

# The Liberal

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## Valentines Then And Now

Mom is still the big favorite when it comes to receiving St. Valentine's Day cards.

Three times as many valentines sent by men this year will go to mothers as to sweet hearts, is the prediction made by William E. Coutts, chairman of Coutts Hallmark cards.

"It seems that a man might forget to send a card to his girl friend, but he makes sure that he somehow expresses his love and thanks to his mother," he said.

But this state of affairs won't hinder the gals — especially this February 14, said Mr. Coutts. He predicted that thousands of young ladies will take full advantage of the fact that this is Leap Year to let the man of their choice know they're out to get him.

One of the cards they'll be sending to carry the "message" shows a smug-looking, male fox being told: "You may think you're pretty foxy but you've met your match. I betcha So I'm going to tell you here and now this year I'm going to getcha!"

When we open the card we see why he doesn't stand a chance. Inside, a sly lady fox is ready for him with a huge steel trap that snaps open and shut with the movement of the card.

Another shows a prim, bespectacled lady perched daintily on a satin-upholstered chair.

"I wouldn't hunt a man, or, do a

single thing I shouldn't! I wouldn't chase you Leap Year style," she insists.

But inside, we see her real self as she says "not much I wouldn't" and with shoes off and spectacles flying, she pursues a fleeing male.

Confronted with this kind of determination, a fellow might as well give up. And, there's even a card he can send when he's doing that.

For instance, he might despatch a greeting that states:

"Hey Valentine!  
 If you're lookin  
 I ain't lookin."

Men weren't any safer in the "good old days" either, as sending a lushly sentimental card 100 years ago was considered equivalent to a marriage proposal.

There was even greater barbarism — from the male viewpoint — in earlier Leap Year customs. If you'll check your history you will find that in about 1288 a law was passed in Scotland that levied a fine of up to 100 pounds against any single man who turned down a lady who proposed to him.

A few years later France passed a similar law. Then in the 15th century, similar ordinances were instituted in Florence and Genoa.  
 So, men take heart! Things may look bleak but they have been much, much worse.

## Why Wait For Spring

It is sometimes useful to remind ourselves that our community is not really made up of streets, houses and business buildings — it is made up of people. You and I are the community. In our society, this is especially true in the economic sense. We all depend on one another to some extent economically, and all of our economic activity, such as the buying and selling of goods and services, has a direct bearing on the welfare of our community and of the people in it.

Each Winter, partly because of the cold weather and partly because of habit, economic activity in this community slows down and some of our wage earners join the ranks of the unemployed. This fact is well known. However, what is not always recognized is that when wage earners are unemployed and unable to make their normal economic contribution, the whole community suffers.

Now what can you as an individual do about it?

As a householder you can arrange to have all types of inside work such as renovation, redecoration, repair, and other maintenance work around your

home, including dry-cleaning, done during the Winter months.

As a member of a community organization you can urge your group to schedule any construction work which it may be concerned and any other type of work for the Winter months and influence others to do likewise.

These are some of the things you can do and I think you will find that it is to your advantage to do them in the Winter. Skilled tradesmen, not so rushed in the Winter months, can often do better work. Discounts are often offered by firms to increase Winter business. There are other advantages to increasing Winter work, but I am sure that many of them will occur to you if you think about this problem. The main thing is that by giving your full support to the local Winter Employment Campaign, you are helping your community.

And, if you are in need of help to carry out a home improvement programme, call your nearest National Employment Office.

Home Improvements can be financed by Home Improvement Loans available through your bank.



### PSP helps you laugh at the old "can't save" idea!

Wide smiles all around—even Rover's laughing it up! Dad just made the down payment on their first home. How did he do it? He saved for it with his BNS Personal Security Program.

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## — Speaking Personally —

OUR BEAUTIFUL, FORBIDDING LAND  
 (By Jane Fort Manning)

Have you driven up to the northern part of Ontario in the middle of the winter?

I don't suppose the Parry Sound district is particularly far up to most of you but it is to me. For one reason or another my trips to the north of the province have been few and my knowledge of what it must be like has been gleaned from Canadian poetry, history, and Tom Thomson's paintings.

So it was a revealing day's drive up the "400" and the Trans-Canada Highway, and along several ice covered short cuts. Short cuts which are often like the sharp tooth of a saw, especially in Medonte between Coldwater and Waverly.

### Quiet Hamlet

Tiny Waverly was shut against the cold winter night at seven o'clock in the evening. The stores dark, no lights except the shining in the kitchens or living rooms. No wonder so many people in the hamlets and villages of Ontario live to be ninety and beyond.

Have you travelled along the 40 mile stretch of the Trans-Canada highway from just past MacTavish to near Wauquashere where not a light of a house is cast upon the road, only the shadows of the rocky ledges?

There are the four big rivers, the MacDonaid, the Moon, the Gibson all frozen with the winter cold, and the Muskoka running swiftly, dark and beautiful to the west. How one conjures up fantasies of Indians or trappers canoeing down the river in the dead of winter only to be told the river leads but to Georgian Bay through a great bush and not to a former Indian village, or an early Canadian fort.

Have you seen ice covered Lake Joseph over which snowshoe tracks tell the only tale of human habitation, or Silver Lake with its white birch trees gleaming silver in the sunlight and the moonlight?

Our Productive Forests  
 All along the rocky, tree-strewn hills are the Big Department of Lands and Forests signs. "Our forests give you a better life." Think of the millions of dollars that have come out of these forests for Canadians in the years gone by, and we hope the years ahead.

Then up the little road to Ard-  
 beg.

The only farmer who lives along the one-car wide road, is master of the realm of pine, cedar and birch stretching for 18 miles on either side. He told us that he covered 16 miles a day tending his trappings. A trapper in a lonely and bleak countryside snowshoeing over five feet of snow in a rush with the snowshoe rabbits and howling wolves for company.

Returning home in the evening to his gentle farm, three haycocks are white sentinels in the twilight before his stone barn where the cattle are mooring in expectancy. A picture of rustic Canada far removed from our bustling Metro area.

But is it?  
 Far removed? Only as far removed as your neighbor's TV set. For here in the middle of nowhere hydro lines are riding high, and dominating the bush around is the aerial of the farmers' TV set.

After the cows are milked this Radisson of 1906 will hear Percy Saltzman tell him what to expect for tomorrow's weather and Joyce Davidson will introduce him to the latest celebrity from Hollywood, Broadway or Toronto.

One is lost in thought on the little road with white treachery on either hand, and no garage or person within several hours walk, unless by a remarkable chance a car comes through. One feels a sense of complete isolation and yet within one's grasp are all the modern conveniences our world holds dear and necessary.

How like each person's life — a journey of the soul isolated from all other souls, and yet if we but take the trouble to reach out, how near at hand we find others to help us.

At the end of the narrow highway we came to our destination, Ard-  
 beg. Only by rail, plane or foot can you get further into the bush to work, or to vacation in summer, or go hunting in the fall.

Tiny Ard-  
 beg dominated by the look-out station for the forest rangers. The wooden houses of the north wrapped in a cocoon of snow. From the number of cars stuck deep in snowbanks it looked as if the battle against the elements had been lost. I wondered if it was a question of waiting for the spring thaw, or for an extra spurt of energy.

### Why So Undemonstrative?

What makes Ontarians so quiet, so withdrawn? A few days ago an archeologist friend of ours, who spent three months this summer in Red China at the invitation of the government there, was telling us the exuberance, pleasantness and the gaiety had not been extinguished in the Chinese by their regimented existence today.

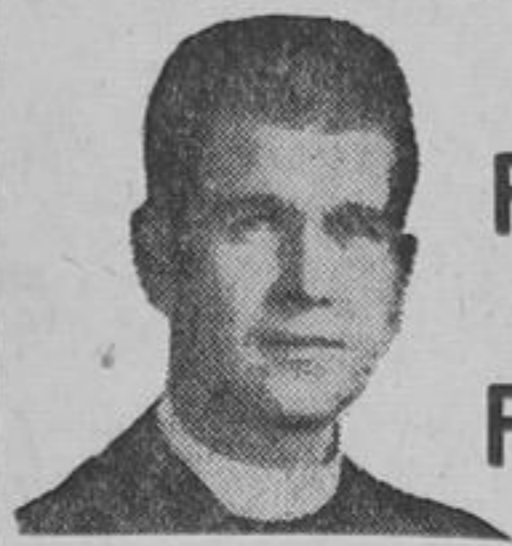
In a northern town such as Parry Sound one would expect a certain joie de vivre, an open-handed friendliness. Outwardly it was

as mushy and dirty as most Canadian towns get in the winter but inside a restaurant I expected a little more plesantry and gaiety. It was the quietest meal I ever had. Solitary men in business suits who looked as if the "family lived nearer Toronto", and business girls, single or in pairs ate looking straight ahead, sadly. A blare of rock and roll was an incongruous noise at one brief point.

The proprietor of Chinese extraction sat at quiet and withdrawn as his clientele, proving that it isn't just the Scots who are dull! In Canada it even affects the convivial Chinese.

### We're Freer Out of Doors

Most of our Canadian paintings depict the out of doors, and most pictures adorning Canadian walls are landscapes. Is it because it is only in the out-of-doors that we feel unfettered and free, a natural part of this immense land? This land and its weather, that can make our accomplishments and dreams like toys knocked over by a sudden child. It lashes out against us, cowering us at one moment, challenging us the next. Is it any wonder we sink into a shell and just peek out like a turtle to see what's going on?



Facts and Faith

### ARE MISSIONS NECESSARY?

Christianity has always been a missionary faith. For this reason, it has been accused of being a religion with a "superiority complex". Its critics claim that it has no right to think or speak of itself as being the only true religion. This breathes the air of arrogance and self righteousness. Every man has his own religion, and the Church should leave other people alone who do not share the same beliefs, but still have some kind of faith which gives integration to their lives.

Why is the Church missionary minded? This takes us to the very heart of the Christian Gospel. The Church is missionary because of the Person of Jesus Christ.

The people who so often criticize the world wide efforts of the Church to win men to Christ, often speak of Him as "the Greatest man who ever lived". Do they really take what they say about Him seriously? When we come to the New Testament, we not only read about a Man who went about doing good, healing the sick, comforting those in sorrow, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, but we also read about His concern for reaching people.

Christ said, "I come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repent". He called men to be His disciples saying, "Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men". He sent out seventy of His disciples "into all the cities and villages round about Judea". He showed by his attitude toward the woman at the well of Samaria, the Greeks who visited Him, the Syro-Phoenician woman who came seeking healing, that He had a deep concern for people outside the Hebrew faith. He revealed Himself to be missionary minded when He said, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold, then also I must bring". At the conclusion of His earthly ministry, He commissioned His disciples for their divinely appointed task when He said, "Go ye into all the world and make disciples of all nations". If the Church takes Jesus seriously, it is her inescapable responsibility to be missionary in her program. Not to be, is to betray our belief in Him as the supreme revelation of God to man.

The Church must humbly confess that all too often her missionary methods have been anything but desirable. Over the centuries she often displayed an arrogant and unloving attitude towards those outside the Christian Church. On many occasions men were coerced into the Church by force rather than by faith. Thousands were persecuted because they would not yield immediately to the claims of Christ.

In the 19th century the modern missionary movement was associated much too closely with the British and European imperialism. The peoples of the East came to think of Christianity as a Western religion, seeking to propagate western ideals and culture. These blotches upon the history of missions must be readily confessed by all who face facts. But nevertheless, this does not relieve the Church of its duty. Paul said to the Corinthians, "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants". If the Church goes out into the world, with a high minded attitude that we have all the truth and the heathen are in absolute dismal darkness, she hardly shows the marks of being a servant. But, if she goes out to the world, pointing beyond herself to Christ, and assuming the role of the servant, then her missionary work is justified, and will always bear fruit.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

Believes In Importance Of Petitions

89 Bedford Park Avenue, Richmond Hill, Ontario, February 5, 1960.

Dear Mr. Editor:—  
 In the February 4th issue of The Liberal, on page 4, Reeve W. J. Haggart was quoted as saying that he has little regard for petitions and has little faith in them. This kind of cynical animadversion justly deserves sharp rebuke for several reasons.

First, even Mr. Haggart ought to admit that any group of people have the right to make their wishes and opinions known to their elected representatives. There are a number of ways of doing this. Petitions have long been recognized as one way of expressing concerted public opinion.

Second, Mr. Haggart is reported to have said that "half the people who sign petitions don't know what they're signing." As one who has conveyed and subscribed to petitions, I can assure our Reeve (for whom I voted, by the way, in the last civic election) that not only do people read them, but they read them closely, and some do not sign because they do not agree with the matter under petition.

Third, Mr. Haggart's reported statement that "you can go on any street and get a petition for anything anytime" is, in the light of my experience, an invidious reflection on the intelligence and civic interest of many of the electors of the town of Richmond Hill. How far, in fact, does Mr. Haggart think he would get with a petition requesting that all property assessment in Richmond Hill be doubled?

### Asks Understanding For Teenagers

Dear Mr. Editor:—  
 Several weeks ago, you printed a letter from a local resident.

This letter may have been sent by a well meaning person, at any rate I have never read anything more discouraging and thoughtless. And, an entirely unnecessary attack upon our teenagers of today.

The writer stated the opinions were not her own, and signed an anonymous name, so is well cloaked, and safe from any opposite opinion.

I do not agree in the least. I am a mother and have a right to express and support, the true rights of our children. Teenagers do deserve something from adults, and that's the reason we are parents, to give our children what they need when they need it. Just any old time is not good enough; it is a daily responsibility and when you have difficulty, do not attack others first. Look unto what you have done, and what you have not done, there you will find who is supposed to help you.

Teenagers and adults should face responsibilities. If they are not accepted, how are they to be responsible, and who are we to judge? There is not one perfect among us. We must be perfect to judge even the littlest thing. It is an accepted fact, true perfection is seldom reached, so why try? Just do the best you can without exhausting your strength, a smile for a frown, a kind word for a thoughtless word, patience with others who don't understand, and hate, this horrible word does not belong in our generation. Our generation lacks moral support, each time we use the word hate, we make others see the type of person we are. Why not use the word love instead; love is a gift from "God", given equally to all. And God is so generous, how can we keep our love from those around us who need the Spirit Love.

This is what our teenagers feel we owe them — Love, for love covers all understanding. And we do owe them love. It is love that brought us into being, and they have a right to it as human beings also.

If you doubt their understanding, do not condemn; talk with them, read their stories and poems, listen openly to their opinions of world affairs, and if you have the courage ask them their opinion of you.

I am positive their love will reach you before you can begin. I hope anyone who might have been discouraged by the letter of a few weeks ago will be encouraged knowing we do care about our children of all ages. There are parents who do love and understand. Love will not fail. The outside actions of our children come from the inside direction of our parents — Home.

— Winnafred L. Toth

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