

The Porcupine Advance

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A GREAT CANADIAN PASSES

Jack Miner, world-famous nature lover and authority on wild life died at his home at Kingsville, Ontario, last week, at the age of 79 years. Few Canadians have been so widely known and so greatly beloved, and still fewer have done so much to make the name of Canada famed throughout the world. The story of Jack Miner has true romance. Born in Ohio the family moved to Canada when Jack was a lad of thirteen. His father conducted a brickyard and a farm, and Jack followed the same vocation when he reached manhood. But Jack Miner had a striking originality in his work and business. His farm was soon famous for its gardens and its flowers. The pits from which the clay was taken to make bricks were turned into little lakes for wild birds. The Miner farm has been a beautiful show place for half a century. It is just about fifty years ago that Jack Miner started his bird sanctuary around the mud ponds of the brickyard. His first year's visitors were eleven Canadian Geese. But after a season or two ducks and geese by the thousands flocked to the sanctuary. During his lifetime he caught and banded more than 32,000 wild geese and ducks. On the band was his name and address and a selected verse of scripture. He asked anyone finding one of these bands to return it to him. Soon, Jack Miner was hearing from all over the continent, and bands were being returned to him from unexpected places and persons. From the information gained from this process of returning the bands an immense amount of authentic knowledge was gathered in regard to the habits and habitats of the birds. The attention roused by the plan kindled opinion in the matter of bird conservation. The thought he gave to the wild geese and ducks seemed to be automatically enlarged to include all wild life of the forest and the air. Jack Miner became an accepted authority on nature and wild life. At first there was a tendency on the part of a few to attempt to ridicule his efforts, but the value of the work he was doing quickly turned the scoffers into sincere enthusiasts. Jack Miner travelled all over the United States and Canada lecturing on conservation and creating public interest. Wherever he went he made friends. He visited Timmins on more than one occasion and made many friends in this north. It is not an exaggeration to say that Jack Miner's death is deeply mourned by literally thousands upon thousands. In the beginning the great work he undertook was financed completely by the man himself. In more recent years there was some assistance from private and from governmental sources, though never to the extent that the enterprise warranted and needed. Deeply religious, Jack Miner always managed to add helpful philosophy and moral value to whatever he wrote or said. His fame spread year by year, and his property at Kingsville where he and his children and grandchildren fed the birds and made friends with the birds was a greater attraction for tourists than even the Quintuplets at Callendar.

Some cynics once bestowed the title of "The Great Lover" on an actor of a well-known theatrical family. Without cynicism, Jack Miner won that title. He loved his religion; he loved the children; he loved nature and all nature's children; he loved music and beauty; and above all, he loved his fellows. Although he died a comparatively poor man, his life was a spectacular success. To the very end he was a happy man, a busy man, and he was many times a millionaire in friendship with what he would himself term as "all God's creatures." Just a few hours before his death he had been out feeding and talking to his birds and the other beauties he had brought around him.

Jack Miner was a truly great Canadian. His whole career was a living proof that a man may be a good Canadian though born outside the Dominion. Jack Miner's life is a striking example to all those not born in Canada of the true heights that may be achieved by character, talent, enterprise and public spirit. It would please Jack Miner to know that his effort and his zeal proved an inspiration to others.

The great work inaugurated and carried on by Jack Miner will not die with his passing. He established it too firmly for that, and, in addition, his son, Manly Miner is fervent and able in the same work and the same faith.

THIS IS THE WEEK!

This is Education Week. When Mark Twain was called upon to respond to the toast of "The Babies" at a public banquet, he pointed out that all the other toasts were sectional and applied only to a part of the people. "We cannot all be 'The President,' or 'The Press,' or 'The Constitution,'" he

said. "Not all can even be 'The Ladies,'" he added. "But when it comes to 'The Babies,' we meet on common ground, for at some time or another, we all have to be Babies." By the same token, most of the "Weeks" observed apply only to part of the population, but, "Education Week" must take high place in public thought and interest because education in these modern days is a vital necessity for all.

The purpose of "Education Week" is to arouse more general public interest and attention to the vital part that education plays in the progress, development and happiness of mankind. Even the war should not overshadow the idea of Education Week. Indeed, the war itself has emphasized the value of education, as many a young man realizes to his sorrow, finding that lack of education debars him from doing his full part in the department of his choice. The war has also proved the value of education and the service contributed by the teachers of the nation, in the fact that there has been so general a response in every way to the calls on good citizenship that develop from a state of war. Truly educated people are prepared to meet emergencies as they arise, and the fact that there has been so general a response to all demands is proof enough that this country has at least effective and loyal teachers. Education Week appears to be a fitting time for acknowledgment of the debt owed to the instructors of the nation that each succeeding crisis has been met with efficiency, courage and resourcefulness.

While the teachers and the schools (in that order) are the chief sources of education, the teachers of this district seem to realize fully that there are other factors in education. One of these special factors is recognized in the fact that the co-operation of the public library has been sought for Education Week. Elsewhere in this issue will be found proof that the Timmins Public Library is able and ready to give all the aid and support that is possible. The dictionary defines education as the act or process of developing and disciplining the various powers of the mind; instilling the principles of service, art, religion, etc. The public library has an important part in process of educating the unlearned, but it is well to remember that at least some other education is imperative to place the public library in position to give complete service.

This thought should also be remembered—that despite all the power and influence of teachers and schools and public libraries, the public in general must play its part if complete success is to be won. In the matter of finances, for example, the public is the final arbitrator. Only the public in the final analysis, can change such anomalies as the fact that while some actors are paid around the million a year, the minimum scale for some teachers is only in the hundreds. In Timmins and district the people have been generous in their appropriations for schools and teachers' salaries, but this generosity is only comparative and modern tendencies call for still greater contributions to education. In education, as in most other affairs, the people receive little above what they may collect.

All should observe Education Week, and this is only possible through interest and devotion given to the cause.

WEAR A POPPY SATURDAY

Saturday of this week, Nov. 11th, is Poppy Day in Canada, and everyone in this part of the North should buy a poppy and wear it in honour of those who have given their lives for their country. The event is under the auspices of the Canadian Legion of British Empire Service League and like so many Legion events it has treble significance. Not only does it honour those who made the supreme sacrifice in the last war and in this; but it also honours the Legion for its establishment of this Remembrance Day, and it honours the public itself for its part in this well-won remembrance; and last, but not least, it is a direct, material help to fill and injured soldiers of the war of 1914 to 1918. The poppies are made by disabled soldiers of the last war and their manufacture forms a material part of the livelihood of these gallant old heroes. The greater number of poppies that are sold the greater the degree of independence the disabled veterans will enjoy.

To some the present war overshadows all past wars. But no greater risk or sacrifice could be made than was willingly and earnestly offered by the men of the last war. Many of them have served again in the present war. There are few, indeed, who have not attempted to serve again as servicemen, and, failing that, have turned to help to victory by other means and methods. In peace, the men of the Legion showed themselves a powerful force for good and a strong, steadying influence for better citizenship. To honour them is not only to pay tribute to courage and gallantry but it is also to honour the people themselves—to prove that respect for bravery and loyalty and self-sacrifice still remain.

Buy a poppy! Wear a poppy!

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 unshaken. 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."

General McNaughton has won no new laurels by his acceptance of the post of Minister of National Defence in the Ottawa Government. Instead by taking the post that Col. Raiston found himself forced to resign, General McNaughton suggests that he would sooner be the head of the Zombie army than the friend and supporter of the boys overseas. That seems to be the attitude of the men on active service. He has been away from active army for months, yet he sets his opinion against that of Col. Raiston, who recently visited overseas, against that of the Canadian Legion, against that of Col. Geo. Drew after his recent visit overseas, and against the considered opinion of the servicemen in general overseas. All this tempts question as to his qualifications and the right he has to set his opinion against that of all others who are in position to know. The Toronto Telegram suggests that Gen. McNaughton's only genuine military experience in this war was in connection with Dieppe. The new Minister of National Defence is even liable

to lose credit for training the Canadians overseas in the earlier days of the war. There is no ceiling to the price of politics.

The people of Canada may well take pride in their contribution to the cause of the present struggle for freedom in the world. The Dominion Government shames Canada, however, by its present policy of attempting to turn gallant young volunteers who made genuine sacrifices to serve in the Air Force into conscripts for the Zombie Division of Canada's great army.

It is proposed now to have a great recruiting drive to secure recruits for the army. It is difficult to understand how even the Government can expect anyone to show any enthusiasm for recruiting or anything else after the recent flagrant breach of faith shown the brave young fellows who volunteered for the Air Force.

"I did not raise my boy to be a Zombie," sang a local woman the other day. She has three sons in the real army.

Lieutenant Travers Has the Right Spirit

Ottawa, Nov. 8.—Under the shadow of the solemn Peace Tower on Parliament Hill, a 23-year-old veteran of this war appeared before the microphone ready to signal the launching of a new warship at Lauzon, Quebec. Before a huge crowd, gathered to take part in the inspiring opening ceremony for the Seventh Victory Loan Campaign, he was being briefly questioned by the Master of Ceremonies about his record overseas. He was Lieutenant Erskine Grant Travers of Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

"And you were wounded?" said the Master of Ceremonies.

"Yes," replied Travers modestly, and then added quickly with a note of thankfulness in his voice, "but I've got one good eye left and that's better than none."

There were many in the crowd on Parliament Hill whose throats were tightened by a sudden realization of the tremendous significance which lay behind the simple words of this repatriated soldier. And his statement remains significant as the Seventh Victory Loan Campaign proceeds.

An eye cannot be replaced. Money can. If Canadians are imbued with the same spirit as this repatriated Prince Edward Islander has displayed, and people in all provinces can be thankful that they have a great deal more money left than is necessary for the minimum success of the Seventh Victory Loan Campaign, there will again be a huge over-subscription.

Public Library's Part in Education For Democracy

Thoughts Appropriate for Education Week, Nov. 5th to 11th.

(by Miss Irma Laakso, Assistant Librarian, Timmins Public Library)

How else, but by being taught, can our youth learn the democratic way of life? That way of life which encourages self-expression and co-operation in seeking the common objective of true equality in social and political fields, may be one of the definitions for democracy. And the future of democracy is in the hands of those hundreds of thousands of children in our schools. They must be made to realize the advantages of living in a country governed by their own will over that of living in a dictatorship.

This is a good time to think about libraries and their purpose. For the Public Library in any community is an institution maintained by the people, of the people, and for the people. Right now is the time for progressive-minded librarians to present to the public progressive, democratic reading material that has been written by progressive-minded writers of the day. "The Century of the Common Man" by Henry A. Wallace, and "Education for a Post-War World" by Dr. Samuel R. Laycock are two books written by men who know that democracy must surge forward, and not in any steps, return to phases through which it has already passed. To emphasize the true way of life, libraries have within their walls books written on both sides of the question: might it be Turner's "Challenge to Karl Marx" written in reply to Marx's "Capital," or Churchill's "Blood, Sweat and Tears," written in defiance to Hitler's "Mein Kampf"? The library presents the best view points of the best authorities. Only by weighing two sides, can we find the truth; and so, the balance.

In a time such as this when victory is imminent over those people (as they are called) who take joy in burning books that are the heritage of every nation, we must stress the fact that books are the keys to the world's treasures, that they are the means by which we can supplement our school-learning, the means by which we can learn to focus our thinking into progressive channels. The mere fact that books are written and read during war-time shows that we are alive to the needs of living. We want to know what is going to happen to us after this war is won. And there are books upon books written on reconstruction and rehabilitation from which we can draw practical ideas for a post-war world. "The Legacy of Nazism" by Munk and "How to

Think About War and Peace

by Adler, are but two of these.

This week, November 5-11, is the one week in this year during which we emphasize education; and this year we are emphasizing education for democracy. "The purpose of the school is to form democratic character and to promote the democratic way," says Mursell. And the future of that democracy is in the hands of the youth. If there were no books which ranged over the problems which are being handed to our children to solve they might have had from the turmoil we are now going through and be in no better case to avoid a repetition of the war. "Books," says Prime Minister Churchill, "in all their variety offer the means whereby civilization may be carried triumphantly forward." The library thus plays an infinite part in the building of the people of its community toward a truly democratic world in which to live in to-day and to-morrow.

Report of District C.A.S. For Month of September

The following is the report of the Cochrane District Children's Aid for the month of September, as presented by Mr. A. G. Carson, local superintendent:

Applications for children for adoption	1
Office interviews	153
Visits	251
Complaints received	12
Investigations made	12
Children involved	20
Mail received	181
Mail sent out	815
Children in Shelter	8

Children Boarding out	45
Court attendances	7
Juvenile cases	8
Children on probation to court	3
Children placed in boarding homes	1
Investigations for Dependents' Board of Trustees	85
Investigations for Dependents' Allowance Board	1
Mileage travelled	754
Children admitted to Shelter	3
Children given hospital and medical care	13
Cases under the Unmarried Parents Act	4

PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD COUNT

Toronto Globe and Mail:—In a democracy public opinion should have its effect on Governments, not only at elections, but between elections. If enough people believe a course of action should be taken by the Government, and agitate for that course, the Government dare not refuse.

Magistrate Determined to Discourage "Thugs"

At police court Tuesday, a young man was charged with theft of a purse containing three dollars and fifty cents from the coat of a soldier's wife at the Harmony hall. His counsel, Greg. Evans, asked for a suspended sentence on account of the lad's youth and his previous good record, but the magistrate pointed out that when the lady questioned the young fellow as to whether he had seen anything of her purse, he threatened to throw her downstairs and frightened her so that she was afraid to seek the help of the police at first. Magistrate Atkinson said that he would not countenance that sort of thug methods, and sentenced the lad to 60 days in jail.

Eugene Laframboise, charged with assault on a three-year-old child who had annoyed him, was fined \$20 and costs. The same fine was imposed on Sam Miron for an assault on Chong Young of the Star Cafe when asked to pay for meals.

Lory Richards and Chas. Gray were given a day in jail and then to be taken for army tests for failing to observe N. S. S. M. A. regulations.

There was a fine of \$15 and costs for speeding.

An order was issued for a man to pay \$20 a week for the support of wife and family.

Pembroke Bulletin:—Hepburn now wants to reform Liberalism. Will Liberalism think it worth while to attempt to reform Hepburn?

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