

# The Porcupine Advance

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## A THOUGHT FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

No newspaper need worry these days for topics for editorials. Of course, there is the war and all its phases; there are the problems of post-war days; and should these fall upon the writer, there is always the Week itself to write about, for nearly every week these days is a special week of some sort. Last week was "Education Week." This week is "Children's Book Week," and next week will be "Navy League Week."

"Children's Book Week," however, is very worthy of special notice and attention on its own merits. The week is being observed with the particular purpose of increasing the interest of children in the library and in reading, and in emphasizing the special facilities and services the public library offers to youngsters. There is also the earnest hope that not only will the children become more closely associated with the work of the library but that adults as well may gain a more complete view of the benefits offered by the public library.

The Advance took a very earnest part in urging the establishment of the Timmins public library, and now is able to look back with much pride and pleasure on the notable growth of this valuable public institution. It has served the community to an extent that is not fully recognized, except perhaps, by a comparatively small group who realize its vital importance as a benefit and an asset to the town.

Literally thousands of people enjoy the services of the public library. It is a ready source of information, of interest and entertainment to adults, as well as to children, but the children, probably, benefit from the library more than anyone else.

"Children's Book Week" appears to be an appropriate time to consider what the public library means to the children in general. There is no greater gift that can be given a child than the love of reading. Teachers and schools do a distinct service in their encouragement of the habit of reading for pleasure and profit. It is typical of the attitude of the teaching profession, that it was a teacher, Capt. Carter, principal of the Timmins Central school in earlier days of Timmins, whose interest and patient and persistent effort resulted in the founding of the Timmins public library. Perhaps, he did not foresee the extent to which the Timmins public library would grow and the notable service it would give the community. Few, even among the most earnest advocates of the library may have expected to see it take so large and so vital a part in the benefit of the town. There are even to-day people who have little idea of how valuable the library has become. This "Children's Book Week" would be a good time for them to become really acquainted with the Timmins public library. If all would appreciate what the library really is and what it is actually doing for the general advantage of the community, the years after the war will see the library greater even than it is to-day and occupying even more extended premises where it would have space to accommodate all the facilities that may make a public library truly great. It would be an ideal place for the gathering and preservation of historical data regarding the camp. A museum, where photographs of historic value and souvenirs and specimens relating to early days in Timmins and the Porcupine might be preserved, would be a fitting adjunct to the public library.

A special feature of the Timmins public library is the "Story Hour." Here each Saturday young children receive their first glimpse of the treasure house that is theirs in books. They are turned to the path that leads to the pleasure and the profit that rests in reading. Edward Gibbon, the great English historian, in his memoirs said:—"My early and invincible love of reading... I would not exchange for all the treasures of India." There is information in books—all the wisdom of all the ages. There is interest. There is culture. There is comfort. There is hope. There is pleasure. The child that has a book has a friend. Those who love books are never without entertainment, or occupation, or solace. Richard Aungerville, whom books, describe as a learned prelate and philosopher of the thirteenth century, put this great truth in one of his books:—"Books are delightful when prosperity happily smiles; when adversity threatens, they are inseparable comforters. They give strength to human compacts, nor are grave opinions brought forward without books. Arts and sciences, the benefits of which no mind can calculate, depend upon books."

The motto of this year's "Children's Book Week" is "Build the Future with Books." The thought is a timely and promising one. A future built with books would avoid many of the problems of to-day. There is, for example, what is termed "juvenile delinquency." It is recognized, of course, that only a city of good homes can hope to do away

with juvenile delinquency. But a love of reading will help a lot. The youngster who reads much has little time and little inclination for delinquency. Juvenile delinquency might often be described as misplaced time and energy. Most youngsters will do something. There are few things that will do them more good and less harm and leave less opportunity for wrong paths than an inbred love of reading. Let the youngster find his adventure, his romance, his excitement in the attractive classics or even among the lesser authors, and the youngster will be happy and the home as carefree on his or her account as may be possible in this odd world. A love of reading is a protection, as well as a pleasure, a profit.

A good wish for "Children's Book Week" might well be that reading may help build a better future and a greater community.

## HAPPINESS

A week or two ago a gentleman unknown to any of the patients visited Christie Street hospital and handed a hundred dollar bill to every sick or crippled soldier he met in that institution.

"What is this for?" he was asked.  
"Just to give you a little happiness," was the reply.

At first the soldiers at Christie Street hospital were more doubtful that happy. They feared that the money might not be genuine or that some string might be attached to the gift.

But soon their doubts fled. The bills were genuine. They had a wonderful gift—the more appreciated. Men, more accustomed to being tangled in red tape and twisted with latin names for injuries and diseases naturally felt that a free hundred dollar bill was something special. They were happy.

And the donor was happy in their happiness. Indeed, as often happens, the happiness of the men who received the gifts depended to some extent upon the happiness of the giver.

All who heard the story of that generous visit wondered about the identity of the man who handed out hundred dollar bills to make good people happy. A local gentleman commented that he had an idea that it was either Harry MacLean, the president of the Dominion Construction Company, or another gentleman well known in this North Land.

Trying similar plans in Montreal the gift-giving gentleman was caught. No man can hand around money in Montreal without his name being discovered—possibly for future reference.

It was Harry MacLean, the gentleman who personally superintended the building of the great hydro-electric plant at Island Falls, and also the railway extension to Moosonee.

Asked why he distributed money around in this lavish way, Harry MacLean's reply was this:—"Well, it's this way. If you want to get something out of life, you must put something into life. So, if you don't put happiness in, you don't get happiness out, no matter what you do, or who you are."

There is an old story of the king who thought he was ill, but none of the doctors could find anything wrong with him, and when they said so, off came their heads, as was the custom in that country those days. Eventually a more modern physician was called into consultation. Like the other doctors, he saw there was nothing physically amiss with the king. But he didn't say so. He kept his head. Solemnly he assured the king that he not only knew what was wrong with his majesty, but he knew the cure as well. He gave a long and learned name to the disease, but in his own mind he said, "The old boy's simply unhappy." He assured the king that he would never recover until he slept one night in the shirt of a happy man. Then began a frantic search for a happy man with the purpose of begging, borrowing or stealing the shirt from off his back. In those days there were no Harry MacLeans handing out \$100 bills. Every man encountered in the kingdom had some grudge or grievance or complaint. Then one day a tramp was found laughing at the side of a river. He was a right merry customer, apparently without a care in the world. The king's courtiers explained the search that occupied them and begged to buy his shirt. Then the rascal fairly roared with laughter, choking so much with mirth that it was with great difficulty that he was able to explain that he hadn't a shirt to his back. When the truth was told to the king, he found the secret of happiness himself. He stopped brooding about himself, and thought of others instead.

The dictionary defines "happiness" as "felicity," and then describes "felicity" as the "state of being happy". So there you are, but where are you? Perhaps a clearer and more accurate definition of "happiness" would be:—"the state you're in when you make other people happy."

Harry MacLean is a returned soldier, as well as a Scot. He is often original in thought and deed. But he has discovered nothing new about happiness. Anyway, the proverbial Scot is supposed to be more happy on the receiving end of any kind of money (not to go so high as \$100 bills).

## WORK AFTER WAR

Some weeks ago Hon. Ian MacKenzie, Minister of Pensions in the Dominion Government was quoted as saying "with the full authority of the Government", that he accepted the proposition that, "if, under the stress of war, we can create full employment for all our people, we should equally be able to do so in times of peace." Apparently

governments have gone a long way in matters of common sense since "the depression". The governments were apparently the only combinations of individuals who were unable to grasp the truth indicated in the proposition referred to by Hon. Mr. Mackenzie. At the same time the people in general were not altogether blameless. Both the government at Ottawa and the one at Toronto had plans for establishing work camps where idle men would receive board, room and clothes and a nominal amount for incidentals. There was very strenuous objection to these plans. It is well to remember that the objection was not so much against the money paid at these work camps, but the fury was directed against the idea of militarism. It was naturally essential that there be some form of discipline and training at these camps, and the welkin fairly rang with the howls against fascism, militarism and whatnot. Some of the very people who to-day are talking socialism were loudest in their cries against the work camps, forgetting that under any form of socialism everything will be dictatorship, with the difference that people will not be allowed to complain about it, let alone refuse to accept the proposals.

During the depression years The Advance was at least one newspaper that persistently held employment was the only cure for unemployment and that it was the duty of the governments to provide that employment if others did not. It was pointed out that in this country of Canada there were so many public and semi-public works needed that there could be employment for all. Every move made along these lines, however, was met by public clamour. The idea that the governments can spend money without collecting it from the people is an idea that dies hard. "Where is the money to come from?" was the persistent question during the depression years. All sorts of agitators used the situation for their own ends. It is likely that after the present war attempt will be made to create the same confusion. This time, however, neither the public nor governments will have any excuse if there is any very serious hardship or general unemployment. Municipalities, provinces and the Dominion need such an array of public works that

## Premier Drew Says Canada's Future Rests in the Schools

### Ontario Premier Tells of Plans for Education Dept.

Ottawa:—"Canada's future lies in the classrooms of the country" was the pronouncement made by George Drew, speaking in his dual capacity as Premier of Ontario and Minister of Education, at a dinner given at the Chateau Laurier by the Men's and Women's Progressive Conservative Associations of Ottawa West in honour of Hon. George Dunbar. Premier Drew was dealing with education in Ontario and the objectives of his Department of Education.

While there had been "some failures in the homes and an inability of the churches to reach some children", Mr. Drew stated there was no doubt but that the schools had failed to measure up to their full responsibility. His department had faced this and was building an educational policy to correct the situation and to prepare youth for the place they will hold in the coming years.

The greatest need, he said, was for a clear understanding of education's aims, the first of which was the preparation for the earning of livelihood.

**Understand Life Itself**  
"But," warned the Premier, "we will fall far short of the basic requirements for education if we do not teach youth how to live and encourage an understanding of the purpose of life."

The well-stocked brain which understood the basic truths of life was the best antidote for juvenile delinquency, he said. He also stated that home appreciation of the principles of the Sermon on the Mount was a necessity for Canada was a Christian democracy. "Our way of life must be based on these concepts — obligation of citizens to each other and to the country — and an acceptance of ordered discipline," he said.

Children should be taught something of democracy's operation, Mr. Drew believes, and he thinks it is more important for them to understand the function of a Canadian city council than for them to know about the government in Sparta 2,400 years ago.

**"Proclaim Democracy"**  
"We are proud to proclaim democracy and it should be stressed in the schools just how essential is this system of self-rule to our life," he said.

The part Canada plays in the larger fellowship of the world and particularly in the British Empire should be taught in the schools, he believes. "There seems to be some belief that the British Empire is unreal. It is very real — ask Germany — and we are a very real part in it," he stated.

He said it was significant that at the time Nazi Rommel's legions were being rolled back from the Egyptian border the retreating Germans spoke of the Englishmen, Scotsmen, Irish, Australians and New Zealanders of General Montgomery's army as "Empire Troops". If the name the British Empire is a "name of fear to our enemies, it is not a bad name," he contended.

It was not only a name, but a business arrangement, and there was a place in the schools for teaching what this Empire partnership had meant in the past and what it would mean in the future. If nothing else, the schools should teach "in cold practical terms what benefit there had been for Canada in this Empire union," said Mr. Drew.

**Know B.N.A. Act**  
Canadian students should know the important terms of the British North America Act, just as those in the Un-

there can be complete employment after the war. If the matter is rightly handled there need be no suffering, nor any avoidable or unnecessary regimentation or dictatorship. Of course, it is first of all necessary to win the war, but in the meantime some thought should be given to the idea of guarding against being caught unprepared for the peace as the world was for the war.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Still stands the motto of the King:

"Put into your task whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high and with God's help we shall not fail."

Last week Timmins fire department did good work just outside the town limits fighting a fire in a building recently closed down but formerly a place for the sale of refreshments. A wag on the fire hall staff says that if the firemen don't have actual practice fighting fires in town they go outside for that practice. "We are bound to keep in practice," he said, "and we are equally anxious not to have any fires in Timmins. And it can be done!"

There is at present all sorts of talk about the different things the C.C.F. are going to "take over" when and if they get into power. It is said that they will confiscate the banks, the insurance companies, the mines, the stores, and more or less the farms. "What I want to know," says Friend Bill, "is whether they intend to take over the distilleries, the breweries and the making of goof!"

The municipal pot is beginning to boil, and it looks as if it might be some stew.

Another reason the war may end before another year is over—Schicklegruber says it won't.

ited States knew by heart the terms of the Declaration of Independence. He advised a reading of the preamble to the British North America Act, which sets out that the union of the provinces was for strengthening the British Empire.

Mr. Drew pledged he would "always keep in mind this essential part of the whole compact on which Canada is based" and so long as he remained in the Government of Ontario that would be a condition of the union.

He dealt with the strange theories of education prevalent in recent years. One of them was the child had in himself all the necessities to round out his education and that his own impulses should fix course of study and conduct. This had made for lack of proper discipline in the school, he said.

**Prepare For Trials**  
Another strange theory had been that

examinations were too much of a strain on the minds of students, while in reality these tests prepared them for trial later in life.

Still another had been the "fantastic delusion" that cadet training was dangerous. "I would like to see every boy in Canada taking cadet training, not merely as a war measure, but in the years to come, because it makes for self-reliance, an acceptance of ordered authority and ability to hold high the head and proudly face life," stated Col. Drew.

To round out a fuller education Mr. Drew advocated greater emphasis "on things that make living worthwhile, literature, arts and music," and said the surface of teaching in these cultural fields had barely been scratched.

## Regular Meeting of Mountjoy Young People

On Wednesday evening the Mountjoy Young People's Union held their regular meeting in the church, the meeting opening with the singing of a hymn. The secretary then read the minutes of the previous meeting. During the business portion of the evening, the members were reminded of the Y.P.U. Rally which was to be held Monday night, November 15th. In the absence of the convenor, Rev. Smith gave a talk on the World Problems of To-day. The evening ended with the playing of games and the singing of benediction.

Among those present were: Eileen Beaumont, Catherine MacEwce, Vida Beaumont, Patsy Nelson, Margaret Hooker, Gwen Robb, Garnet MacJanel, Winnifred MacEwce, Marion Patriquin, Eileen Surman, and Bob Wallace.

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# SIGNS

of the times  
CAN MEAN ACCIDENTS

### I'M IN FAVOR OF SIGNS

Announcing elections, dances, bazaars, bond rallies and all kinds of "get-togethers" that we, here in Canada, can still enjoy.

### BUT

Posting these signs on electric poles is a dangerous practice.

### THE NAILS CAUSE TROUBLE

As they can cause a lineman who is climbing that pole to fall and seriously injure himself.

### HERE'S HOW IT HAPPENS

Linemen wear sharp pointed spurs that dig into the pole so that they can climb quickly and safely. If this spur strikes a nail used to post a sign, the spur slips causing a serious, or even fatal accident.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Please don't nail posters and signs on electric poles. The linemen who must climb these poles are doing it so that you can continue getting the best electric service in the world.

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