

The Porcupine Advance

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MORE ABOUT MAY DAY

We have pleasure this week in introducing Mr. Bruce A. H. Magnuson, Secretary of the Ontario Provincial Federation of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. If you have not read his letter on Page 1 of this letter, we suggest you do so. It is printed there because it is a reply to an editorial similarly placed a week ago. Our pleasure in this instance springs almost entirely from the fact that Mr. Magnuson should have thought it worth his while to write and to explain the nature of his disagreement with us. For when both sides of a question can be aired in the same publication, its readers have some chance of forming a tenable opinion.

In making this introduction, we must admit we have not met Mr. Magnuson personally. The last we heard from him was at a meeting sponsored by the Labor-Progressive Party at the Empire Theatre, on the occasion of an address given by Dorise Nielsen, of the L.L.P. The only remark of Mr. Magnuson's on that occasion which we remember was to the effect that Mayor Brunette was in North Bay when he should (according to Mr. Magnuson) have been at the meeting. The fact that the Mayor was absent because of a resolution of the elected council of the town seemed to have escaped Mr. Magnuson, and doubtless this oversight caused us to remember his remark about it. We so often remember what we think unreasonable, and forget the rest.

And now to work: Mr. Magnuson states we are either grossly ignorant or intentionally misleading when we suggest that May Day is not an American working class holiday. You didn't really mean that, did you, Mr. Magnuson?

May Day, according to our source of information, the Encyclopedia Britannica, was first celebrated when the ancient Romans went in procession to the grotto of Egeria. They had a good time of it, but had to give it up. Later, the celebration of May Day appeared as a great public holiday in Mediaeval and Tudor England. Some nasty-minded Puritans spoiled things by getting it forbidden by Parliament in 1644, but it came into favour again with the Restoration.

Later, someone else took it over, when it was selected as an international labor day by the International Socialist Congress of 1889. So for a while May 1st was the date generally selected by trade unions and labor organizations in general in nearly every country except the United States and Canada, and except Italy, where its observance has been forbidden and the date of the foundation of Rome substituted. In Britain it is usually celebrated on the first Sunday after May 1st.

Then the day was taken over by the U.S.S.R. and made an official holiday in Russia. That changed things, considerably.

In last week's editorial it was this writer's contention that since Russia has taken over celebration of the day, it has been the Communist element in other countries which have tried to take over its celebration here. Therefore we urged Union members not to play into the hands of the Labor-Progressive Party by joining in a celebration that was no longer exclusively theirs. Alternatively, we suggested that if, as was claimed, May Day was a Canadian holiday, then let the Dominion government proclaim it as such. At present, the calendar makes no mention of it as a holiday.

So much for our "ignorance." Mr. Magnuson's suggestion that we are deliberately misleading public opinion is one which we cannot dismiss so lightly. If his suggestion had any truth in it, his letter would not appear in this journal. We like to express our own opinion. We like others to do the same. When we quote another opinion than our own, we like to give credit to the source of that opinion. That in general, is the accepted practice, and we boast of nothing more than ordinary honesty in following it.

Can you say the same, Mr. Magnuson? Can you honestly say that the words in which you have expressed yourself are your own? Can you deny that when you used the sentence "The men who inspired and founded May Day 60 years ago believed in and fought for the Socialist way of life," — you took it, word for word, from the article at the top of Page 2 of No. 324, Volume 7, of the issue of the Canadian Tribune, dated April 27, 1946? used to express Communist opinion in Canada?

Why didn't you also quote the sentence in

the same paragraph which says: "And on this May Day millions will celebrate May Day in Moscow's Red Square." — that sentence would have given us all a little better idea of whose interests you are serving and whose opinion you were quoting. Why not admit that the hand which wrote those lines was writing for the Labor-Progressive Party — the Communists?

Which of us is really trying to be misleading, Mr. Magnuson? Which of us is really the "robot" for other interests?

TOWN HALL — TONIGHT!

A meeting has been called for eight o'clock this evening in the council chambers at the instigation of the Porcupine Branch of the Prospectors and Developers Association. This meeting is an important one for everyone interested in the future of this part of the north. It is called to see what can be done to ensure the government going ahead with its proposed highway from Matheson to the Quebec boundary.

Construction of this road has, until recently, been taken as a foregone conclusion. Lately, however, Kirkland Lake has been doing what it can to obtain a road which will be of more local benefit to them. That is their right, of course, and we cannot but congratulate them on their enterprise.

Timmins, unfortunately, has not been so well organized to take care of such matters. Our Board of Trade, to which we would normally look for leadership in representing Timmins' interests to outsiders, became more or less dormant during the war years, as did all similar bodies.

Unlike Boards of Trade in other centres, however, it has not yet come into action again. Quite frankly, after looking at the programs already translated into definite action in other villages, towns and cities, we must face the fact that the Board of Trade here, by not getting underway and establishing the full membership required for any program, is now a full year behind Trade Boards elsewhere.

As a result, we stand a good chance of losing some advantages which should rightfully be ours. We stand to lose substantially as a community, for example, if the matter of opening up roads to serve the mining areas around here are not being continually impressed upon the government. The wheel that squeaks the most gets the grease, and Timmins has not done much squeaking in recent years.

Boards of Trade programs should be the result of community effort, in the interests of the community. They should not be dependent upon the activity of a few. We are all to blame in this matter. Let's do what we can to remedy this situation, and do it as quickly as possible. One way in which you can help is by your attendance at the meeting in the town hall tonight. Let's get going now — it may be later than you think!

SAFETY IN CLEANLINESS

Both Mayor J. E. Brunette and Fire Chief William Stanley came up for congratulations this week for their action in instituting a clean-up campaign in Timmins, with the object of removing the fire hazards which have been built up in both homes and business premises by the winter's accumulation of trash and rubbish.

A look into the lanes and backyards gives many illustrations of the type of thing that badly needs a cleaning-up campaign. A glance into the basements and sheds, we suspect, would serve to bring forth additional evidence.

We can all do something to clear away this condition, this evening and this coming week-end. As the Fire Chief points out, most fires start in homes. His request for householders to make a check-up from cellar to attic is sound common sense and should be immediately complied with.

In addition, he calls attention to the structural defects which may be eliminated when modernization and remodeling of homes gets underway this spring.

The Mayor's reminder in the town's advertisement that the campaign is in the best interests of men, women and children is particularly apt when read in the light of the happenings of the past winter. Too many have paid the price of carelessness in this respect to make it an empty warning. Spring is here. Let's clean up now.

Over Six Hundred Entries For Porcupine Festival Of Music Here Next Week

Schedule Of Classes Is Adjudicator Has Had Wide Given; Evenings Offer Experience As Pianist Splendid Entertainment And Choirmaster

Following is the schedule of classes, in brief, for the Porcupine Festival of Music to be presented on May 6, 7 and 8 in the Finnish Hall on Algonquin Blvd.

Monday Morning, May 6
9:15—Public School Choruses, grades 3 and 4.
9:35—Piano Solos, 9 years and under.
10:00—Girl's Solo, 12 years and under.
11:05—Piano Duet, 12 years and under.
11:40—Violin Solo, 10 years and under.

Monday Afternoon
11:30—Boy's Solo, 10 years and under.
2:00—Piano Solo, 12 years and under.
2:30—Girl's Duet, 14 years and under.
2:50—Boy's Chorus.
3:00—Piano Solo, 8 years and under.
3:20—Girl's Solo, 8 years and under.

Monday Evening
8:00—Chairman's Remarks
Following this the winners of the various classes heard through the day will compose the musical program. In addition, the Young Canadian Croats of the Croation National Home of Schumacher will present the Croation Star Orchestra under the direction of Messrs. F. Bucar and F. Vicevic.
9:20—Cornet or Trumpet Solo, age 14 to 17 years.
9:25—Soprano Solo.
9:45—Tenor Solo.
9:50—Violin Duet, 16 years and under.
10:00—Contralto Solo.
10:15—Brass Quartette.

Tuesday Morning, May 7
9:00—Piano Solo, 6 years and under.
9:10—Piano Solo, 10 years and under.
9:40—Chorus, Grades 1 and 2.
9:55—Piano Solo, 10 years and under.
10:40—Boy's Duet, (Unchanged Voices)
11:00—Piano Solo, 7 years and under.
11:15—Girl's Double Trio (Unaccompanied)

Tuesday Afternoon
1:30—Piano Solo, 14 years and under.
1:55—Girl's Solo, 10 years and under.
2:35—Piano Solo, 16 years and under.
2:45—Boy's Solo, 14 years and under.
2:55—Girl's Solo, 14 years and under.
4:00—Girl's Solo, 16 years and under.

Tuesday Evening
8:00—Chairman's Remarks and musical programme composed of the winners of each class heard through the day.
8:50—Girl's Solo, 18 years and under.
9:00—Piano Duet, 16 years and under.
9:20—Soprano Solo.
9:25—Trombone Solo, age 14 to 17 years.
9:30—Mezzo Soprano Solo.
9:40—Piano Duet, Open.
9:50—Tenor Solo, 18 years and under.
9:55—Ladies Duet.
10:05—Male Quartette.

Wednesday Morning, May 8
9:00—Piano Duets, 14 years and under.

Air Transport Safest T. W. Fawcett States At Kiwanis Dinner

Foolhardy Flying Is Greatest Danger, Flying Instructor Tells Club

Mr. T. W. Fawcett, of South Porcupine, who was instructor in flying under both the British Commonwealth Plan and in the R.C.A.F. during the war, was the guest speaker at the Timmins Kiwanis luncheon at the Empire hotel on Monday.

President G. N. Ross expressed the feeling of the club in the warm words of thanks he tendered the speaker.

Mr. Fawcett was introduced by Kiwanian Harry Shook, who referred to the good services of the guest speaker during the war. "He was a Northerner before the war," Kiwanian Shook said, "and all are pleased that he is again a man of the North."

After referring to the visits of the Air Cadets from the North, to the summer camps, Mr. Fawcett touched on the increasing safety of air travel, the speaker said. There had been genuine enthusiasts for flying among the students at the air training classes who for a time retained their nervousness about being up in the air. Careful consideration of the matter, however, would show that this was not justified.

The speaker pointed out that air travel was much safer than other forms of transport, on account of the improvements made in recent years, and the many regulations of safeguards. Two-way radios, beam approaches, radio range, meteorological forecasts, etc., were mentioned by the speaker.

An automobile, he noted, might travel thousands of miles without a check-up of its working order, while airplane engines had to be tested every so many hours, and regulations generally were so strict and careful that the danger of mishap was reduced to the minimum.

"The worst black-eye given air travel," the speaker suggested, "was due to foolhardy flying. That was one of the things that impressed on the students of flying during the war, but there are some who would take reckless chances, or otherwise break the rules and regulations that were so carefully designed to make flying safe."

Regarding civilian flying, the speaker did not think it would attain the proportions in Canada that it promised to reach in the United States. The reason for this was that the cost of planes was so much higher in Canada, due to tariffs and taxes. The regulations and restrictions might also keep down personal tourist traffic in Canada, he thought.

The guest speaker was thanked on behalf of the club by President G. N. Ross for the very interesting address. Community singing was led by Kiwanian F. Woodbury, with W. H. Wilson at the piano.

Chairman Bob Harvey reported on the progress being made in securing advts. for the programme for the Garden Bros. circus to be at the McIntyre Arena on June 13th, 14th and 15th, under Kiwanis auspices.

story of Jonathan Cyrene, a young Jew and his friendship for Jesus.

Winter Meeting, Ethel Vance. It is the story of a few days in the lives of a Congressional Medal hero of submarine warfare, and a New York writer, a lovely woman whose life has been marred by a tragic childhood.

The Unreasoning Heart, Constance Beresford-Howe; The Cradle and The Clock, Knud Stowman; The Life Line, Phyllis Bottomo; Sarah Mandrake, M. O. Wadleton; Along The Talahatchie, Lae Cornell; The Intruders, Robert Bright; Piper Tompkins, Ben Field; Her Own People, Grace Tomkinson; Rooster Crows For A Day, B. L. Burman; Brave Mardi Gras, W. A. Roberts; I Love Miss Tillie Bean, Ilka Chase; Mrs. Palmer's Honey, Fannie Cook; Remembered Anger, Martha Albrand; The Member Of The Wedding, Carson McCullers; Flying Stories, Guy Gilpatrick; Beachhead On The Wind, Carl Jonas; The Earth Is Red, C. R. Livingstone; AWOL Masters Out, Bertrand Shurtleff; Miss Bunting, Angela Thirkell; Paying Guest, Phyllis Arthur; So Life Goes On, Emile Russell; Averil, H. A. Vachell.

There are also a number of thrilling mysteries and western stories.

Try The Advance Want Advs.

Public Need To Be Told About Service Clubs, Y's Men Hear On Charter Night

"I wonder if the public fully realize the great amount of valuable time and effort gladly given by so many service club members in attending directors' meetings, committee meetings, supervising boys and girls activities, providing hospital care, supplying milk to children, summer camps under supervision and many other activities," G. N. Ross, speaking at the Charter night of the Timmins Y's Men's Club, asked on Saturday evening.

"Do they realize that all expenses of operating and maintaining a Service Club is paid for by the individual members out of their own pockets," Mr. Ross continued. "And that every dollar received from money raising projects is used only for welfare objects such as I have mentioned, and for no other purpose?"

"Perhaps there is a job here for someone to educate the public in such matters," Mr. Ross suggested.

Under the leadership of Earl Hawkins, a group of twenty-odd had begun organization of the Y's Men's Club several months ago. Its official charter was received with appropriate ceremony on Saturday evening from the hands of Harold Moyer of Sudbury, District Governor for Northern Ontario.

Among the guests were Mansell Napper, president of the Lion's Club, Ellet Smith, Kinmen's president, Mayor J. E. Brunette, and Mr. G. N. Ross, of the Kiwanis Club.

The new Club's plans include teenage dances, formation of a bicycle club for young people, and a Sunday evening sing-song to be conducted in Hollinger Park during the summer months.

Tomorrow's House, Architectural Forum. A complete guide for the home builder.

The Screwape Letters, C. S. Lewis; Pay Day, Ray Millholland; Men At Work, Stuart Chase; How You Can Get a Job, G. L. Gardiner; Ourselves Inc., L. R. Ward; Home Ownership: Is It Sound, J. P. Dean; The Seven Myths Of Housing, Nathan Straus; The Messenger; The Life of Mohammed, R. V. C. Bodley; Ten Years In Japan, J. C. Grew; The House Near Paris, Drue Tartiere; The Golden Carpet, Somerset de Chair; I Saw New Poland, A. L. Strong; South Of The Sahara, Attilio Gatti; My Native Land, Louis Adamic; Treasure Hunter, H. E. Rieseberg; The Story Of Burma, P. T. Jesse; The English Way, Pierre Maillaud; Reindeer Trek, A. R. Evans; Sailors, Grant Macdonald.

concerning questions regarding our ideas of space and time. The idea of infinity seems to be as much a myth as was the limited idea of the universe conceived by the ancients. Both arose out of our natural habit of calculating and measuring things.

Sherlock Holmes was right, from his point of view as a creator and unraveller of crime mysteries. "For his purposes it didn't matter whether the earth went around the sun or whether it went around the moon. But, strangely enough, the creator of Sherlock Holmes was not satisfied with such limited knowledge of things, for Conan Doyle, spent the later part of his life probing into the unfathomable mysteries of the human soul through spiritualism. That, however, is one mystery which neither he nor all the scientists have yet solved.

Public Library Has Host Of New Books

Many new volumes covering a variety of subjects, as well as fiction have gone into circulation at the Timmins Public Library during last month.

NON-FICTION
These Are The Russians, R. E. Lauterbach. This is a book of first hand observation about the people of Russia and their leaders.
General George S. Patton Jr., James Wellard. The author gives a striking picture of one of America's military heroes from the time of his birth up through his triumph return to Boston and San Francisco.

Bad Boy of Music, George Antheil. One of the most original of American composers, tells the story of his life among the famous personalities of two continents.

FICTION
The Turquoise, Anya Seton. This is the story of a beautiful, gifted woman who leaves the magic mountains of her native New Mexico for New York of the seventies only to end her search for happiness back in Santa Fe.

Wasteland, Jo Sinclair. This is the moving story of Jake Brown, who was afraid and ashamed, and of the psychiatrist who helped him reach a true understanding of himself and the world around him.

Antioch Actress, J. R. Perkins. A novel of pagan against Christian.

Behold Your King, F. M. Bauer. A novel of Palestine during the last two years of the life of Christ. This is the

Notes To You

Old lame brain across the page has got the screaming meemies again. Ever since he has read Comrade Magnuson's letter (you can read it too, it's on Page 1) he has been knocking about the office, humming "I'm a robot of the vested interests, I'm of the capitalistic press," to the tune of "The Girl Friend of the Whirling Dervish."

We wish he would take his persecution complex somewhere else. We've got troubles of our own.

For example, the second, and for the present, the last flower, has departed from our Pluffy Ruffle Petunia. We are only partly compensated for its loss by the budding of a violet. Violets, to our mind, look too much like buttercups trying to imitate pansies. And we don't like pansies. They remind us of nasturtiums, which in turn remind us of orchids.

And orchids are too expensive. So things aren't going to be the same for us down in Snob Hollow, until that Pluffy Ruffle Petunia kicks through with another bloom.

We took the offspring, the Terrible Terence, to the skating carnival on Saturday afternoon, and once more came under the influence of his one-track mind. He became obsessed with the fact that the performers all came out on the ice from one end of the rink -- that end which was near where we were sitting.

He insisted on staring fixedly at that end. He also insisted on us doing the same. We would have liked to see the performance, but we had to spend the afternoon looking for what was coming next. We have since wondered what the rest of the show was like.

You will be interested in knowing -- of course -- that the offspring has given up his ambition of becoming a garbage man and of operating one of those wonderful trucks. Now he is going to be a policeman and catch motorists who run over other people.

We have tried to point out the attendant hazard of getting run over himself, but he says nobody runs over policemen. We've thought of explaining that other things can happen to policemen, and right here in Timmins, too. We've had in mind explaining to him that even the best of policemen sometimes find the job not worth while -- that policemen may need one pair of eyes to nab misconduct in public, and another set not to see anything wrong in the police department.

But we've decided against it. After all, it's pretty hard, even for a perfect parent, to explain to a five-year-old what he doesn't understand fully himself. Perhaps, after the investigation of the police department, we'll all be in a better position to explain these things.

Councillors Give Up Control Of Building

Timmins' town council, which last week moved to ensure that essential materials in short supply should be used for housing and not used for non-essential building, changed its mind again this week.

The reason given is the difficulty which council found in deciding which materials were scarce, and which buildings were essential. As a result those contemplating building, whether it be a residential project or a warehouse for storing buggy-whips, may secure their permits for same from the usual sources.

Government To Hear Of Dock's Condition

The Dominion government is going to hear about the condition of the dock at the end of Wilson Ave., the council decided at its meeting on Monday.

DIAMONDS WATCHES C.A. REMUS Third Ave. at Cedar Street JEWELLER - OPTOMETRIST TIMMINS

Sherlock Holmes And The Solar System

BY LEWIS MILLIGAN

Dr. Watson, in describing the character of his new-found friend, Sherlock Holmes, tells us that the detective had little or no knowledge of literature, philosophy and astronomy. He was ignorant of the Copernican theory of the composition of the solar system. When Watson (as usual) expressed his amazement that any civilized human being in the nineteenth century should not be aware that the earth travelled around the sun, Holmes smiled and said: "Now that I do know it, I shall do my best to forget it." He went on, "You see, I consider that a man's brain, is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose. A fool takes in all kinds of lumber and every sort that comes across, so that the knowledge--"

"But the solar system!" protested Watson. "What the deuce is it to me?" said Holmes, impatiently. "You say that we go around the sun. If we went around the moon--"

All this, of course, is fiction and far-fetched, but it raises a very interesting question -- many questions. One might work out a theory of education from Holmes' point of view, or base upon it a philosophy of life. There are hosts of people in real life just as insular in their knowledge of things as Sherlock Holmes professed to be. This may be because of the capacity of the "attic." They may be unable to take in the solar system, or they may be merely indifferent to everything outside of their sphere of daily operations. They take the universe for granted and are not interested in its composition.

Great knowledge is not essential to human happiness. "He that increased knowledge, increases sorrow," said the wise man; which is another way of saying, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." But that is a fallacy. Childhood is the happiest period of human life, but our happiness in childhood was due largely to our sense of wonder at the new world in which we found ourselves. We were constantly acquiring new knowledge and forming our own ideas of things. Some of those ideas may have been fantastic, like Alice's in Wonderland.

Every child has its own theory of the world, based upon scraps of knowledge it gleams from its elders.

Thus one might prove that the acquisition of knowledge is essential to happiness, even though the knowledge be superstition. All superstitions arose out of a lack of exact knowledge in the childhood of the human race. The ignorant savage had his hypotheses regarding physical ailments, his personal relation to life, the physical elements and the starry heavens. At the same time he was conscious of a great unknown which eluded his grasp.

The classical superstitions presences of Paganism which peopled the universe with gods and other invisible presences was a form of intuitive knowledge which served its purpose and satisfied human craving for an explanation of things. Yet out of these very superstitions our present knowledge of the universe developed. Astrology was the parent of modern astronomy. The stars were mapped by man long before he knew what they really were. Science is merely an advanced system of hypotheses, and many of our scientific theories of today may be the superstitions of tomorrow.

The theory of relativity raises dis-