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THE CHAIN LETTER CURSE

Sometimes it seems easier to bear the actual wickedness of some people than to tolerate their asinine credulity and superstition. The fact that some people can tolerate and even encourage the senseless chain letter curse is a case in point. At the very best the chain letter scheme is silly and purposeless. At the worst, it is an evil not to be considered too lightly when it causes fear and anxiety and leads to waste of time and effort and postage. As a matter of fact the law of Canada classes it as a crime, the use of His Majesty's mails being strictly forbidden for chain letter nonsense.

Despite all this, there are people who encourage and extend the silly sin of the chain letter. There are those with so little real understanding of general faith and belief that they actually place reliance on the inane threats so often hidden in the chain letter game. It is no credit to the religion of the people in general that there are folks who tolerate the idea that so dubious a device as the chain letter trickery can either harm or bless them.

This week some local people have been given a taste of the chain letter crime. One of the recipients of a chain letter in town has handed the document to The Advance. This chain letter is headed "Good Luck London" and reads:—"This good luck of London was sent to me in the last twenty-four hours. This chain was started by an American officer. It has travelled round the world four times. The one who breaks the chain will have bad luck. Copy this and see what happens four days after posting it. It will bring good luck. So do not keep this letter. It must be posted in 24-hours after receiving it. Send this copy and four others to people to whom you wish good luck. Gracie Fields received \$400.00 four days after posting it. Dr. Amos won \$200.00 and then lost it after he broke the chain. This is proof for you to mail it. It will bring you good luck. Do not send any money. Here's good luck to you."

Chain letters will not bring good luck to London. If the recipients of these chain letters would buy Victory Bonds instead of writing four other letters or any other number of other letters that might bring good luck to London. Certainly, if the time and effort and expense necessary to maintain the chain letter curse were devoted to securing and sending money to the Bombed Victims' Fund, that would be good luck for London. It takes something more than chain letters to bring good luck. Hard work and honest effort will do more to bring good luck than all the chain letters ever written.

No one need fear ill-luck even if they deliberately break the chain. The gentleman who received the letter given above broke one of these chains last year, so he feels that though he has been given a second chance, as it were, he will be perfectly safe to break this chain as he did the one before. The average man may well say, "Oh, well, I might as well break the chain and save my time and effort, because I will likely have bad luck anyway."

The chain letter under consideration was evidently written in the first place by someone who had more good luck than good sense. It would take a chain letter addict to understand how the good doctor referred to could make \$200.00 by keeping the chain intact and lose the money by breaking the chain—all at the same operation. As for the popular Gracie Fields she would be more likely to make \$400.00, singing "Wish Me Luck," than by bothering with silly chain letters. The only solid and sensible thing in the whole letter is the sentence, "Do Not Send Any Money!" To that might well be added the equally wise words, "Do Not Waste Four Postage Stamps."

There is luck about chain letters, but not the way the writers pretend. Luck, good or bad, does not come from silliness of this sort. It is good luck to disregard the chain letter curse and such like nonsense. It is bad luck to further the chain letter foolishness—ill luck that may lead to a court case for disregarding the regulations of the law in reference to the chain letter crime.

BUY VICTORY BONDS

During the present Victory Loan campaign the logical reasons why people should purchase Victory Bonds have been emphasized and repeated. To the loyal man or woman there is no sound reason why Victory Bonds should not be bought to the very limit. Patriotism, self-protection, safety, business, community spirit, all these are reasons for buying Victory Bonds. There is no doubt that the money is needed to support the war effort vital at this time. There are one or two points, however, that deserve perhaps a little special thought. One of these thoughts is the fact that the material over-subscription of the present Victory Loan will have a special moral effect on the enemy. Every dollar subscribed to the Victory Loan is a moral slap in the face for the enemy. The failure of the loan would have been a genuine comfort to the yellow men of Europe and Asia. Another phase of the matter is the encouragement and inspiration given to Canada's men overseas

through the over-subscription of the loan. The men of Canada's forces on land and sea and in the air, as well as those working at home in producing munitions or supplies, may well feel that they are receiving very generous support from the people in general.

The third point to be noted is that those subscribing to the Victory Loan are not only providing for the war of to-day, but they are also making noteworthy contribution to the chances for better things in the days to come. After the last war there were many who found their investments in the bonds of the day were of particular value. To some it meant the building up of a reserve fund not likely to have been achieved in any other way. During the depression that followed some years after the war the bonds and certificates bought during the war proved to be genuine assets for the piping days of peace. Many a man felt that he would have been in rather desperate situation had it not been for the money invested in loans. Thoughtful people will agree that the bonds of the last war not only helped finance the war and eventually win the struggle, but that also it meant the building up of reserves for the days after the war. It is not too much to say that every dollar invested in Victory Bonds to-day will not only help finance the war but will also help very materially in the coming work of readjustment and rehabilitation after the war.

SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE

It would surely be reasonable to expect that The Ontario Library Review, published by the Public Libraries Branch of the Ontario Department of Education should show proper regard for correct literary form and established literary usages. Unfortunately, however, for some time past The Ontario Library Review has been following a silly and senseless practice that sets a deplorable example for the younger generation. This has been the childish plan of listing book titles in incorrect fashion. For instance in the current issue there are books listed as having such titles as: Out of it all; The hollow chest; Live and let live; Border line; Death wore roses; The girl of the woods; Death turns the tables; The Oxford dictionary of quotations; the air raid safety manual; and so on. There are no such titles among the new books. As a matter of fact the list should read:—Out of It All; The Hollow Chest; Live and Let Live; Border Line; Death Wears Roses; The Girl of the Woods; Death Turns the Tables; The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations; The Air Raid Safety Manual; and so forth. One of the titles quoted is particularly ridiculous. The Ontario Library Review gives it as D as in death. It is difficult to see how "D" can be seen in "death." Of course the title of the book is actually "D as in Death."

It has been a long established rule that the first word and all important words of titles of books, plays, operas, lectures, pictures, and the like, should begin with a capital letter. Who gave The Ontario Library Review authority to alter this rule? Illiterates and irresponsibles are constantly attacking established rules and usages. If they were allowed their way the English language would soon be unintelligible. If the faddists and the sadists are permitted to work their will in such matters there is no way to preserve the language. One crank or smart alec changes one thing, another tampers with something else. So it goes until all is gone. Among all the licenses granted these stormy days, there can be found none to warrant The Ontario Library Review in its deliberate misquotation of book titles. If The Ontario Library Review does not approve of the titles of modern books, it should not deliberately mutilate them. It should be sufficient surely for the Ontario publication to run a panelled note somewhere in its issue giving its own peculiar views. The danger in such practices as that under review is the poor example shown to the growing group of iconoclasts who would even expose their ignorance for a little publicity or the supposed honour of being called original. The truth, of course, is that the babyish trick of The Ontario Library Review hasn't even the virtue of originality. In this incorrect reproduction of titles The Ontario Library Review is not even blazing new trails. Half a century ago many a country newspaper occasionally handled some book titles after The Ontario Library Review plan. Those were the days of hand set type and if the "case" run out of capitals, then the small letters had to be requisitioned. The little country weekly of hand set days might be forgiven for giving the title:—The Rio casino intrigue. It is difficult to understand why a pretended authority like The Ontario Library Review should be permitted to get away with an abortion like:—The new way to eat and get thin.

If originality is the sole requisite, why stop at the odd capital? Why not take out all the capitals from their places and bunch them elsewhere. For example:—Manners for moDerns; or a creed FOR free men; or, house pLANTS.

It may be, of course that The Ontario Library Review is simply determined to do away with Capitalism.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Rev. Duncan McTavish, secretary of the London, Ontario, Temperance Federation, is quoted as making the peculiar statement that there were 600,000 bottles of whiskey at Singapore at the time of the surrender, and only 223 machine guns. Where this odd information could be secured may be left to the imagination. Taking it at its face value, however, it is not a reflection on the people of Singapore. In proportion to population, Timmins for example should have 12,000 bottles of hard

stuff at any given time, together with four and a half machine guns. Instead of that, Timmins probably has double that amount of liquor and a generous fellow might credit the town with at least half a machine gun. What Timmins actually has in the way of machine guns is two of the species,—one that won't work, and the other being without ammunition. Does it not appear about time that people in Canada ceased patronizing discussion of Empire mistakes and considered some of the pressing problems here at home. Even granting that the Singapore figures are true 600,000 bottles of whiskey does not mean any reflection on 1,700,000 people. The whiskey may have been there for years. In any event that amount of liquor remaining would suggest that the city of Singapore did not give all its attention to disposing of liquor. That phase at least of the Singapore situation is not too bad when the Japs could only get 223 machine guns while there remains the problem of disposing of 600,000 bottles of whiskey. Canada has its own problem in the matter of the disposition of liquor and machine guns. Neither the temperance people nor the military folks seem to tackle the question in the right way. The right solution seems to be that Canada should curb its liquor supply and extend its machine gun distribution. Perhaps if Canada would cut in two the number of places where intoxicants are dispensed and shorten the hours of those remaining the nation would be the better for it. The time

Beer Booster is Fined Two Hundred Dollars Tuesday

(Continued from Page One)

that both the defence and the crown were in complete agreement on the facts. Magistrate Atkinson discussed the case with the crown and said that it was a very complicated case but that he felt that he was unable to register a conviction on a charge of keeping for sale and that he didn't feel like reducing it to a charge of illegal possession because the fine was too small. It was finally agreed to reduce the charge to another section of the L.C.A. in which it is an offense, "to canvass for, receive, take or solicit orders for the purchase or sale of any liquor or to act as agent or intermediary for the sale or purchase of any liquor or to hold himself out as such agent or intermediary."

Under that section of the Liquor Control Act, the Magistrate fined Zerkowski two hundred dollars and costs or the alternative of three months in jail. Just afterwards when the defence counsel was telling Zerkowski about the conviction, Magistrate Atkinson told him not to worry as the brewing firm concerned would probably pay his fine for him. The fine and costs totaling \$217.00 was paid.

A charge of obstructing justice against Zerkowski was withdrawn.

Mrs. Marie Pelletier appeared in court immediately after and pleaded guilty to a charge of being in possession of beer that was illegally purchased. The case followed on the heels of the Zerkowski case of keeping for sale and it was on this case that the other charge was based. The woman took the stand and told the Magistrate that she was guilty but that she had to sell beer to make a living. Deputy-Chief Jack Downey took the stand to give some evidence in the case and said that he and two of the constables had raided her premises on the night of February 20th and had found a quantity of beer in the house. He said that Mrs. Pelletier had readily admitted to him that the beer was illegally purchased and that she had got it from her "booster." She then went into long detail to explain that she had no other way of making a living. The deputy-chief said that he had never raided the place at any other time.

At the conclusion of his evidence Magistrate Atkinson fined the woman fifty dollars and costs and told her that she would have to stop selling beer and find another way to make a living. The fine was paid by the woman's son after the court.

Moskal-Stachow Nuptials at Church Rectory on Sunday

Miss Mary Stachow Becomes Bride of Aircraftsman Frank Moskal.

The Rev. Fr. Murray officiated at a charming wedding on Sunday when he united in marriage Miss Mary Rose Stachow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stachow, of 113 Maple street north, and Mr. Frank Moskal, of the R.C.A.F., stationed at Fort William, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Moskal of Kitchener, Ontario. The ceremony took place in the rectory of the Church of Nativity, and was attended by relatives and close friends.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride made a lovely picture in a gown of rich white crepe, with a three-quarter length veil of white net caught in tiny white flowers, and carrying a bouquet of premier red roses. Her gown was fashioned with a softly gathered bodice, long torso waistline, bishop sleeves gathered in fitted cuffs, and a full skirt.

Miss Jessie Zabiak of Rouyn attended her cousin as maid-of-honour, daintily attired in floor-length pink organza, trimmed in gold sequins. The gown featured a V-neckline, short sleeves, and a full skirt, and she wore a small cap of mauve flowers while carrying a bouquet of Talisman roses. Miss Olga Maidanuk, as bridesmaid, was attractively attired in heavenly blue organza, fashioned similarly to that worn by the maid-of-honour, but bearing a square neckline. Her shoulder-length matching veil was caught in a cap of flowers, and she carried a bouquet of cream roses.

The groom was attended by his bro-

ther, Mr. Arthur Moskal, of Rouyn, and by Mr. Stanley Yuskow, of Sudbury.

Following the ceremony, a wedding dinner was served at the home of the bride's parents, where her mother received guests, wearing an ensemble of navy blue crepe, with matching accessories and a corsage of roses. She was assisted by the bride's aunt, Mrs. J. Zabiak, of Rouyn. The bride and groom received friends at a reception later in the evening, and they left on Monday for Kitchener, where they will visit the groom's parents, and for other points south. For travelling the bride chose an ensemble of flowered crepe, with brown fur-trimmed coat and brown accessories.

Among the out-of-town guests were the groom's brother, Mr. A. Moskal, of Rouyn; the bride's aunt and cousins, Mrs. Zabiak and Misses Jessie and Elsie Zabiak, of Rouyn; and Mr. Stanley Yuskow, of Sudbury.

that Mrs. Trotter had been in the man's room in the evening, apparently had had something to drink, and then had taken ill. She went to the washroom, and another woman present went in search of a doctor. The man said that after the women left his room he went to bed and to sleep. The man was first held on a charge of vagrancy but later the more serious charge was laid. A charge of not having a registration card was withdrawn last week.

Sudbury Star—A man may be worth his salt—but is he worth his sugar?

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Serious Charge Against Man at Kirkland Lake

James Thomas, alias Demetres Pappastamion, was remanded until today at Kirkland Lake police court when he was charged before Magistrate Atkinson with "drugging with intent to commit an indictable act." The case arose from the finding of Mrs. A. Trotter dead in the ladies' washroom of the Powell Building, Kirkland Lake, on the morning of Feb. 6th. Police say

Smith's Falls Record-News:—What this about censors reading Federal M.P.'s mail? Shades of the Nazi Gestapo! Complaints have been raised in the House of Commons about mail particularly addressed to non-members of the government, being censored. If this is true, and Postmaster General Mullock has practically admitted it, then the P.O. branch has developed a gestapo of its own. Democracy! Ha! Ha! Ha!

North Bay Nugget:—In 1492, Columbus discovered America. In 1942, America replied in like by discovering the rest of the world.



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