

Why Robert Burns Will be Honoured Wednesday

Well-Known Timmins Scotsman Who Has Attended Fifty Burns Banquets and Spoke at Many of Them, Writes Interesting Article on the Famous Scottish Bard.

Mr. W. M. Whyte, one of the oldest citizens of the North, and who is recognized as an authority on Robert Burns, the great Scottish poet, has been kind enough to write an article on the National Poet for The Advance. Mr. Whyte, who last year passed his 80th birthday anniversary, has retained a remarkable vigour of mind and memory. He has attended probably fifty or more events in honor of the poet, Burns, and at many of them he has been guest speaker. He has been the special speaker at many Burns anniversary events at the Timmins Kiwanis Club, each year bringing out new facts and new ideas regarding Burns and his poetry and the lessons in them for the present day.

The following is Mr. Whyte's article:

Robert Burns

On Wednesday, Jan. 25th, will be celebrated the 180th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet.

There was a somewhat odd circumstance in connection with the birth of Robert Burns. His father, going on horseback to Ayr, to fetch a doctor, noticed a gypsy woman on the opposite bank of a small stream which recent rains had swollen, making it difficult for the woman to get across. Although his errand was urgent, Burns' father stopped long enough to assist the gypsy across the stream. Then he went on his way. In the meantime the woman

sought the shelter of the Burns' home from the cold blast. When the father returned, he found the gypsy at his own fireside. After the birth of the child, the baby was placed in the lap of the gypsy woman, who made the prediction that he would have a great future. Whether she knew from some intuitive powers, or was only expressing a wish to please the parents makes little difference. The fact remains that Robert Burns became popular in his own time, while his fame has grown with the years. In later years he incorporated the incident in verse:

"There was a lad was born in Kyle,
But whatna day o' whatna style
I doubt it's hardly worth the while
To be sae nice wi' Robin."

On Wednesday across this broad Canada of ours—from east to west—from the Arctic outposts to the tip of South America—in the Old Land, in India, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Isles of the Sea,—in the great banqueting halls of the large cities and the more modest gatherings in town and village and humble cot,—thousands will gather to honour the name of Robert Burns.

One writer says: "There was nothing aloof about Robert Burns. He was first a human being, then a poet, then a philosopher, and that triumphant trinity was Robert Burns. It is the human element which survives, and it is because his poetry is informed and

illuminated by it, that he will live forever, not only in the hearts of his country, but of discerning souls the world over."

Another writer quotes Sir Walter Scott's opinion: "His person was strong and robust, his manners rustic, but not clownish. I think his countenance was more massive than it looks in any of his portraits. There was a strong expression of sense and shrewdness in all his lineaments. The eye alone, I think indicated the poetical character and temperament. It was large and of a dark cast, which glowed when he spoke with feeling or interest. I never saw such an eye in a human head, though I have seen the most distinguished men of my time. His conversation expressed perfect self-confidence without the slightest presumption."

Sir Walter Scott himself gave a most interesting and illuminating reference to meeting Burns at the home of Prof. Ferguson in Edinburgh. Burns was then about 27 years old, while Sir Walter Scott was a lad of 15. Sir Walter afterwards wrote of this meeting as follows:

"The thing I remember best in his manner was the effect produced on him by a print representing a soldier lying dead on the snow, his dog sitting in misery on one side—on the other, his widow with a child in her arms. These lines were written underneath:

"Cold on Canadian hills, or Mindemoya's plain!
Perhaps that parent wept her soldier slain;
Bent o'er that babe, her eye dissolved in dew;
The big drops mingling with the drops he drew;
Cave the sad presage of his future years—
The child of misery baptised in tears."

"Burns seemed much affected with the print, or rather the idea it sug-

VISIT QUINTUPLETS



During his northern speaking tour, Col. George A. Drew, leader of the Ontario Conservative party, took time out from political problems to visit the Dionne quintuplets with Mrs. Drew. Here they are outside the Dionne nursery near Callander with the famous Dr. Allan Roy Dufour.

gested. He actually shed tears. He asked whose the lines were and it chanced that nobody but myself remembered. He rewarded me with a look and a word, which I will recollect with very great pleasure."

Robertson the historian, speaking to Professor Christison, says: "I think Burns was one of the most extraordinary men I ever met. His poetry surprised me very much, his prose surprised me still more, and his conversation surprised me still more than both his poetry and prose."

Robert Burns belongs not to Scotland alone, but to Humanity (which knows neither creed nor race). His tenderness and depth of feeling are shown in his lines: "To a Mouse," "To a Daisy," "A Wounded Hare," "A Pet Lamb," and many others.

His detractors in their carping criticism, with intent to cast a blot on his name, have only succeeded in making it shine with brighter lustre.

It is true he erred, and he was keenly aware of his imperfections. We will never know the pangs of remorse he suffered. In one place he says:

"If I have wandered in those paths
Of life I ought to shun.
As something loudly in my breast
Remonstrates I have done."

What he wrote for his own epitaph should be enough to silence all criticism. In part:

"Is there a man whose Judgment clear
Can others teach the course to steer,
Yet runs himself Life's mad career
Wild as the wave,
Here pause, and through the starting tear,
Survey this grave.
The poor inhabitant below
Was quick to learn, and wise to know
And keenly felt the friendly glow
And softer flame,
But thoughtless follies laid him low
And stained his name."

Wordsworth, the poet, commenting on this epitaph says: "Here is a sincere and solemn avowal, a public declaration of his own will—a confession at once devout, poetical and human—a history in the shape of a prophecy."

Wordsworth's verse, "at the Grave of Burns," may also be quoted. "I mourned with thousands, but as one More deeply grieved, for he was gone, Whose light I hailed when first it shone. And showed my Youth. How verse may build a princely throne On humble truth."

Let us draw the veil over his imperfections, and remember only the noble heritage of song he has left to humanity. As long as the language is in existence, and the "Cottar's Saturday Night," and "Auld Lang Syne" remain in print, so long will the name of Robert Burns be honoured.

Transient at Englehart Dies from Monoxide Fumes

Englehart, Jan. 21.—An improvement was reported last night in the condition of Albert Golett, 24-year-old Quebec province man who was almost a second victim of a refrigerator car tragedy that claimed the life of Andrew Primeau, a fellow transient on the T. & N. O. freight train early Thursday.

Golett, who is being treated by Dr. F. H. Wilson, is in the Red Cross hospital, to which he was taken when railway employees, examining the train in the yards here after its arrival from North Bay, found him unconscious and breathing heavily, with Primeau dead beside him. Both had been overcome by deadly monoxide fumes from the charcoal heater attached to the car.

Both the 23-year-old Primeau and his companion were residents of St. Johns, La Prairie county, Que. Provincial Constable Lee Walker said. Apparently, they had been headed into Northern Ontario seeking work and had boarded the freight at North Bay, climbing into the small compartment which houses the heater, unknown to members of the train crew, as refuge from the cold.

High School Wins and Loses in Debate

The Timmins High School lost to the Kirkland Lake debaters on Friday evening, when Henry Koury and Dermot Molecki, of the Kirkland Lake High School, returned to their home town with the honors in the debate "Resolved That the World Has Grown Better in the Past One Hundred Years."

The Kirkland Lake representatives, Henry Koury and Dermot Molecki taking the negative side of the question, were given a hard battle by the Timmins affirmative, Jack Stingle and Moe Shragge. Jack Stingle, especially, is to be complimented on the excellent manner in which he had prepared his points, as this student was called upon only a day before the debate to take the place of Patricia King, who had been taken ill.

At Kirkland Lake, the local students, Meyer Bucovetsky and Rose Radkin, took the laurels, piling up a number of points in favour of their negative argument. They were opposed by Berilkin Danard and Victor Beehaz, of the Kirkland Lake High School.

The judges at Timmins were Mr. James, Mr. Young and the Rev. H. Slade.

After the debate, the audience at Timmins were treated to an exhibition of tap dancing by the winners of the Ken Noble Tour for Talent Contest in Timmins, Misses Elsie MacFadden and Joy Fitzgerald. The school orchestra played a few selections, and the pupils of the fourth year Commercial class, presented the play, "The Fatal Quest."

Children to be Barred from Movies After 5 p.m.

Commencing this week all the motion picture theatres in Kirkland Lake have agreed to refuse the sale of tickets to juveniles after five o'clock. This is to follow out the plan outlined by the police and Children's Aid Society whereby the presence of young boys and girls in the theatres during the evenings would be discontinued. Youngsters have been in the habit at Kirkland Lake of buying tickets for the afternoon events and remaining in the theatres for one or more shows. This has caused anxiety to parents and others who did not know where their children were. The new plan stops the purchase of tickets after 5 p.m., and at 7 p.m. all the lights are turned on and all children in the theatres are requested to leave as they will then have seen a full show, having been in from 5 p.m.

Decision Given in Damage Action Case at Cochrane

Cochrane, Jan. 21.—Heard by a jury at the assizes of Supreme Court in Cochrane last October, decision has now been handed down by Mr. Justice J. E. Chevrier, in a damage action brought by W. Dutechak against W. McNulty for an amount of \$2,502.60 for loss and damages sustained in an automobile collision on the Timmins highway.

At the assizes, the jury in answering questions put before them, found McNulty negligent by going to the wrong side of the road while the plaintiff had been negligent by remaining on the wrong side of road until immediately before the accident. The jury also found that McNulty had the last chance of avoiding the collision.

Damages of \$50 were given by the jury to Dutechak, also assessing the permanent injury to his wrist as 20 per cent, allowing \$300 for same, while McNulty received no damages from the jury. Although the jury had given a 60-40 per cent. negligence decision, the judge handed down a verdict of \$350 and costs to plaintiff and dismissed the counterclaim by McNulty.

Globe and Mail: Once more the Don Jail has been condemned as unfit for human occupancy, which ought to be a warning for people to stay out of it.

Former Timmins Resident Dies at Mindemoya Hospital

(From Gore Bay Recorder)
The community mourns the loss of Mrs. Jonas Lewis, who passed away on Monday, Jan. 9th, at the Red Cross Hospital, Mindemoya.

The late Mrs. Lewis had been ailing for years, but wasn't serious until a few days before her death. She was born in Killalag and about 29 years ago came to Sudbury where she was united in marriage to Mr. Lewis who predeceased her two years ago last August. The late Mrs. Lewis has lived on the Island ever since except a few years on the North Shore and Timmins. The funeral was held from the home of her daughters on January 10th, at Britainville. She was laid to rest in Long Bay cemetery. She leaves to mourn her loss, two daughters and one son, namely: (Mayme) Mrs. Robert Sloss, of Britainville; (Hannah), Mrs. Wm. Brandon of Ice Lake; and Percy of Duck Island; also her mother and one sister and one brother of Timmins, Ont. The pallbearers were Messrs John Sidney, Henry Sloss, Earl Gilpin, J. R. Pearson and Frank Lanktree.

Sudbury Star: It is rather a grotesque psychological idea, but maybe in times like these you have to have arms first before you can say, "Hands off!"
Cueph Mercury: We have noticed that just about the time we pick up a new and useful word, other people begin to work it to death.

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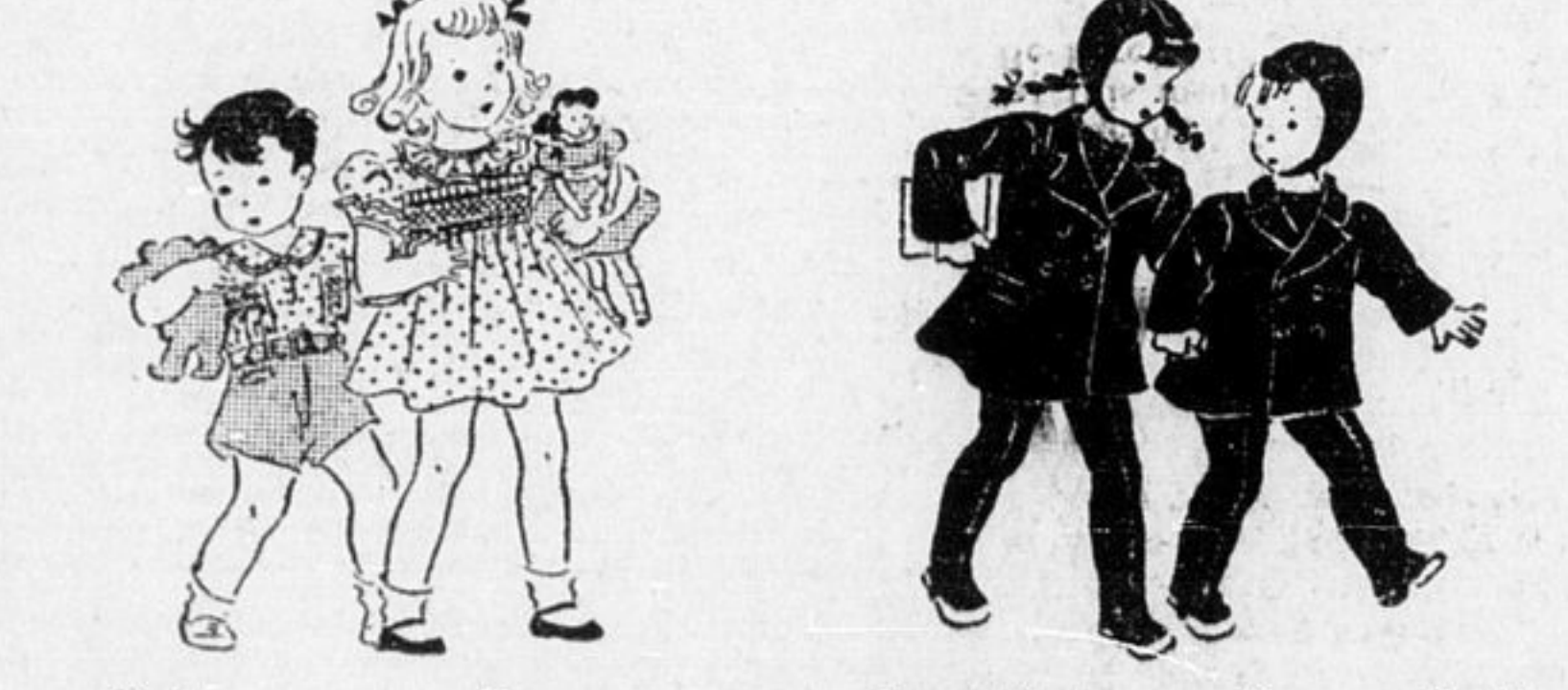
To prepare for our moving to 5 Pine Street North, we find it necessary to reduce stock on many lines. To make this sale event (the first in years) really worth while to our customers and to do away with putting sale prices on all our goods we are cutting prices exactly in half. This simply means that the regular price tags will remain unchanged and the sale price is exactly half. Think what this means to you! Kids' wear, yard goods and many other items at away below wholesale prices. Be here early to-morrow and plan to buy and save as much as you can.

Children's and Babies' Wear HALF PRICE and we really mean half price.



It will be bad news to many mothers to learn that in our new store we will not carry children's or infants' wear but will enlarge our stock of general dry goods. IT WILL BE "GOOD NEWS" though to know that our entire present stock all children's and infants' wear will be immediately cleared at exactly half price. Every mother in town who is interested in saving as much as she spends should come in and stock up on things that "wee tots" need... not just for now but for months ahead. Here are listed just a few items. Hundreds of others are equally good value. You know the range of our children's department and the quality of the goods. Well every single item will sell at exactly half the price you've always paid. Stock up for months ahead. It will certainly pay you.

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Beautifully made of fine materials in a variety of dainty styles and colours. Sizes 3-14. Reg. prices from \$1.49 to \$2.95. Now exactly
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Granulated Sugar 10 lbs. 59c	Canadian Brand Matches ³ boxes 21
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