes six days a week, as Russian students do. But most teachers, parents — and children — take a dim view of this idea in the States.

However Rock Island, Illinois, has begun to offer special Saturday classes, on a voluntary basis, for talented youngsters.

The lengthening of the school year which now averages 180 days. Educators and parents alike believe this is a long-overdue reform. The nine-month school term was instituted in the nineteenth century when children were needed on the farms during the summer months. As a major reform step Washington has added one week to its term this year and others are taking similar steps.

And the fourth alternative is to provide summer classes for children who need or want additional teaching.

The fourth alternative is by far the most popular and summer school programs were offered this year in nearly all cities south of the border, and in hundreds of small communities. Educators believe that by utilizing the summer months to enrich the educational diet of bright and average students and by offering courses for lagging students the educational level will rise within a few years.

Isn't it time Canadian departments of education investigated the possibility of using at least part of the summer months — to bolster and improve our sons and daughters, academically?

## Facts and Faith



"Meekness Not Weakness"

Christianity has often been accused by its enemies of advocating weakness instead of strength. Especially when we consider the words, "blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

But this criticism is ill founded, because it does not understand what the Bible means by meekness. The meek are not the door mats to be walked upon. Actually, they are the strong people of earth. Moses is described in Scripture as "the meekest man that ever lived." Certainly he was not a weak man, when we consider how he ruled and governed Israel during their escape from Egypt and their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai. Jesus also speaks of himself as "meek and lowly of heart". Was Jesus weak? The Gospel illustrates His great strength on so many occasions. Not only did He fearlessly empty the temple of its money changers, but He delivered man who had come under the power of Satan, and set them free. Thus we see from Moses, the greatest figure in the Old Testament, and Jesus, the central figure in the New Testament, that meekness is not weakness. He who is meek is truly strong.

But what kind of strength has he got? There are certain types of strength which are evil and contrary to the will of God. Military aggression, strong arm tactics, economic pressures, are types of human strength which disregard the rights of the individual, and trample upon him as a person.

The strength which under lies the meek and lowly spirit is not selfish, but selfless. It is strong on behalf of the welfare of others. It is a strength which can be aroused to action when it sees God's plan for humanity being undermined by sinful men. If we learn anything from Christ, it is this, that meekness is "full of abounding vitality, energetic pursuit of purpose, hatred of hypocrisy, shame and inhumanity." Wherever these exist, the Christian must feel the "anger of the Lord" come unto him. We cannot be passive and indifferent to anything which destroys the Creator's divine intent for His creation.

When we look at history, we see that Christian men and women who have sought after meekness, have been strong in spirit for the welfare of man. Think of Abraham Lincoln, who once said, "I know there is a God and that He hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming and I know His hand is in it. If He has a plan and a work for me, and I believe He has, I am ready. I am not afraid, but truth is everything." He was a man full of wrath for what he knew was wrong, and this full of strength as he tried his best to do what he believed was right.

There are many others who revealed this meek spirit on behalf of others. Florence Nightingale fought patiently a lonely battle in opening up the field of nursing service for women. William Wilberforce fought with tenacity those who still supported the evil of slavery. Elizabeth Fry was known for her "Courtly gentleness," yet she worked persistently to help those who were being destroyed in the dreadful prisons of the 19th century.

Meekness cannot be identified with non-resistance. It is rather a virtue which grows in us as we look out upon the world through the eyes of Jesus. We know that the earth is the Lord's, and the true Christian is ready to fight in the spirit of meekness, for the welfare of man, under God his Creator and Redeemer.

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### NOTICE

TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS  
IN THE ESTATE OF Aubrey Munro Sutherland Nicol, late of Elgin Mills, in the Township of Vaughan, Woodworker.

All persons having claims against the Estate of Aubrey Munro Sutherland Nicol, who died on the 29th day of October 1959, are required to file proof of their claims with the undersigned Administrator with the will annexed, on or before the 11th day of January 1960. After that date the Administrator with the will annexed will proceed to distribute the Estate having regard only to the claims of which it shall then have had notice.

Dated at Toronto, this 7th day of December, 1959.

The Sterling Trusts Corporation, 372 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, Administrators with the will annexed by J. N. Mulholland, Q.C., 80 Richmond Street, West, Toronto, Ontario its Solicitor herein.

## — Speaking Personally —

### THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

(By Jane Fort Manning)

Do you remember the Christmas concerts at school? This week all the boys and girls in schools across Canada are getting ready for the Christmas programs to be held next week before school dismisses on Tuesday the 22nd for the Christmas holidays.

But for so many it's the concert in the little rural school that comes nostalgically to mind during the days just before Christmas. And many children in Vaughan and Markham townships will be participating in just such concerts this Christmas.

Remember the night of the concert, the heat that came steaming out as the door was opened onto the cold, starry night? The pot bellied stove within, with the red and orange flames leaping up the chimney and the pile of wood with chips littering the floor around the stove? The smell of damp mittens, over-shoes, and heavy winter socks? The chairs jammed into the back for the parents?

And the parents, fat and lean, tall and short, blond, brunette, and grey, all enveloped in a mass of coats and sweaters and winter caps and hats. The problem of finding a place for all the clothing. The lively babies, the boisterous little children. And everyone smiling and happy in anticipation of the evening ahead.

The teacher agitatedly tried to produce order out of chaos, to get those on the program sitting in their proper places, while at the same time she must smile and greet each arriving parent.

At last nearly everyone seems to have arrived. People are settling down, anxious to get started.

Little toothless — in front, blonde curls behind, Linda in her fancy "Sunday best" recites, forgetting only once, "Welcome to our program, Enjoy every minute. My little speech, Is just to begin."

Then the recitations, the marching drills with the tinsel

stars held aloft, and the play-lets with someone laughing at the wrong time, or forgetting his lines, but everyone feeling important and the center of the stage.

And fond, indulgent looks from the audience. How exciting, how wonderful is the Christmas Concert.

**Familiar Carols**  
The children make a group on the special platform to sing the dear, familiar carols. And the feeling steals over the entire group within the little schoolhouse, it is really Christmas! — we are at Bethlehem offering our gifts of ourselves to the Baby Jesus.

After the program there is the tree, resplendent though by now rather tipsy. The Chairman of the Board, such an important personage at this time, comes forward to congratulate the teacher and the pupils. Then Santa Claus gallops in and with the help of the teacher distributes the presents. Everyone has "got" someone else's name. The teacher hopes no one has been forgotten.

The noise begins to mount by the time the last candy and orange have been passed out, the babies are yelling, the little children are yelling, and the parents are getting a rather wild look.

Mittens and boots are located. The coats piled on, the children are piled in, and the ride home in the frosty night with the snow now softly falling begins.

The children are asleep, or bemused with an after party languor. All is quiet and Mother turns to Father. "Didn't Jimmy do well? He remembered all his words. And Susie's costume fit all right after all. It was the nicest concert we've ever had."

The fire has died down in the little schoolhouse. The tree is bathed only in the soft moonlight falling through the window. The chairs make shadows on the floor. The cold is stealing over everything. The little schoolhouse seems to nestle down happily to think over the festive night; this night and all that have gone before.

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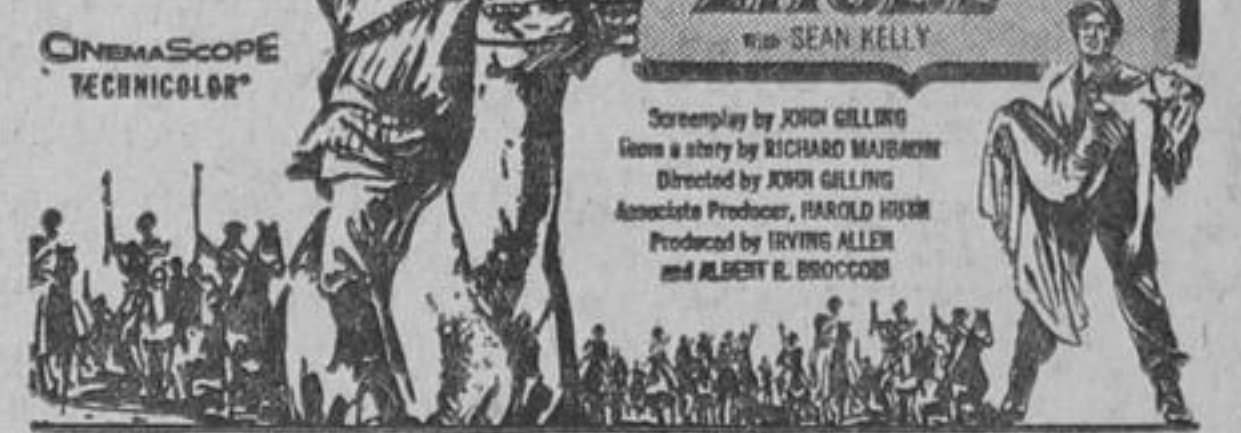
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