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Second Prize Essay in South Porcupine Boy's Competition

Second Prize Won by Eric Donaldson in Competition Held Under the Auspices of the Home and School Association. Third Prize Essay Will be Published in Next Issue of The Advance.

In the essay-writing competition held under the auspices of the Home and School Association, Eric Donaldson won second place. His essay is given below and will be found to be cleverly thought out and well written. The first-prize essay was published last week in The Advance and the third prize essay will appear in the next week's issue. The subject selected for the essay competition was: "How Can I Best Fit Myself to Become a Citizen of Northern Ontario?" The following is Eric Donaldson's essay:—

SECOND PRIZE (By Eric Donaldson)

To be a good citizen of Northern Ontario or in fact of any part of the world one must have a sense of duty. He must also have patience, unselfishness, a fairly good education and a co-operative spirit.

One of the best policies of a good citizen is co-operativeness,—the ability to boost and carry through any beneficial, local, or otherwise, plan to improve the country or to unite the people closely together. This is one of the main faults of any scheme in history, modern or ancient, that is the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the people. Some great man once said that the voice of the people rules. Do we find that he is right when we look at the present progress of the countries at large?

From King John the first's reign in England till the present time who have destroyed and made some of the best policies of the present day? You will find that it can all be traced down to the people themselves. Well, then, it is seen with ease that a co-operative spirit is one of the essentials of good citizenship.

Though co-operativeness is one of main features of any scheme it is sometimes necessary for one man who has a far-seeing mind for the future, to go ahead himself and put a scheme through even though the majority of the people are opposed. But there is hardly any plan that is successful when it is conducted in this way because the people do much to ruin a good plan by refusing to co-operate.

A question may be asked: "How can you and I singly co-operate?" Well, you and I cannot do much singly but if everybody thought the same way where would we be now?

A sense of duty and patriotism, I think, comes next. Canada might never have risen to her present station had it not been for the great sense of duty and patriotism towards the future that prevailed in Canada's most troublesome periods in history; we would probably be part of some other nation as you might well know. Think of the United Empire Loyalists What was there for them in Canada at the time of their flight into Canada. They had left in some cases, magnificent homes, and vast estates for the vast, unexplored wilderness of forests and streams in Canada. They had come to a land wherein they worked hard and were often disappointed.

Think again of British Columbia before she joined with the Dominion. They were isolated by thousands of miles from Canada and even separated by a lofty barrier of mountains which were main factors in separating one people from another in ancient times. In the face of all this British Columbia united with Canada and promised to wait ten years if necessary for a railroad that it might

unite them closer to Canada.

To be loyal to Northern Ontario one must not be dismayed at the thought of such petty things as cold and snow in winter and mosquitoes in summer. Why, we in Northern Ontario have an easy time compared with other countries with different conditions. When you are thinking of the hardships of making a living in Northern Ontario think also about the pleasure you have. We have one of the best farming districts in Canada and one of the richest mining fields in the world. We have streams teeming with fish and forests alive with game.

Taking a trip on the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railroad one will see what patriotism has done to our district. When it was first built stations were made every five miles even though they were cut out of the virgin forest. And now view the scene that the hand of man had wrought. Nearly every station has grown into a fair sized town. For miles on some parts of the railroad the passengers can look over acres of waving grain, interwoven with sparkling streams, to the distant blue hills. Gradually the scene changes; the plain is cut up by rocky ridges, which thrust themselves through the soil. The blue hills come closer. The scene changes to one of wild grandeur. The train dashes through rocky cuts and comes out again onto short plains. Here and there can be seen a lake or river peeping through the green foliage. The passenger's view is becoming more and more limited till at last all he can see is a continuous rocky vale with an occasional lake breaking his now monotonous view. The train has rounded another curve and he is amazed to find a large town with mills and shafts scattered around the distant hills.

This is the scene one would now see and as to how it originated, it can all be traced back to the patriotism and co-operation of the people.

You and I individually can help by looking towards the future and thinking about the good points of our land. Refuse to think about your failures and disappointments and start anew. Success nearly always come to this individual.

If you were asked to co-operate in forming an organization for the benefit of something that would never repay you though it would immensely benefit some other generation, would you go into it with all your heart? This is an extreme case of patriotism and anybody that does this is a true citizen of the North.

Take for instance the trunk road, it will be nearly ten or fifteen years before it will bring any value but we petitioned for it hoping that it will develop our country with greater speed than at present.

Patience is closely related to patriotism or duty and it is a hard thing to keep. The man who has patience is envied because most of us want to have everything done in less time than it takes to tell.

In order to be patriotic, we must be patient and content to wait years if necessary for the fulfillment of our purpose. This is very often, in fact too often, the case of any district promise. If you want a road built into a township because you have a farm there, you will probably wait several years before you get it. This is very discouraging and the settler is apt to give up his land and settle elsewhere. The settler who waits for the road

may never receive any benefit from it till the day he dies. On the other hand the road may come through in years and make the settler well off. The latter is often the reward of a patient settler, especially in Northern Ontario.

We agitated for a road through Northern Ontario for almost five years till the government last year decided to build the road. This is an example of a reward for patience. In order to be a true citizen you must not decline a proposition because it takes a few years.

It took hundreds of years to build the ancient cathedrals of England and France, and were the builders dismayed when some of their plans failed and they had to start all over again? It is easily seen that they didn't because the present cathedrals, such as Rheims and Westminster, are monuments to their patience.

Patience is one of the greatest assets of any citizen. He must be content to wait and watch the years roll by to gain his object. As it is, sometimes it's a failure. If he fails he must make an iron resolution that he will start all over again.

One case of extreme patience like this was in the recent Haileybury fire. The people were burnt out of their home but they built another. It was burnt in the great fire. If I'm not mistaken I think that they've built another house in Haileybury and are still living there.

Many farmers came up here before the railroad was built and started farms. They lived in great hardship and privation for several years. They now have prosperous farms and comfortable homes, the reward of their patience.

If you have the chance to open up the country at the cost of a few years' time and labour don't throw it down because it's a long time, but think of the future and what it holds for this land.

An old adage says that fortunes are not made in a day. It is not hard to find out if this is true. An immense number of failures are caused by impatience on the part of the person who undertakes to do this or that.

Unselfishness is the most exacting virtue that is known. You know how hard it was yourself, when you were a little boy, to give part of your cake or candy to another child and you cannot remember many times that the other child received the larger part. A man rarely ever has the honour of being called a totally unselfish man. This is probably what most citizens of a town lack.

When Canada was advocating for the uniting of Nova Scotia to the Dominion; the people of this province weren't enthusiastic because they thought it would ruin their trade.

The same thing happened just lately when Montreal opposed the idea of enlarging canals so as larger ships could come into Lake Ontario. They argued that the trade would go to Toronto though this answer is supposedly wrong.

The present extension of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railroad that was started to Hudson Bay is another case of selfishness. We don't want it built because we can't see where we are going to get any benefit out of it.

Another example proves that our views are wrong. When the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railroad was being built, it wasn't known that there were vast deposits of gold and silver along the route and yet when the railroad was built these minerals were discovered and the railroad proved its value. Even now in the vicinity of this extension, China clay has been discovered and in time there may grow up a huge industry in mining this clay.

You may go down to a local meeting where they are trying to plan some sort of entertainment for a club that is visiting. You will hear mutterings against the cost and what good do we get out of it. These visits are made so that people will know people from other localities. This will knit our country into bonds of steel. We soon know, if these clubs keep visiting from different towns, several people in this town, two or three in that town and half a dozen in the next town that we never knew before.

Conventions contribute a great deal towards uniting us with other localities. Fairs also help to some extent but these are used mainly in farming districts.

To make a good citizen we must be unselfish to some extent. If we were unselfish to great degree we would find people taking advantage of us. One cannot be very unselfish if others are not. If we are asked to co-operate in building some building for other people's enjoyment we shouldn't argue about the cost and what's the use, but instead give as much co-operation as we can, for this all helps to put our town on the map and to give us a wider knowledge of other places.

We should not always wait the government to give us a preference because we need it just as bad as they

do. If we wait we will soon be rewarded with some other preference equally as good or even better. We cannot all have the best of everything that goes, and we have to take disappointments sometimes. We should always try to think of how it will affect other localities when we get any road or school or any of these grants made by our Government.

We do not absolutely have to live up to the above standards, as life wouldn't hardly be worth living and besides we would lose the fun of arguing with the other fellow whether this is a wise project or not.

In order to understand the business of the country one must have an education. How can a person take part in the development of their country when he never reads the daily papers or magazines and when he does he is not able to understand it?

A lot of people when asked why they vote for a certain party answer that they vote thus because their fathers did, although they have no idea why their fathers voted for the certain party. Then again a lot of people don't vote because they don't see the use.

When one has even a public school education, he or she knows why they vote for a certain party and why they didn't vote for another party. A large number of people don't know when our last Premier of the Dominion was elected.

If we have an education we can think out for ourselves whether one party's principles are right or wrong, and what good they will do the country at large. When the party goes into power we read the papers and find out whether the party has lived up to its principles and what is the result. When we go to meetings of the political sort we can understand what the person is talking about. In local affairs we read the papers and see that the council has passed a resolution saying that a new road will be built into such and such a place or that a new street be opened up on this or that side of the town. We can look over the reasons for doing this and decide for ourselves if the council is right in doing this. We might think:—"well, that is a pretty spot by that hill and it is at a convenient distance from the business section. Waterworks could also be easily put in and a sidewalk wouldn't cost much." Then again we might think that that is a nasty place for a street. The railroad runs just a few yards from the place and it's too far away from the station and business section. It is nearly all rock and it will be terribly hard to put in waterworks or to build a decent road and that hardly any people would live in a place like that.

Through all these paragraphs I have given reasons and examples of

failures and success of these different policies of a good citizen.

To sum up all, in order to be a good citizen of Northern Ontario I must co-operate with the people of my community in anything that will go towards the bettering of the land. I must have the patience to wait for anything that is early in its coming. I must be unselfish and be willing to give, up to a certain extent, so that other people might be happy. I must stick to my country even though I am disappointed time and again. I must try and get a good education, which is about the only policy that I can do and do well at my present age.

Over all these I must be content with my lot, whatever it is, and be willing to work hard though there may be no visible goal to work for.

A grease spot on a man's suit of clothes is all that you can remember of the way he was dressed. That's how our poor minds function. We specialize on the imperfections.



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a playground around the school equipped with a field for baseball and football, we would probably think:—"Well, this gives the children more interest in school besides giving them fresh air and exercise."

The school board might possibly decide to build another school. We could see the value of this, by thinking: if they have another school the children will have more room and there won't be any sent home because of lack of accommodation.

If it is a city we happen to live in and it decides to make a park, we may be able to say that new park will make our city look fresher and more attractive to visitors; it will be a nice place to sit down for while on some hot day and the children will have a chance to see how beautiful nature really is. If we have an education we can understand every thing that it going on, which helps us to become a good citizen.

Through all these paragraphs I have given reasons and examples of

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