

The Porcupine Advance

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THIS IS A YOUNG MAN'S COUNTRY

This is a young man's country? And The Advance can prove it—prove it even by the half a dozen old-time pioneers of the North who have died here recently at an average age of eighty-eight years. Recently a more or less (much less) esteemed contemplative had the effrontery to suggest that The Advance had made it appear that this was not a young man's country. Of course, The Advance never suggested anything of the sort. The Advance knows too well that this was—and is—and will be a young man's country.

What are the natural attributes of a young man? The answer is:—Energy and courage and faith and a light-hearted disregard of danger and hardship—resourcefulness to meet the unknown and confidence that industry and determination will conquer all difficulties—the lack of fear of a few flies or a little snow and cold—the cheerfulness that faces life as it may come. It was young men, with these qualities who made this North. It will be young men like these who will make the North greater still.

This was always a happy land for young folks. At the same time it should be remembered that this land was not built by babes. Indeed, the North has been rather hard on babes, of any age. There was a time when Timmins had the undesired reputation of having a higher mortality among babes than any other town its size in the province. Thanks, however, to the young men in the medical profession, and, perhaps, still more to the young women in the calling of nurses, Timmins has much fewer deaths among the babes than it used to have.

It is a young man's country. This doesn't mean, however, that it was discovered or established or maintained by youngsters in their teens. When George Bannerman and Harry Preston and Jack Wilson and some more of the young men opened this area of the North they were young men all right, but not particularly so in years. Harry Preston was a young man when he died at seventy-three in 1939. Noah A. Timmins, when he risked his all on the future of the great district, was a young man with a grown-up family. Sandy McIntyre was no mere youth when he discovered the McIntyre mine, but he was a young man in health and strength and hope and vigor until a short time before he passed away at a ripe age. Indeed, among the prospectors who made this country, the youngest known was Benny Hollinger in his twenties, but fortunately for him and for the country, his partner was another older young man, Alex Gillies, who knew the trails and the difficulties of the Porcupine area.

What a galaxy of young men have their names written into the history of this young man's country! Many of these gallant young men have passed along to another young man's country where there is eternal youth. Old-timers will remember Dan O'Connor, who was full of the vim and the faith of youth when he died in 1933 at the age of 69. Gordon Gauthier was a pioneer lawyer here, commencing his pioneering when his hair was grey. Another pioneer lawyer was young Archie Brown who served in the South African war before he served in Porcupine. C. V. Gallagher was young in heart and mind when he passed away in 1940. W. M. Whyte (affectionately remembered as "Dad") was still a young man in all but the physical strength of youth when he passed in this country that he loved, and he was 89 years old when he died. Tommy Torrance was another popular young man who was nearing seventy when he left this young man's country for a land still further north. Who doesn't recall that gallant young fellow, J. S. McGuire, another beloved "Dad", who at eighty-two had the love of sports, the enthusiasms, the interests, the friendships that go with proverbial young manhood. Among the young men who were old-timers here and who helped to build this country, few will forget that good fellow, Fire, Chief Alex Borland who at the final age of seventy-seven still retained the virtues of strength and courage and hopefulness that are the true mark of the young man. Sylvester Kennedy, with his abounding energy and hopeful spirit and enterprise; John Fell, with his modern, forward vision; Charles Pierce, Harry Peters, J. R. Todd, and a host of other worthy young men will come to the minds of old-timers. They came here as young men—though not in actual years—and left this young man's country to go to the only other country that they would admit could be better than this.

And still among the living are many other young men—young in all that is meant by young manhood—strength and bravery and hope and faith—qualities on which this land is built. To mention a few at random, there are such names linked with this country's progress and welfare as Venerable Archdeacon Woodall, J. P. McLaugh-

lin, John Fogg, Alex Stirling, J. R. Gordon, Andy Roberts, Dr. McInnis, R. J. Ennis, E. L. Longmore, Jack Dalton, W. H. Wilson, J. T. Easton, Ernie Schelleter, Ed. Leslie, Hamish Duff, Chas. Jucksch, Vincent Woodbury, and literally scores of others who in their never-ending spirit of young manhood have done their part to make this area what it is.

In passing it is interesting to note that the youngest mayor to hold office in Timmins was George S. Drew, and before he held that office he served through the last war.

It is a young man's country all right. Were it not for the vision, the belief the faith and the wonderful energy and resourcefulness of the young men this district could never have been established. But it is well not to attempt to limit too closely the age in actual years of young men. To repeat the exact words misrepresented from a recent issue of The Advance:—"This is a young man's country" all right, but people stay young a long time in this man's country."

VITAL POST-WAR PLAN

There are many post-war plans promulgated these days, though the war has not been won. This is not to say that there should be no planning of this sort now. It would be deplorable indeed if the country allowed itself to be as unprepared for peace as it was for war. Such a situation would be almost as costly to Canada as its unpreparedness for war has been. It does appear, however, that all the proposed post-war plans appear to miss the most vital issue. None of them appear to consider the very vital necessity of getting back to freedom and parliamentary government. It is all right to excuse the regimentation—some of it altogether unnecessary and unprofitable to the war-effort—by simply saying the magic words, "Don't you know there's a war on?" It is perfectly true that Canada has not had to endure one half of the regimentation that has been suffered by most other countries, but that does not alter the fact that bureaucracy has secured a grip on this country that will take some force and effort to release. Whatever else may be said, it does appear the fact that a large part of the interference with men and affairs has not been necessary. In anxiety to hasten the end of the war, there has been too general a tendency to accept restrictions and interference without due protest. There is surely no doubt but that the British Isles have been in far more serious condition than Canada. Yet, Britain has very jealously guarded its parliamentary rights and privileges, except insofar as those might hamper the war effort. Britain has not been ruled by order-in-council. Parliament has sat almost continuously since the war began and parliament has not only debated the issues at stake, but parliament has in effect been the real ruler of affairs—as it should be. On the other hand, in this country, parliament has been treated with contempt. The government seems to flaunt the idea that the opinions of the people have no weight with those in authority. The attitude towards the plebs, or referendum, is a striking evidence of this frame of mind among the rulers of this people. Another illustration of this unnecessary and scornful disregard for democratic government is the attitude of the powers-that-be as to the probable date of the general Dominion election. In this matter the people are very plainly informed that their business is none of their business. The government is apparently considering only what will suit political expediency. It is strictly the people's business as to whether or not an election is to be held. It is the people's business as to when that election may be held. It is not a matter in which the political party in control is alone concerned. It is the people's business and to disregard the people is the very negation of democracy. This is no time for political trickery and chicanery. It is not putting the matter too strongly to say that for the time-being Canada has lost parliamentary government altogether. The country is ruled by order-in-council and similar undemocratic devices. A chief post-war plan should be a method by which at the earliest possible moment the people of Canada should have a return to government by the people and for the people, not government by a clique for the benefit of a small proportion of the people.

THE BABY BONUS

The provinces were not consulted in regard to the Dominion legislation, soon to go into effect, to provide so-called bonuses for babies. But the provinces have been notified that the legislation will soon be in operation, and there is now the implied suggestion that the provinces can refuse to co-operate at their peril. Some thoughtless people are inclined to charge Premier Drew with inconsistency in this matter. His explanation is that while he favours family allowances or any other method that promises social security, he believes the legislation ill-advised and carelessly projected. The truth is that there has been so much clamorous propaganda for things like the baby bonus that the whole issue is clouded. People should beware this illogical propaganda. Some fundamental facts should be carefully considered. In the first place, it should be realized that if there are families where the children are not receiving the proper nutrition and care because the heads of these families are not able to properly support the children, then the proper pro-

cedure would be to see that the regulations in regard to wages should be so amended that men in general are able to earn sufficient to keep their families. The wage scales should provide at least this measure of social security. If there is any intention to hope to increase population through such legislation as baby bonuses, then it would be well to consider very coolly the probable effects of the new legislation. Many of the families that would benefit by such legislation are the very ones whose increase in the size of families would be of the least service to Canada. There are too many neglected children already without bonusing the breeding of this sort of baby. Social workers of experience see the difficulty suggested. The legislation will tempt to the increase of the very type of babies least desired. People with experience are also convinced that such families are not likely to use any such bonus for the benefit of the babies. The more probable effect will be something extra for the old man. Cynics will expect no more than extra beer or wine for father, Germany and Italy used this baby bonus scheme, but the results have proved far from satisfactory for either those countries or the world at large. This sort of interference with the family life either leads to such interference as to be objectionable to freedom keeping people or such abuses as are equally undesirable—or both. The fact that it is planned in Canada as a species of bribe to one province is so apparent as to carry its own proof on its face.

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."

During the last session of the Ontario Legislature, weekly letters were sent out to each newspaper in the riding, purporting to give a review of affairs in the provincial parliament. The letters were given the appearance of being prepared by the local member, Mr. W. Grummett. As a matter of fact, The Advance judged that these letters were simply propaganda from the head-

Wanton Destruction of Property Should Not be Continued

(From Toronto Telegram)

A lot of public money is likely to be needlessly lost unless there is a prompt reversal of the Government's policy of destroying used or surplus war materials which are not immediately saleable by the disposal agency, the War Assets Corporation. This Corporation was set up by Act of Parliament last year to salvage and sell for the benefit of the public every bit of unwanted public property moveable or immovable for which a buyer could be found.

Recent events and statements by the President, J. B. Carswell, give the impression that the Government and its agency is far off the course. At Ottawa Mr. Carswell said that possibly as much as 75 per cent. of Canada's war goods will have to be destroyed when peace comes. He also spoke of 1,000 h.p. Rolls-Royce aircraft motors as being obsolete and unsuitable for scrap. Statements of this sort do not give the public confidence that the federal treasury is going to recapture much of the money which went into war materials. Hard on the heels of Mr. Carswell's statement information came to The Telegram from reliable sources that offers to purchase Ly-Sander, Avro-Anson and Oxford trainer planes, no longer needed in the air training project have been turned down. The explanation given by the Corporation for refusing to sell the Ansons and Oxfords was that they are at present unworthy and impossible of overhaul or modification. While this may be the opinion of people in the Corporation it was not the view of the prospective purchaser and he was the one who was taking the risk of being able to secure a certificate of airworthiness from the Civil Aviation Board. An official of the Corporation has admitted that some of the Ly-Sanders may be scrapped but no explanation of the necessity has yet been given.

From these incidents the people are likely to gain the painful impression that the policy in respect to disposing of used war goods is one of destruction rather than sale. It is reported that Hon. C. D. Howe has urged the war Assets Corporation to get most of the air training equipment out of the way by March 31 and that his orders are to scrap it if it cannot be sold.

If the officials of the War Assets Corporation are to be "yes" men for Mr. Howe the country should know it. Although the statute provides for the setting up of a Crown Assets Committee which is to advise on the broad aspects of the surplus disposal problem and to receive and record all surplus and allocate it, and also for the War Assets Corporation, it is the Minister of Munitions and Supply, Mr. Howe, who is the key figure in the whole disposal set-up.

Mr. Howe is not infallible, as was proven in the early days of the war when he insisted that tanks could not be made in Canada. It is to be hoped Mr. Howe will not now attempt to dictate to the disposal agencies the destruction of war goods. The guiding principle of the Corporation should be to sell anything for which there is a

quarters of the C. C. F. This view was justified when it was noted that different newspapers in widely separated parts of Ontario carried the same letter, with the different names of the members of the riding concerned being attached. Further proof of the origin of these letters was given last week when The Advance received "Mr. Grummett's letter" in regard to the opening of the Ontario Legislature. "Mr. Grummett's letter" suggested that there was likely to be vigorous debate on the Municipal Health Services Act, as the government had not succeeded in establishing health services in any area to date. In Mr. Grummett's own riding one such health services unit has been established for some weeks and seems to be functioning all right. At any event it has three motor cars and a staff of doctors and nurses and office help, and there are no local criticisms of the service given.

A lot of people seem to be of the opinion that the Allies have practically won the war. Among these may be included Turkey and Egypt, both of whom have just declared war on Germany. Now, if Elre declares war on Germany, The Advance will be inclined to believe that the war is really won.

A lady writing to The Globe and Mail seriously suggests the use of blow torches to get rid of the snow that is troubling Toronto so deeply. If hot air had any effect on Toronto snow, there wouldn't be a flake of the white stuff left in the Queen City.

Toronto has been in a regular turmoil over the case of a boy who was badly bitten by some dogs. Some people seem to think that all dogs should be destroyed because of this incident. Others take the stand that dogs are so necessary to the happiness of men that it would be better not to collect so much baby bonus than to destroy any more dogs. One typical Torontonians, however, shows a fairmindedness that smacks of the Queen City. He sends a two dollar bill to Thomas Richard Henry of The Toronto Telegram, with the request that one dollar be given to the fund for the boy who was bitten by the dog, and the other dollar to the fund for the blind soldier, to buy him a "seeing-eye" dog.

buyer. When there does not appear to be immediate commercial demand for some articles, technicians should be put to work devising methods for their reconversion and utilization. The Corporation's policy is to sell most of the material through trade channels, but the public will be the ultimate consumer and it would be a good thing for the Corporation to make known what it has to sell.

Canadian Writer Thinks "Our World Has Passed Away"

(By Lewis Milligan)

I have been re-reading A. G. Gardiner's book, "Prophecy, Priests, and Kings," and was particularly interested in his character sketches of Bernard Shaw, G. K. Chesterton, Lloyd George, and Winston Churchill. Gardiner was editor of the London Daily News, and he was intimately acquainted with most of the leading men of England about thirty-five years ago, when his sketches were first published. At that time, Chesterton and Churchill were very young men, and Shaw and Lloyd George were in the prime of middle age. London—and, indeed, the world at large—was a different place from what it is today or what it suddenly became a few years later when the First Great War broke out and Kipling wrote: "Our World has passed away, In wantonness o'erthrown; There is nothing left today, But steel, and fire, and stone."

After the war an attempt was made to salvage the old world. London was still intact, except for a few buildings which had been hit by bombs dropped from the "Zeps" had suffered most. The war had resulted in more or less of a stalemate, and everybody wanted to forget it and return to the old familiar ways again. Some of the younger writers were soured by the experiences of the war and they turned to free verse, immoral or non-moral novels, and nebulous meanings. In politics there was a revival of socialism and some of the well-to-do young sparks joined the Labor movement, and Oxford became a hot-bed of socialism and pacifism. The churches were in the spiritual doldrums and they tried to fill their sagging sails with various kinds of bellows and electric fans. But their ships wouldn't budge.

Then came the Second Great War. It did not break with the same suddenness as the first. It was more in the nature of a time-bomb which most people knew was there, although they were not sure when it would go off. Some very important people refused to believe that it would go off at all, and tried to persuade us that it was only a dud. But it went off, and blew our world to smithereens. Winston Churchill took up the refrain of Rudyard Kipling, with tragic emphasis and declared that there was nothing left for us but "blood, sweat, and tears." And he proved to be right.

London today lies in ruins. The haunts of Shakespeares, Doctor Samuel Johnson, Fox and Pitt, Charles Lamb, Coleridge, Keats, Carlyle, Mill Tennyson and all the other great Victorians, have disappeared. Those haunts were "such stuff as dreams

are made on," and the little lives of their inhabitants are "rounded with a sleep."

Those who remember London of the first decade of this century will recall it, not only as a museum of historic places and personalities, but also as a mighty city, throbbing with urgent and ever-renewing life. Ludgate Hill, and Fleet Street were like a lion with the congested traffic shuttling to and fro.

To and fro the shuttle goes: On the loom of London Town: Warp and woof of joys and woes, But the pattern no one knows, For 'tis woven upside down.

Those were piping times of peace. The great Victorian poets had ceased to sing. Browning and Tennyson were dead, and Swinburne and Meredith were old men, and revered. Thomas Hardy had forsaken the novel and had turned to poetry in his old age. Stephen Phillips was turning out purple dramas in passionate blank verse, and William Watson had written himself out in damning the "unspeakable Turk" in a series of censorious sonnets. The young Georgian poets were appearing on the scene, among whom was a youth with a shock of golden hair and the face and form of a Greek god, in the person of Rupert Brooke. He was one whom the gods loved for he died in the bloom of youth, while serving with the British forces at the Dardanelles, and he was buried, appropriately, on an island in the Aegean Sea. With him the England of the early nineteenth-hundreds passed away.

SPANNING THE YEARS

Hollywood lifted eyebrows over the marriage of Victor Moore, the 67-year old comedian, to a girl of 22. "What's wrong with that?" queried Buddy de Sylva. "When she is 109, he will only be 145."—Bennett Cerf.

NEW DEFINITIONS

Liberal: A person who has nothing to lose by a change.
Philosophy: A defense mechanism resorted to by failures.
Customers: Prospects for the other fellow if you don't watch out.
Hick Town: A place where a person can be considerate and polite without making the natives wonder just what sort of crooked deal he is dreaming up, or what his graft is.—Globe and Mail.



A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada

By JIM GREENBLAT

This year's Christmas mail to the armed forces overseas was "mountainous", postal authorities state. During the busy November-October mailing the base post office handled 253,000 bags of letters and parcels, which would require enough rally cars to form a train three and one-half miles in length. This excluded 1,300,000 labels flown overseas, each representing one box of 300 cigarettes. Surely a great job, well done. Some 18,000 extra helpers were on the job this Christmas season, many of them high school girls and boys.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture at Ottawa points out that after five years of war farmers of Canada can look back on their part in the war effort on the home front as a magnificent achievement. Take for instance the item of meats produced in 1944—this was the greatest year on record with a production of more than 2,500,000,000 lbs. Farmers produced 10% more total milk in 1944 than in 1939. Compared to the 1936-40 period, there was a production in 1944 of 19% more butter, 60% more cheese, 70% more evaporated milk. Farmers also produced in 1944 56% more eggs, and 42.8% more poultry meat than in the 1936-40 period. As for production of grains, that story has been told and retold.

Our men overseas are definitely thinking of their post-war future, most of them very seriously. Here is just one instance: At a north British port the Canadian Legion Educational Services have 700 Canadian sailors listed for correspondence courses alone. These courses, which are on a voluntary basis, are conducted under the supervision of Instructor Lieutenant, Ross E. Hamilton, R.C.N.V.R., of Saskatoon. As an example, through the medium of directed reading, an ex-Mountie was able to pursue his career in criminology; another sailor was able to obtain books on "bakery science"; still another was accommodated with the book "Productive Poultry Husbandry"; an interior decorating course was supplied for another. Requests for books on plastics have been numerous, with books on national forestry, diesel and jet propulsion and other subjects sought and delivered. It gives you an idea that behind the fighting there is thinking.

Since the spring of 1941, Canada has produced more than 2,000,000 lbs of optical glass. Magnitude of the Canadian production is illustrated by the fact that in World War I, the United States produced only a total 1,250,000 lbs.

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