

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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GIVE THE GIRLS A FAIR DEAL

A letter published elsewhere in this issue is worthy of some special thought. The letter suggests that a great deal is being done for boys in this town but practically nothing to give the girls a chance at all the privileges showered upon the boys. Is there a tendency to forget the girls when making ambitious plans for the advantage of the youth of the town? It is worth more than a passing thought.

The young lady writing the letter refers to the skating rinks for hockey practice, the summer camps, the clubs, societies, sports—all for boys. Of course, it should be remembered that there are active organizations for girls—the C.G.I.T., the Girl Guides, and similar movements. It is only fair to note that the churches are especially active in their sincere efforts to provide interests and entertainment for girls. Once upon a time Timmins had girl hockey teams, but at that time there was a tendency to believe that sports of this kind were liable to injure the health of girls. In past years Timmins also had active and successful girls' softball teams that won a fair measure of public support. The lessening of interest in this form of sport for girls was not due to any lack of sympathy of the public with the girls or the sport, but to extraneous causes. Yet with it granted that the girls have not been altogether overlooked in the matter of thought and attention, it must be admitted that the girls have not shared fully in the effort given for the advantage of youth. It is true that much of the consideration given the boys has been due to the fact that a greater proportion of boys than girls are apparently somewhat of a problem. There is a tendency in the world today to think of the few who are a nuisance or a menace and forget the thousands who are quiet and unobtrusive good fellows—boys or girls. This is a handicap to the average girl who does not attract public attention by undue noise or mischief. In any event, however, The Advance has much sympathy with the idea in the letter that plans for the young folks of the town should be more on a fifty-fifty basis for boys and girls than they appear to be at present.

One thought prompted by the letter in question is that more emphasis might well be placed on what the homes should do for the boys and girls, and less, perhaps, on what the town owes the youth. So-called modern ideas have an odd way of becoming lop-sided. Take the description given in the letter of a girl's programme here—practice the piano, do homework, help with the dishes, attend duty meetings, enjoy the odd evening's skating. That may sound old-fashioned, yet thousands upon thousands of girls found interest and happiness, and learned to face life with courage and common sense from such a programme. The Advance believes that such a programme breeds responsibility, helpfulness, the family happiness. There are other joys that accompany such a programme—are part of it—and make the girl's life neither dull nor uninteresting. The old-fashioned programme for the boy followed along somewhat similar lines. He had to cut wood and carry it in, shovel the snow or mow the lawn; he, too, had homework; and his skating, skiing, sports were also incidental. It is an odd fact, however, that under the so-called modern methods, there are so many scores of organizations to present the boys with supervised entertainment, sport and amusement. It is an equally odd fact that some years ago when there was an agitation here against homework, an unprejudiced observer would have jumped to the conclusion that it was only boys who were abused in this respect. At any rate the boys were more vocal in letting it be known that among the multiplicity of their occupations, there was no time for homework. Judging from the time that has to be taken up by various occupations provided for boys, the lads can not have many chores, in some homes at least. Yet the old-time programme bred some worthy specimens of citizens, and men who were happy, too—perhaps, happier than the youth of to-day. There was a time when even dishwashing was not beyond the ken of some youth. One lad who gloried in the fact that he was a better dishwasher than any of his sisters to-day occupies a high position in the public life of Canada, and his merry humour and happy life have been a by-word among all who know him.

The Advance believes that there would be advantage to Canada in a campaign to coax the home back to looking after the youth—boys and girls. There are still thousands of homes in Canada where there are occupations and interests and amusements for the children. It must be admitted, however, that these homes find it more and more difficult to carry on, with the increasing tendency to have everything organized by outside agencies. The late King George said memorable words in one of his last messages to his people, when he stated that the Empire is founded on home and family life. It is something worth re-

membering. There is nothing, no organization, no state, that can take the place of the right home, with the same benefit to the people and the same true happiness to youth.

There seems to be a real danger at the present moment that organizations may imagine they can take the place of the home, or do better than the good home. At most, they can do no more than add to the good work of the good home, or take the place of the home that is not so good. The home itself is the real hope of humanity. It is in supplementing the efforts of the home that organization can do its best. In this supplementing, girls should have equal consideration with the boys. The writer of the letter is very right in that. The Advance would be delighted—believes the public of Timmins would be delighted—with a girls' band—with sports for girls. The Advance believes the public would give generous support to any such ventures. Indications along this line are given by the fact that the young ladies in the District Pipe Band win special public favour and the Girl Guides, the C.G.I.T. and other girls' organizations never fail to meet public approval and support. It would be a sign, indeed, of decadence, of going back to the dark centuries, if public interest were not as keen and as kindly for the coming women of the race as for the coming men.

A BETTER PLAN

It may be well for the people of Timmins to believe that Timmins is the best town there is. But holding such a loyal opinion, every effort should be made to make it a fact as well as a local patriotic idea. To assure this happy and desired objective, lessons may well be taken from other towns. For instance there is the case of the town and its method of handling the slot machine question. The Paris method seems much more just and fair than the procedure in Timmins. Paris, like Timmins, licensed the pin machines before court judgments made it apparent that municipalities had no such power. The licenses in Timmins would have automatically elapsed at the end of March, and the town authorities having granted the licenses for the year, the situation would apparently have been met then by warning to those operating the apparently unlawful machines, or by the simple announcement that as no licenses would be granted for the ensuing year, business places would be well advised to prepare for the removal of all these devices. Instead, it is understood that on the orders of the police commission, "spotters" were employed to gather evidence and the greater number of those having the slot machines on their premises were hailed to court and fined a few days before the licenses expired. Many of the business men who were the victims of this procedure had never been in police court before and felt the undesirable prominence given them as most inequitable and unfair. One victim worded it this way:—"They licensed us to run the machines and then fined us for doing so." Few others will be able to see the matter in any different light.

The Paris plan appears much superior, and should be the one adopted by Timmins for any future case of similar type. A despatch last week from Paris noted that the slot machines and pin tables—being adjudged illegal—were ordered to be removed from the town by the police commission. An order was passed to have all license money refunded at once, and vendors were warned to have all machines off their premises within a few days. Paris may not have made any money out of this plan but the town certainly gained goodwill for a fair deal.

It is true that there was a tendency at Sudbury to make that town appear in even less favourable light than Timmins in regard to the slot machine matter. After all the court pronouncements as to the illegality of slot machines, some Sudbury aldermen actually desired to license the machines this year again. Surely, Sudbury had not planned any money-making scheme similar to that imposed in Timmins. In any event Timmins may not gracefully condemn the Sudbury proposal with any particular moral force, but this town may well regret that the fairer procedure of Paris was not followed here.

DISARMAMENT

It is not surprising that gangsters should support the idea of the disarming of the police, but it is astonishing that law-abiding people should give any support to such a proposal, especially in view of the fact that the present chaos in the world of nations is now admitted to be due to the folly of a similar idea of disarmament. In this wicked world under the conditions that prevail, plans of disarmament amount to nothing more than the law-abiding peoples reducing their protection while the ill-disposed seize the opportunity to outfit themselves for evil action. When Napoleon III was urged to do away with the death penalty for murder, his apt answer was, "Let the assassins begin it." Similar answer was made this week by the Timmins police commission when Mayor Bartleman suggested that the police force here might take a chance without the protection of revolvers. The mayor's chief objection to arming policemen seemed to be that guns cost money. Every gangster and every thug will support the mayor's suggestion, but honest and law-abiding people, who have nothing to fear though each policeman carried ten guns, will approve the attitude of the other members of the commission and



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Improper Practices in Trade Injure All

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"The problem of legislating against price cutting of assuring that individualism shall not be taken as license for exploitation, is a problem for all Canada and one in which all Canada must co-operate for cleaner, better business," declared George R. Matthews of Vancouver, secretary of the Retail Merchants Association of Canada, in a luncheon address at the Club Canadian at Montreal last week.

Known throughout Canada as the spearhead of the price maintenance measures recently made law by the legislature of British Columbia, Mr. Matthews explained how the need for the act arose and detailed the steps taken by all organizations in the community to assure its success.

The act itself, directed principally against the practice of "loss-leader" selling and price cutting, has attracted favourable attention throughout Canada, declared Mr. Matthews and there can be no doubt but that similar legislation in all other provinces is only a matter of time.

Section 4 of the British Columbia bill is as follows:—"No retailer shall sell or offer for sale in the Province any commodity which bears, or the label or container of which bears, the trademark, brand, or name of the producer, distributor, or wholesaler of such commodity, at a price less than the price, if any, set by the producer or wholesaler as the retail set price of the commodity at the time of the sale by him of the commodity to the retailer."

Section 9 of the bill stipulates a penalty not exceeding \$500.00 for retailers convicted of failing to comply with the new law.

Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario are all, declared Mr. Matthews, getting behind similar movements to protect the wholesaler, the retailer and the consumer from the vicious practices that have discriminated against healthy business conditions. Not only, he stated, must price cutting be stamped out but merchants must be stopped putting new material into bankrupt stock and wholesalers must be stopped sell-

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

There are some people who pretend to believe that a diagram should accompany every joke submitted to an Englishman. Perhaps the editor of The Geraldton Times is one of the proverbial Englishmen of tradition. In any event here is the diagram:—Some weeks ago The Advance noted that in an editorial The Geraldton Times made the following statement:—"Taking the weekly newspapers as a whole, our own included, readers seldom have very little to complain about." The Advance commented to the effect that what The Times meant was really more complimentary than what The Times said. To this The Times retorts: "So What!" Hence the diagram. What The

Times said was that readers seldom have very little to complain about. What The Times meant was that "usually" or "generally" the readers have little cause for complaint. If they seldom had little cause for complaint, the inference would be that usually they had cause for complaint. So Boss!

Pretty Wedding at the United Church

Miss Alberta Gertrude Mayhew and Mr. Harold Wesley Smith United in Marriage.

The United Church was the scene of a pretty wedding on Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock when Rev. W. M. Mustard united in marriage Alberta Gertrude, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Mayhew, of 10 Windsor avenue, and Mr. Harold Wesley Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Smith, of Souris, Manitoba.

The bride was charming in a bolero suit of navy blue crepe, a black velvet turban with lace-length gold veil, and black accessories. She wore a corsage of red roses and lilies-of-the-valley.

The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. George Howard, as matron of honour. Mrs. Howard was attractively attired in an afternoon dress of green velvet, with brown accessories, and a corsage of roses and lily-of-the-valley. Mr. John Grey acted as best man.

After the ceremony a buffet lunch was served at the home of the bride's parents, to relatives and intimate friends. The bride's mother, Mrs. Mayhew, received the guests, wearing a street-length dress of brown crepe. A lovely three-tier wedding cake adorned the luncheon table.

In the evening the bride and groom received their friends at a reception in the Hollinger Recreation hall. Over two hundred guests were present to wish them all happiness, and to shower them with many beautiful and useful gifts. The bride and her family have been in Timmins for only three years, having come here from Sherbrooke, Quebec, but they have made many friends during their residence in town. Mr. and Mrs. Smith will reside at 57 Rae street.

If You Like Books

(By A. H.)

All book-lovers would have been interested in the meeting on Monday afternoon of the Porcupine Women's Music and Literary Club. Its great attractions for them would naturally be the dramatic reading by Mrs. Moodie, and the book review by Mrs. Hespil.

"The Pilot of the Plains," by Pauline Johnson, the Indian princess of poetry, was recited by Mrs. Moodie. This poem is quite long, and this is the reason that it cannot be quoted here. However, for all lovers of Canadian poetry, and of Indian legends, "The Pilot of the Plains" is a treasure. It deals with the story of an Indian girl who loved a "white man" and who was loved by him. The lover returned to his home but promised that he would return to the girl he loved. She waited for him faithfully, while members of her tribe told her she was foolish to think "the white man" would return. But after months and months of waiting, the lover was able to start the journey back to his loved one. On the plains, a great storm blew up, and the traveller became lost. As he finally sank in the snows, exhausted, he called the name of his Indian princess, and far away at her home she heard the echo of his call, and hastened out into the storm, never again to be seen. But, say the Indians, on dark and stormy nights, the Indian girl guides the wanderer on his way, so that no others may be lost as her love was. E. Pauline Johnson's

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Mrs. Hespil reviewed three new books "The Rains Came," "Out of Africa," and "Action at Aquila," which are books that are all well-worth reading. "The Rains Came," is written on somewhat the same lines as "The Good Earth" which has been so popular, not only as a book, but also in its screen version. "The Rains Came" deals with life in India, but is not as sad as "The Good Earth," and instead of the plague of locusts, its terror is in a flood that destroys a great town. "Out of Africa" is based on the author's life in Africa, and her struggles in trying to keep up a great plantation, which eventually fails. It is a woman's book, and deals

with her point of view. "Action at Aquila," is a book that develops great characters, and one that will interest all readers.

North Bay Nugget:—All Hitler need do to learn the folly of his ways is to read the "Life of Napoleon," the little guy who considered life wouldn't be worthwhile unless he had the entire world paying him homage.

Sudbury Star:—For a while there will be much jolly confusion in Austrian schools over whether Willy is giving the Nazi high sign or wishes to leave the room.

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Tomorrow is April First but Observance Failing

Tomorrow (Friday) is April 1st (All Fools' Day). This day has been observed intermittently for centuries in various countries of the world. There is dispute as to its origin. In several countries in recent years it has been made the occasion for "making a fool" of the ordinary man, woman or child. Some years the day receives special notice, and in other years it appears to be dropped. Last year there was little observance of it here, while in some other years it received more than passing attention.

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Some newspapers are making much of the fact that Canadians winning prizes in overseas sweepstakes do not have to pay income tax on their winnings. A lot of comfort that is to the rest of the Canadians who bought sweepstakes tickets and didn't win, and have to pay income tax on the ticket money.

The Canadian Income Tax officials are said to consider sweepstakes prizes won by Canadians as "capital gains." So do the winners.

Some members of Sudbury's city council last week wanted to license slot machines in that city. Mr. J. A. Cooper, member of the Legislature for Sudbury, last week defended beverage rooms for women and advocated hunting and shooting on Sundays. Is all the sin and iniquity of the North gravitating to Sudbury these days?