

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Timmins Army Booms
In Peacetime High

"The total strength of A & D companies of the Algonquin regiment is now higher (60) than at any time during the past few years; and the Regiment is undertaking to conduct five new courses," Major Robert Buell, C.O., announced this week.

"The Timmins unit," he added, "recognizes the important role the reserve army has to play in the defensive plans for Canada, and is making a determined effort to train men along the proper lines."

Films, First Aid & Wireless

Bren guns, Sten guns, rifles, 2" mortars, 3" mortars and training films are all available now. One course, conducted for recruits, covers weapon training such as: Bren LMG, machine carbine, PIAT, pistol and grenades; also map using, first aid and wireless training.

Recruits and Veterans

"The recruits course," Major Buell explained, "is designed to give the soldier all elementary training in the first year. The second course being conducted for the Regiment is an advanced course, for men with previous training, including veterans; 3" mortar, anti tank gun, tactics, advanced map using, wireless and first aid. This course," he added, "is designed to train soldiers to become Non-commissioned officers, either reserve or active."

The third course, for officer cadets, included training in weapon and map using, tactics, military geography and military history. This course leads to commissions in the reserve army.

Sea and Army Cadets

In addition to the courses being conducted for members of the Algonquin Regiment, two courses are being conducted for Army Cadets of the

Cadet Corps of the Timmins, Schumacher and South Porcupine High Schools.

These courses supplement cadet training and include instruction on all infantry weapons, map reading, minor tactics and wireless.

Gratitude Expressed

"In undertaking the five courses being conducted," Major Buell said, "we realized a great burden would be placed on the officers and NCO's who would be required to give instruction. Without their aid it would have been impossible to conduct these courses."

"Great credit is due," he emphasized, "to Major Charlie Brown, Capt. Fred Evans, Capt. Lucien Marlen, Lieut. Harold Ferguson, Lieut. Bill Jamieson, Sgt. Major Henry Ostroser, Sgt. Major Jack Wilson, Sgt. Major Lionel King, Sgt. Gene Thornton, Cpl. Harry Atkinson, Reg. Peters, Remi Laviolette, Maurice Savard, Wally Mayhew and others."

"They have put much time and effort into making the 1949 training program the great success it has been," Major Buell concluded, "and so the strength is high and interest in the army has been increasing here throughout the year."

Plans for 1950

The 1949 program proved what could be done in the way of training in the Reserve Army, and the Officers Commanding the local detachment are very gratified at the interest aroused, he added. The 1950 program will be similar and the unit is aiming to double the strength of the unit during 1950, and it is expected that early in the year a concerted effort will be made to increase enlistments.

This Power

By Major Henry Majury

After 32 years with the Army in this great Dominion of ours, meeting fishermen, farmers, miners and lumbermen, we feel that the first reaction to Christmas is to feel and express good will.

Christian faith means expressing it all year round, bearing one another's burdens, forgiving our enemies. Relationships governed by belief in Him would find all animosities soluble.

It is not easy. The secret is the acceptance of the message of the first Christmas. Men are powerless to live up to their own ideals, so God has intervened. He "took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

"He came into His own. And His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God." The Kingdom of Heaven will have come and God's will will be done on earth when men avail themselves of this power.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

There will be no paper next week. The Porcupine Advance will resume its weekly publications on Thursday January 5.

Meanwhile all members of the staff wish every reader in the district a most happy holiday season.

Impressions of a Canadian Who Recently Returned From England

Continued from Last Week

(To Be Concluded Soon)

Our return to England from Belgium was without special incident. We were taken to Brussels and of a very quick tour of the city had a rather blurred impression of buildings and the inevitable T-w-n Square with its important-looking fountains and statues. We had to go round back streets, I remember, to avoid a "fem" of hotel workers and construction who were most quietly and orderly procession remonstrating against some grievance—was possible. The long parade was out on strike, but caused no commotion. Our taxi-driver re-routed us as I think he didn't want to disturb the strikers!

On again to Ostend and over the channel to Dover, where once more we waited to let customs officers search our baggage.

I didn't know what we were not supposed to bring out of Belgium into England—lace, I think was one item upon which were restrictions, but, as previously mentioned, our cash in Belgium was restricted, too. We had no qualms on that score.

We did bring several cans of food though, and of the really delectable chocolate and Nougat as much as our frames would allow.

My impressions of the Belgian people are most happy. Hospitable, kindly, generous, and grateful for Canada's help in the war; I shall not soon forget the all-too-short sojourn I had with them. In spite of the

sad nature of my visit, I shall long remember Belgium and the kindly folk who there offered me magnificent hospitality.

One thing that I shall remember, too, about the present life of the English folk is their love of the theatre. Real players and real theatres attract their multitudes, as always; and seem to be far more popular than the movie-houses, although, of course, as in Canada these are always full of devotees.

I saw quite a number of plays in London as well as in the provinces, and although it was summertime, the theatres were filled.

I noticed one odd thing about them. After the first act, there was a rush for "ices," which were sold by the ushers.

They were the nicest edibles I had in England. Not quite up to Canadian excellence, they were, however, extremely good—chocolate coated ice-cream in blocks—and if you didn't rush in the first contingent to buy one, you lost out because there was only a certain quota for each theatre.

Ice cream (so-called) might be bought occasionally in the shops. It looked like ice-cream and felt cold, but any resemblance to Canadian ice-cream thereafter was purely coincidental.

One could also buy "pop"—sweet—

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"Messiah" Broadcast
Conducted By MacMillan

Handel's "Messiah" by the Mendelssohn Choir and a symphony orchestra conducted by Sir Ernest MacMillan, will be heard over CKGB at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28.

The soloists will be Lois Marshall, Nellie Smith and Albert Marson.

Library To Close
During The Holidays

The Timmins public library will be closed from 6:00 p.m. December 24, to 1:00 p.m. December 27; and from 6:00 p.m. December 31 to 1:00 p.m. January 3.

Post Office Announces
Holiday Arrangements

There will be no letter or parcel delivery, or wicket service, on Monday, January 2.

"This is because the two holidays fall on Sundays," explained E. H. King, postmaster, this morning. But special delivery service will be as usual, he said, and also receipt and despatch of mails.

The Real Meaning
Of Christmas

For special Christmas article, please turn to page seven, second section.

Council Discusses Power
And Water Plant Problem

Would it pay the town of Timmins to build its own water plant? Would it be wiser to purchase the present plant from Hollinger Mines?—from whom the town now buys its water; contract expiring on January 3, 1952—or, should the town enter into further contract?

These questions bristled at the council meeting held yesterday afternoon at the town hall.

A report, compiled by G. N. Ross and Company, auditors, to assist council decisions on the above questions, was received by the council at the meeting. The report is compiled with an eye to the future, 10, 15, to 20 years.

The matter was deferred for the 1950 council.

Power

On the matter of electric power Councilman Bartleman said that in 1948 the town quota was set at 85 per cent, within which the townspeople had kept; that the quota was lowered 15 per cent, in 1949, and later, lowered an additional 15 per cent, which he believed was impossible to maintain.

In order to help the mines and maintain employment, Mr. Bartleman suggested that W. J. Grummett, local representative in the provincial government, be contacted, with a view to having more power allotted to this area.

Superb Carol Festival
Held Last Sunday

The third annual Christmas Carol Festival, held on Sunday evening, Dec. 18th, in the Palace Theatre, under the auspices of the Timmins Citizens' Band and the T.C.A.C., proved an unqualified success from all angles. That is not an overstatement, despite the fact that the Timmins Citizens' Band had less than two weeks to complete all arrangements and attend to the innumerable details connected with such an event.

The committee in charge, including the executive of the Band, the bandmaster, the recreational director, choir leaders and singers, and others, worked so effectively and earnestly, and received such generous co-operation that the success of the event was assured. As the Band president noted at the event Mrs. Wilkins had given very special assistance on the committee.

The One Disappointment

The one disappointment was the fact that, though the Palace theatre was filled to its capacity of 1,200, several hundred had to be turned away for lack of safe seating capacity. As the master of ceremonies said in his opening remarks, it certainly is a matter of regret that this town of nearly 30,000 has not a civic auditorium large enough to accommodate all turning out for a community event of this kind. Perhaps, next year if the Band takes up the project again, two theatres may be used to seat all coming to the next Christmas Carol Festival.

Large Massed Chorus

Sunday evening's event was featured by massed choirs, community singing, special numbers, and the Timmins Citizens' Band. The community singing of Christmas carols was interspersed between the other numbers on the programme. There were five large choirs taking part, some of them having as many as sixty voices. Each of the choirs acquitted themselves so well as to win praise even from those inclined to be critical in musical matters. The applause each choir received showed the appreciation of the large audience.

Community Singing Enjoyed

The big crowd took particular delight in the community singing of the well-known Christmas carols. Bandmaster F. J. Wolno conducted this part of the evening's singing, the band playing the accompaniments. The enthusiasm with which all the audience joined in the singing was inspiring. No less than nine carols were given through the evening, and it was evident that the audience wished all of the verses as given in the printed programmes. The carols in the community singing included: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "The First Noel," "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," "Good King Wenceslas," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "Once in David's Royal City," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen," and "Silent Night."

Timmins Citizens' Band

Another popular feature was the playing of the Timmins Citizens' Band, under the leadership of Bandmaster F. J. Wolno. In addition to playing the accompaniments for the community singing, the Band presented

ed the following numbers: The Opening, "O Canada," "Haverhill March," the "Hallelujah Chorus," and the closing, "God Save the King."

Three Specials

In addition to the excellent work of the choirs the evening was further enhanced by three special items: the duet, "Away in a Manger," by Misses Evelyn Pexton and Doris Kurkoski, which received enthusiastic encore; the violin obligato, by Edouard Bartlett, and the selections by the French Quartette, Les Gais Lurons, directed by Mrs. Jeanne Larcher. This quartette includes Messrs. F. Boivin, R. Barrette, L. Barrette and Dr. P. Clermont. Their numbers included "Minuit Chretien," and "Adeste Fideles," and as usual these popular artists won the audience.

Five Notable Chorus

The choirs, their leaders, accompanists, and the selections given were as follows:

Church of Nativity Senior Choir, directed by Sister Mary Clare, Mrs. Olive Donovan playing the accompaniments; "When Blossoms Flowered," "Neath the Snow" (Pietro Yon), and "Christmas Eve" (Homer Harbourn).

Porcupine Male Voice Choir, directed by Ron Jones; "Diadem," and "Lyngham."

Northern Choristers, directed by Mrs. E. Armitage, with Mrs. G. Doughty at the piano; "Snow" (Edward Ekgar), by a women's section of the choir, and with a violin obligato by Edouard Bartlett; and "Carol of the Bells" (Modern), by mixed choir.

Combined Protestant Choir, Edouard Bartlett, conductor, and Mrs. J. Wilkins, pianist; "The First Christmas Morn," and "Deck the Halls With Holly."

Notre Dame de Lourdes Mixed Choir, Maurice Mireault, conductor; Mrs. P. Piche, pianist; "Sanctus" (from the mass by J. A. Kirman), and "Ca Berger" (French carol).

Happy Hour and a Halt

R. E. Sturgeon, T.C.A.C. recreational director, made a competent master of ceremonies for the evening. The whole programme was carried through according to schedule, occupying only one hour and a half. Tim was saved, without any disruption of the programme, by having the choirs gather on the stage during community singing, joining in the singing as they took their places. The same plan was adopted as the choirs left the stage. The plan speeded up the programme and seemed to add to the pleasure of all.

At the opening of the festival, G. A. Macdonald, president of the Timmins Citizens' Band, welcomed the large crowd in the name of the Band and the T.C.A.C., thanked the Band executive and the committee and the many others helping the event to success, and then introduced His Worship Karl A. Eyre, M.P. In the course of his brief address of goodwill, the latter took occasion to comment on the happiness that Canadians should feel in knowing that democracy and friendliness and good will allowed happy gatherings of all on occasions such as the Christmas Carol Festival.

Love and \$1.87

Della Dillingham, Sixth avenue, had \$1.87. That was all. And Sunday would be Christmas.

One dollar and eighty-seven cents, most of it in dimes saved by bulldozing the grocer until she blushed with shame. What to buy for Jim? Her Jim.

Clearly there was nothing left to do but flop upon the couch and howl. So Della did it—which instigates the reflection that life is made up of smiles, sobs and sniffles, with sniffles predominating.

Jim

James W. Dillingham—the "W" was thrown in on a printed card which sometimes served to impress a prospective employer—worked in a plant, when he could, for \$28 a week. He would be home soon. And Della knew it.

She stood up and looked into the mirror. An idea struck her like a whip-lash. She loosened her hair and let it drop. A cascade of rich brown locks fell to her knees. Then she did it up again—temporarily.

Madame Pamour

On with the old brown coat. On went the old brown hat. Della grabbed her shabby purse and made for the street, one, two, three—seven blocks down and she stood under a sign: "Madame Pamour."

"Yes," said Madame. "I buy hair. Let's see it."

Down rippled the brown cascade, shimmering in the light.

"How much?"

"Twenty dollars," said Madame Pamour.

"Give it to me quick."

Two Cherished Possessions

The James W. Dillinghams, Sixth avenue, had two cherished possessions. One: Della's hair. Had the Duchess of Norfolk lived next door, Della would have hung her hair out the window, after every shampoo, to show the duchess something really admirable. Two: Jim's watch. The very fine gold pocket watch which had been his father's and his grandfather's. The watch. Had the postman been a cabinet minister, Jim would have pulled it out each day, just to see the old boy wilt with envy. The watch however, had no chain, only an old leather strap; hence Jim sometimes looked at it on the sly.

Will He—?

Ten minutes after selling her hair Della again regarded herself before the mirror in her room. She saw the crude cropping, the ravages made by generosity added to love. Oh, oh, maybe Jim won't. Maybe he won't. The door opened. She turned around. Jim looked at her for a moment and then—now shall we admire some inconsequential object in the corner... just for a minute...

"I'm me without my hair, Jim, ain't I? I did it for you, I did it for you."

Silence

Jim didn't say a word. He chuckled his hat on the rack and lay down on the couch, setting his feet up comfortably. Della could not wait any longer. She withdrew a small package and opened it with nimble fingers. A watch chain. Nineteen-fifty they had taken from her for it.

"Let's see your watch, Jim. Let's see how it looks."

"All right," Jim said, "but first you might like to see my presents to you." He gave her a box. She opened it. It contained a set of very expensive turquoise combs, the ones she had once admired in a Third avenue window, the ones she had for so long longed to possess.

"No haircut will make me love my Del any the less," Jim said, "but you see why you had me baffled. I sold the watch to buy the combs. Now would you mind putting the chips on..."

The above is a cheap review of a story culled from The Four Million (Pocketbooks, Inc. 25c) by O. Henry. STEPHEN SCHOFIELD

The King To Timmins

The Christmas Day message of His Majesty the King will be broadcast over CKGB on Sunday, 10:00 a.m. He will speak from his country home in Sandringham. Other members of the Royal Family plan to hear his address in another room of the same residence.

Letters To Editor

An unsigned letter was received by the editor of the Advance this week. Letters will be printed anonymously if desired and requested but must, in good faith to the paper, be signed.

PAS DE JOURNAL LA
SEMAINE PROCHAINE

Il n'y aura pas de journal public la semaine prochaine—jusqu'à le cinq janvier.

Les employés de l'Advance souhaitent à tous un Joyeux Noël.

(d'autres articles français sur la page quatre)

Humility Essential,
Says Rev. Fr. Murray

An address on Christmas carols and word of \$300 of bedding for the needy were voiced during a fully attended (100 per cent) meeting of the Timmins Rotary club this week.

Rev. F. B. Murray, of the Church of the Nativity, said that carols link us with the past; and that the Christmas carol took the place of the pagan festivities of the olden times.

Time of Joy

"I am glad at Christmas time," he said, "because others are glad; because we are all celebrating a birthday. But to get and feel the full import of Christmas we must be humble, making ourselves small, like little children, if we want to discover something big."

He also stressed the fact that Christmas was the children's day but that we all became children and so,

at Christmas, we should go to the manger and put out our worldly wisdom and become little ones before God. If we are humble enough we shall discover Him.

In closing his remarks he wished the Club members the season's greetings.

The speaker was introduced by Wilf Spooner and thanked by Hendy Henderson.

Bedding and Blankets

Cliff Gibson, secretary, said that \$300 worth of bedding and blankets would be distributed to the needy this week; and that attendance was 100 per cent.

President William Long, chairman of the meeting, said that there would be no meeting on December 26, but that the first meeting in January was available.

All Nationalities Learn
English Free in Timmins

Rev. A. L. Heinonen received a sum of money and a number of presents as tokens of appreciation from students of the Free English Language Evening School, some in Timmins on Monday evening, and some in South Porcupine, on Tuesday evening, classes being held in both places.

69 Attended

This was the thirteenth annual Christmas observed by the students of the evening school. This fall sixty-nine persons attended these classes, conducted in Timmins, South Porcupine and Pamour Mines.

During the past twelve and a half years nearly five hundred men and women have taken advantage of this opportunity of learning the language of their adopted country in this popular evening school, conducted under auspices of the United Finnish and Scandinavian Mission.

Many Nationalities

Although the majority of students have been of Finnish origin, New Canadians of Swedish, Norwegian, French, German, Lithuanian, Latvian, Ukrainian, Russian, Rumanian and Estonian origin have also been admitted.

During the closing night of the fall term Christmas hymns, carols and popular songs were sung by all classes in English. Rev. Heinonen thanked the students for the gifts he had received, as a complete surprise, and also for the fine work they had done at the school, wishing them all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Re-Opening Soon

The spring term of the Evening School will open in Timmins at the Mission, 53 Rea St. S., Monday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m., and in the South Porcupine Old High School building on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m. (Uniting the Pamour and South Porcupine Classes.) New students will be received into all classes.

Christmas Message To
Kiwanis: Rev. Murray

The Christmas message given by Rev. Fr. Murray, guest speaker at the Timmins Kiwanis Club at the weekly luncheon at the Empire Hotel on Monday, was an inspiring one that was much appreciated. He spoke on the import of Christmas, showing how it was based on the Child Born in a Manger, and the need of the world was to get back to the faith and confidence typical of the child. Christmas, the speaker pointed out, was the only example of a birthday being celebrated the world over for over 1900 years and that would continue to be observed through the years to come. There were some who celebrated Christmas for no deeper reason than that it was customary or fashionable, and it did seem, the speaker said, that all miss something of the real import of the occasion. Observed in the right spirit, and with faith and trust, Christmas would bring new life, new comfort, new hope, new joy into the lives of all.

Rev. Fr. Murray was introduced by Rev. Dr. Mustard while the thanks of the club for the address were extended by J. P. Downey.

Christmas carols were featured in the community singing for the day. Zig Ostrowski being the leader, with Secretary W. H. Wilson at the piano. Nick Basciano spoke about the Kiwanis New Year's Eve party to be held in the Rainbow Room of the Goldfields hotel on December 31st. He promised it would be even better than the last happy social evening in October. There were still a few tickets available for Kiwanians and their friends.

A report on the Christmas party of the Kiwanis Boy Scouts on December 13th was given by J. P. Downey. All attending enjoyed a very happy evening. Some 130 Scouts and Scout Cubs attended, as well as a number of Kiwanians and others.

The special collection for the Christmas Cheer Fund netted \$46.11. Of course, that sum was immediately made up to the even \$50.00. In the meantime, however, there was talk of an investigation as to where the odd cents came from, every Scotsman in the club being under suspicion.

D. R. Paver of Timmins, was guest for the day, being introduced by Nick Basciano.

R. P. Kinkel reported the Kiwanis turkey shoot as doing nicely, though he noted that some Kiwanians and others were missing the chance of their lives for fun and turkey, by failing to call more frequently at the Kiwanis turkey shoot in the building next to the Empire hotel on Algonquin Boulevard, East.

Next week's luncheon will be the annual Christmas party, each member being required to bring a gift for the member whose name he drew this week. The presents are not to cost more than twenty-five cents or more, and must be accompanied by the usual Christmas wishes of a personal nature, with the donor's name not revealed, and the laws of libel and abusive language suspended. The gifts will be forwarded to the Children's Shelter after all is over but the shouting. On account of Monday next week being a holiday, the luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 27th.