

Visitors Impressed by Bowmanville School

South Porcupine Representative of The Advance Pays
Visit to Boys' Training School at Bowmanville and
Writes Illuminating Article on the Visit. Boys Being
Given Wonderful Chance—and Responding to it.

South Porcupine, Ont., Sept. 7th, 1937. Special to The Advance.
When in Oshawa recently attending a convention it was with dubious feelings that we saw scheduled for a morning's pleasure, on the programme—"Ladies are invited to inspect the Boys' Training School at Bowmanville, by courtesy of Mr. Virgin."

Some of us went, rather reluctantly, having memories of institutions visited previously, of which the predominant odours of carbolic and calcimine and the greyness of concrete stayed uppermost in our minds. Some of us, including ourselves, were very interested in children's welfare work, and having personally heard our local magistrate "condemn" two young lads to Bowmanville as a disciplinary measure quite recently, we were very glad indeed to accept the invitation.

Accordingly some fifty ladies were taken by bus and car along the highway to Bowmanville, where we turned left, into some grounds which were beautifully kept. For some distance we drove in and were welcomed by a gentleman who proved to be Mr. Virgin himself, superintendent of the school.

But where was the school? We looked for an "institution", but saw instead a number of nice looking houses, a building like a small school, well kept gardens and lawns in between and a number of young lads in khaki shirts and shorts and trousers, playing and walking around. These boys had pleasant faces; they smiled at us, and had absolutely no look of "badness" about them.

"These boys", said Mr. Virgin, (they were too far off to hear him), "are not bad boys, lack of proper training, poor homes, wrong environment, and older wrong companions are responsible for their being here."

"We have a farm connected with the school, which netted us \$12,000 last year for produce. We also give the boys academic instruction and twenty-five boys who tried the H.S. entrance exams this year twenty-three passed."

"But," said the superintendent, "I want you to come through the school and shops and see for yourselves what we are doing here."

We followed him. First into the school, where is an auditorium which will seat three hundred boys, and on into the classrooms, where boys were deep in the mysteries of arithmetic under a kindly instructress, and on into another where the first rudiments of academic instruction were being given to the very youngest. Looking at these small lads, we wondered what unhappy fate had broadened over their infant years to bring them here—too young almost for independent thought, much less wrong activities. But all looked happy; they were interested in their work; they were, doing what normal kindergarten children do in normal schools. A sand table and paper Eskimo igloos and figures—drawings on the walls, etc., all met our eye.

We were almost sentimental over these very small boys, but they looked genuinely happy, and one very intelligent little boy looked up and smiled at us and responded readily to a question asked, and we felt much better!

On into the science laboratory and into the machine shop, where older lads were working with sheet metal and being taught by a competent instructor. Articles were shown us, made by the boys, who looked pleased when we praised their prowess.

These boys were all addressed by name by the superintendent, and we could see by the cheerful responses he got to questions that among these boys the Chief was a regular fellow.

We would like to say in discussing the attitude of the masters and the boys, that there was an utter absence of forced or ostentatious cheerfulness because of the visitors. Those boys looked pleased when Mr. Virgin spoke to them. One could see that genuine respect was there, and respect gained by friendly and just relations with a man who was teaching them ideals non-existent for them before.

The wood work done in the carpentry shop where boys were working on lathes, and finishing wooden articles by hand, was really remarkable. Some exhibits showed clever and painstaking effort. "What do you do with these things?" we asked. "Sell them?"

"No," was the reply, "when the boys go out of the school they take these articles home as gifts."

Food for thought!
A barber shop—a tailoring establishment,—a shoemaking school! (These boys make and repair all the shoes for the school). Excellent work was shown us here. The boys work by diagram; they are skillfully instructed in theory as well as practice.

We saw a hobby shop where boys in the winter months make really clever things. We saw some. A very nice soft leather cushion, sewn with care in geometric designs, and in colour. (For some boy's mother, we thought), leather ties, and pouches (for father), and picture frames. On the wall looking at us were framed pictures—not as you might expect—of cowboys or movie stars—but right in the front, the sweet

More food for thought!
On to the kitchen. Boys were cooking (under supervision) the mid-day meal. Soup (and it smelled good), and tapioca pudding was being dished up into exact portions by two lads.

Not lines of bare scrubbed tables here, where you might expect it, but separate tables seating some eight or ten boys under the care of one older boy.

On the other side of a partition were the masters' tables—all in the same dining hall, though.

Scrupulous cleanliness struck us in this atmosphere. The boys were spotless, the modern kitchen bright and

cheerful, homey and strangely enough, inviting.

The hospital next! One nurse was there in charge of three boys, who were lying in spotless cots. Each kindly visitor spoke to the boys and the nurse; but when all had filed through we slipped back to have a private chat with the oldest patient—a boy of about fifteen.

"What's the matter?" we asked. "Oh, just sick. I was out on the farm but they sent me here this morning."

"Too many green apples?" He smiled assent.

"Do you like it here?" we asked. "Oh yes, it's all right," he said.

"I live in Mrs. C's cottage, and say," he said, his face lighting up, "she's a peach, she's kind and nice to all the fellows."

"Well, cheerio," we said, "make haste and get better, and back to the farm." He smiled as we waved him goodbye.

We inspected a really lovely indoor swimming pool, and gymnasium which Mr. Virgin told us was a godsend in the winter time; and then we went on to look over a "cottage."

Each cottage houses about twenty-five (Continued on Page Five)

Knights of Columbus Hold Regional Banquet

Meet Here on Sunday for Regional Meeting and Banquet. Representatives Here from Kirkland Lake, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Kapuskasing and Timmins, Ont. State Deputy Present at the Meeting. Speaks at Banquet.

More than 200 Knights of Columbus met in Timmins on Sunday for the annual regional meeting and banquet.

The meeting was held in the afternoon and the banquet in the evening. Councils represented were Kirkland Lake, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Kapuskasing and Timmins.

The toast to the King was proposed by Councillor P. H. Laporte. Why, he asked, were we so interested in the King that we would ask God's blessing on him. The reason was that it was as impossible to imagine the British Empire without a British king as it was to imagine the church remaining united without the Pope.

No countries enjoyed the liberty enjoyed by those of the British Empire. One only had to realize what was happening in Spain, in Germany, in Mexico and in Russia to appreciate our own liberties. Realizing what happened to countries who allowed dictators to get control of the government it was only natural for Knights to be loyal to the King who, himself, believed in liberty.

Dan Casey, of Kirkland Lake, described by the Chairman as a "Scottish-Canadian," made reference to the Coronation, which he went to England to see. The evident loyalty of the gathering of Knights recalled to him the sight of the King descending the steps of Westminster Abbey wearing his regal crown. The assembly at the banquet was in miniature the crowd which greeted their Majesties.

As a Scottish immigrant he might be in a better position to realize the bonds of the British Empire. It was up to the Knights of Columbus to teach youth to grow up with a respect for the Crown.

Claude Tierney, Arnprior, State Secretary, proposed the toast to the church. He deplored the lack of proper conception of the principles and practice of the Faith and pointed out that it was one of the duties of a Knight of Columbus to teach them to his children and learn them himself. The facts of Catholicity were accepted readily enough but the knowledge underlying them was not great enough.

Catholics, said Father Martindale of Schumacher, who responded to the toast, often tended to consider themselves something apart from the church or to consider the church an organization of which they were members but not an integral part. This was a wrong attitude. The Catholic who was not a part of the church could only be considered against it. He should identify himself with the church and come to a better understanding of its interests by learning more of it.

Unfair criticism of the church, said Father Martindale, must be interpreted as criticism of ourselves because the mind of the clergy and the mind of Catholic laymen was the mind of the church. People who criticize the church are criticizing the Catholic priests and laymen with whom they daily come in contact. If what they said was true of the Catholics they knew then it was true of the church. If it was not then it was not true of the church.

The toast to "Our Order" was proposed by Michael J. Smith of Iroquois Falls, district deputy. World conditions were disturbing, he said. Men and women were praying for peace in many countries and statesmen were eager for power. The religious struggle had narrowed down to a struggle between God and Godlessness. There was never a greater need for the Knights of Columbus to study the situation and try to come to some conclusion.

State Deputy for Ontario, Phillips Phelan, responded. He told of the Supreme convention recently held in San Antonio, Texas, which was attended by representatives from Canada, Newfoundland, Alaska, Porto Rico, the Philippines and United States.

There were 42 men there from Canada. He was one of 20 who made a trip of 300 miles into Mexico.

The two great activities of the Ontario State Council were the school textbook fund and the scholarship fund. Text book readers in Ontario were the cheapest in price imaginable. That was because their production was subsidized by the Ontario Government. In order to have a Catholic reader for separate schools, the Knights of Columbus had set aside \$40,000 for subsidization purposes.

Some eighty scholarships had been awarded by the K. of C. In making these the Knights considered that they had made a real opportunity for Catholic youth to receive the benefits of higher education. Reports received indicated that the graduates who had received them were a credit to themselves and to the donors of the scholarships.

In this district, said the State Deputy, there were five local councils with a total membership of 334 on July 1. That figure indicated a gain in membership of 162 over July 1, 1936. Chairman of the banquet was C. W. Yates, of Timmins. Father O'Gorman offered a prayer for the Pope, and the address of welcome was read by G. M. Tait, Grand Knight of the Timmins Council.

Miss Rose Conto spent the week-end at her home in North Bay.



ONTARIO

The Ontario Department of Health

Presents a Statement by

The Academy of Medicine, Toronto, on

"INFANTILE PARALYSIS"

(POLIOMYELITIS)

Realizing the anxiety which exists in the public mind today with respect to the increased prevalence of Poliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis") in Toronto and other parts of the province, the Academy of Medicine of Toronto, which represents more than one thousand physicians, called a special meeting of its Council, September 1st, to review the whole situation. To this meeting were invited representatives from all departments of medicine interested in this subject.

At the conclusion of the conference, during which time all of the pertinent facts of the present situation were presented and discussed, it was felt that, in fairness to the public, an official statement should be made to set forth the facts exactly as they exist. To this end, a committee was appointed to prepare and issue an official statement, which follows:

Poliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis") is a communicable disease. It is definitely known that it is caused by the entrance into the body of a minute form of life known as a virus. It is known also that this virus enters commonly through the upper part of the nasal tract. There is no evidence that the disease is conveyed by flies or domestic animals.

When an outbreak of the disease occurs, healthy persons as well as those ill with the disease are liable to harbour the virus in the secretions of the nose and throat. The disease is, therefore, spread through the contact of persons one with another.

Usually the virus occasions only a mild illness but sometimes the virus enters the central nervous system, which may result in paralysis. The majority of adults are not susceptible to the disease.

Present Situation

While the number of cases reported in Toronto is greater than in any previous outbreak of this disease, and there is no reason to presume that the incidence rate is likely to decline within the next two or three weeks, it must be borne in mind that not 25% of these cases show any evidence whatever of paralysis. Furthermore, among those developing paralysis, the majority eventually will recover complete use of their paralysed limbs. It would appear, therefore, that while there is every reason for the public to view the present situation with concern, there is no justification for undue alarm or hysterical behaviour.

According to figures computed by the Department of Health, Ontario, to date, there are estimated to be 750 cases in Ontario, of which 285 have occurred in the City of Toronto. Of this number, 212 cases have been admitted to the Riverdale Isolation Hospital, only 54 of whom developed some degree of paralysis. There were 11 deaths in this group. Statistics of a similar nature apply to the Hospital for Sick Children, which has received its cases not only from Toronto but from other parts of the province.

Control Measures

These include the strict isolation of all persons ill with the disease and the quarantine of those who have been in immediate contact.

In as much as it is not known who are or are not carriers of this disease, it is advisable to reduce to a minimum, contact with other people. In other words, keep out of crowds. As children are particularly susceptible, it is most important that they be kept as far as possible from mingling with other persons. For this reason, the opening of the schools of Toronto has been deferred and the Department of Health of the Province of Ontario has recommended to parents that they see to it that their children avoid attendance at theatres, playgrounds, bathing pools and beaches and other places of amusement where children congregate. The Academy agrees with the provincial and municipal health authorities that the responsibility for the control of the activities of children is primarily the duty of the parents.

The Department of Health of Ontario has completed within its own organization plans whereby serum for the treatment of this disease is available in any part of the province upon the request of the attending physician.

Nasal Spray

Experimental work with animals indicates that Poliomyelitis can be prevented by spraying the extreme upper part of the inside of the nose with a harmless solution of zinc sulphate. This was discovered during the past year. To date, its value in the prevention of Poliomyelitis in humans is not known. To be in any degree effective, the spray must be applied high up inside the nose. This can only be done with a specially constructed atomizer and by a physician thoroughly familiar with this type of work. The application of this or any other spray by an ordinary atomizer or to the lower part of the nose is quite useless. The possible value of the nasal spray properly administered is being determined at the present time in Toronto.

The Council of the Academy of Medicine of Toronto endorses the attitude adopted by the provincial Department of Health and the local Board of Health in respect to measures designed to control the present situation. We would respectfully suggest that the general public will best serve its own interests by endeavoring to follow the advice which is being given by these health authorities.

Chas. A. Hair MD

PRESIDENT OF
THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
TORONTO