

The Porcupine Advance

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Thursday, March 30th 1950

Mrs. McNeil And Dr. Belanger And W. S.

Mrs. Mae MacNeil did not "exaggerate" according to the adjudicator, Dr. P. A. Belanger. And this absence of exaggeration would seem to agree with the following: Do not saw the air too much; but use all gently; for in the very torrent, tempest, and, I may say, whirlwind of your passion, you must acquire a temperance which may give it smoothness. Oh, it offends me to the very soul to hear a robustious periwig-pated fellow tear a passion to tatters, to very rags, to split the ear of the grounding, who, for the most part, is incapable of nothing inexplicable dumb shows and noise. Pray you, avoid it. But don't be too tame, either. Suit the action to the word and the word to the action, with this special observance, that you overstep not the modesty of nature. For anything overdone is against the purpose of the play, whose end, both then and now, was and is to hold the mirror up to nature, to show virtue her own image. (W. S.)

Apparently Mrs. MacNeil did not overdo it or underdo it. She did not exaggerate. She was natural. Congratulations.

The Porcupine Camp -- Sorry Area

According to the newsletter of the Chamber of Commerce, a camp is a camp with tents and huts, a name which provokes an untrue picture of the Porcupine. True indeed. But what of it. Camp is a nice, short, one-syllable word, with which the Porcupine was conceived some forty years ago. Times Square is not a square. Columbus Circle is not a circle. The Porcupine is now no camp—but her name will stick. And who is the Chamber, a toddling infant, still in diapers, a precocious baby as yet to celebrate its first birthday—to tell a rugged old rascal what to call himself?

"Pinecrest" Entrance

There is still bickering about the entrance into "Pinecrest" school. Right-of-way: no right-of-way? A road: no road? Expropriation?

But there is nothing serious to fret about. Because in any event children from all directions can simply walk across Gauthier & Gauthier property. There is nothing whatever to impede them. Snow in the way? Unploughed? What of it. Does anybody think that somebody ploughed a path on the surface of the Mattagami River, for instance, to facilitate the children's daily walk to several holes to draw the filthy water? They beat paths.

School children will beat paths across Gauthier & Gauthier property. That is all there is to that. This writer has walked across that property and past that school every morning for the past three months.

Education

Shakespeare was the son of a bankrupt butcher and a woman who could not write her name. Beethoven was the son of a consumptive mother, herself the daughter of a cook and a drunken father. Schubert was the son of a peasant father and a mother who had been in domestic service. Faraday, one of the greatest scientific experimenters of all time, was born over a stable, his father an invalid, and his mother a common drudge.

Such facts underlie democracy—the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people, and that if we throw wide the doors so that all boys and girls can bring out the best that is in them, we will get amazing results from unlikely sources.

A Free Man

(by Sir Henry Wooten).

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will,
Whose armour is his honest thought
And simple truth his utmost skill.

whose passions not his masters are
Whose soul is yet prepared for death
Not tied into the world with care
Of public fame, or private breath.

Who envies none that chance doth raise,
Or voice; who never understood
How deepest wounds are given by praise;
Not rules of state, but rules of good.

This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall;
Lord to himself, though not to lands;
And having nothing, yet haveth all.

A Delightful M. P.

It is the policy of The Advance to print articles concerning the Porcupine area only, avoiding syndicated stuff as much as possible, and leaving news to the larger papers.

The temptation is too strong however, to withhold from readers an enlightening session in the House of Commons, led by Mr. Jean Francois Pouliot, who stands up and trims down army brass hats in such a way as to make them listen and like it, evidently, which is a very rare occurrence. (Story on Page One: A Good Cook).

Mr. Pouliot, we are told first hand from one of his own constituency in Riviere du Loup, P.Q., lives frugally, gives generously with what means he possesses, and is utterly unassuming. And any Hansard reader will attest, that this Frenchman is one of the most popular members of the House. His remarks should be of stimulating interest to the Porcupine, anyway, particularly to members of the Legion and the Algonquin Regiment.

Virile Men In Action

It is comforting indeed to see the Algonquin Regiment, even during an ordinary bi-weekly evening drill. To see men stand up and walk straight and swing their arms, men well turned out, clean shaven, buttons, shoes shining, immaculate.

There are so many poolroom pussies around town, so many round-shouldered loafers with a passion for green and pink

In The Days When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

No. 141. Welcoming Men In 1919.

The fact that nearly a thousand men enlisted from the Porcupine district to fight in the first world war is proof of the patriotic spirit of the people of this area. Those who had to remain at home evidenced similar patriotism on the home front. When the war finally ended, it is not surprising that there was a general call for fitting welcome home to all soldiers and airmen coming back to Porcupine.

The Timmins Board of Trade promptly took up the question and a committee of twenty, with power to add to their number, was appointed to meet all trains and greet all men returning from overseas service.

Law of Diminishing Returns
The first train coming into Timmins after the committee was named saw nineteen of that committee, including the mayor and a couple of councillors, and the president of the Great War Veterans Association, ready to give due welcome to any returned soldier who might step from that train. But there wasn't a single serviceman alighting from that train.

The next day's train saw a dozen or so of the committee on duty at the station, but as day followed day, both of the number of members of the committee, and the size of the crowds of townspeople attending, dwindled, until only one or two, or perhaps three, of the committee would be in evidence when trains arrived.

No Trains Missed

Among the most faithful of that committee were: Mayor Dr. J. A. McInnis, Fire Chief A. Borland, T. F. King (president Timmins Board of Trade), Geo. A. Smith (president G.W.V.A.), Rev. J. D. Parks, Rev. R. S. Cushing, and G. A. Macdonald. It is doubtful if in the course of a year or more a single train reached here without one or more of that group on hand to welcome returned men. No soldier or sailor or airman, in uniform, ever got by that little welcoming committee. Of course, ex-servicemen, in civies, might be missed, unless one of the old-timers knew them.

Official Welcome Demanded
There was a general demand, however, for a public welcome, with all the trimmings. As a matter of fact, this was not practical, on account of the fact that it seemed impossible to learn in advance anything about the soldiers who would be on any particular train, or whether that train would bring any returned men at all. Often there was a suspicion that returned men left the train at South Porcupine or Schumacher to avoid any public demonstration at Timmins.

Most people felt that the only way to meet the situation was the plan of meeting all trains. If there happened to be a crowd at the station, they could be depended upon to do their part in enthusiastic way.

The Soldiers Liked It

In any event, the informal welcome pleased most of the returned men. Most of these men were tired of fanfare and fuss and formal reviews, but their hearts warmed to friendly greetings and cheerful attention. The great majority knew Dr. McInnis in the early days, and just to see his genial face again was to feel at home and among happy friends. Others on the committee found in later years they had warned friends in gallant men whom they had first met at Timmins railway station.

"You're It" the Mayor Said
Eventually, Mayor Dr. McInnis was able to persuade most citizens that formal public receptions were not practical under all the circumstances, but then some complained that the committee of welcome at each train should be much larger than it usually was. One member of the committee suggested the answer to the latter idea. "The committee has the power to add to its number," the mayor was told, "so why not add every complainant to the list?"

Dr. McInnis followed that suggestion, and as a consequence, the committee grew to very large proportions, but there was little change in the number meeting each and every train. The plan did have the effect, though, of stopping the complaints. It is an odd fact that, no matter how much people may complain about others, they seldom are as critical about themselves.

First Official Welcome Home

Mayor Dr. McInnis made every effort to discover facts about the pro-

haberdashery and little else.

It is therefore highly gratifying to watch this small hard corps of young men, to watch them drill, and drill smartly; to see them at lectures, and obviously interested in them; and to learn that equipment is up-to-date, in weapons and lectures, the same as are being applied throughout the country.

Also, to see them go for coffee and doughnuts, ravenously for 10 minutes, that's all, and then back to work, and hard.

Military training stamps a man, sets him up for life, war or no war. Because he is taught to do things one way, the right way, the most efficient way, from the start. He is taught to toe the line; rise with the bugle, as it were; and he must. Thus sloppiness disappears and alert, quick thinking is fostered in mind and body. And certainly our present Governor General, Lord Alexander, would be a good example of this.

This modern military training is unquestionably the most important evening activity in the Porcupine. And it is good to see it prevail.

There's something about a soldier. There's something about the army. Indeed, these virile men are on guard for their country in the most healthy, wholesome, manly pursuit of becoming competent soldiers, and an honor to the Porcupine Camp.

bable time of arrival here of men from overseas service, but he was unable to plan any public reception in such a case until January 30th, 1919. On that day, it was learned by accident, two ex-servicemen—Private Harvey Boivin and Private Nash—would arrive here on the late evening train. Arrangements were hurriedly made, and thanks to the generous cooperation of the New Empire Theatre and others, there was a large crowd at the station for the arrival of the train. The official committee of welcome for the occasion comprised: Dr. McInnis, Councillors Newton and Brazeau, Geo. A. Smith, of the G.W.V.A., and others.

The two soldiers were duly greeted at the station, and then all proceeded to the front of the New Empire Theatre and others, there was a large crowd at the station for the arrival of the train. The official committee of welcome for the occasion comprised: Dr. McInnis, Councillors Newton and Brazeau, Geo. A. Smith, of the G.W.V.A., and others.

The two soldiers were duly greeted at the station, and then all proceeded to the front of the New Empire Theatre, which was decorated with flags and bunting.

There were brief addresses by Mayor Dr. McInnis and G.W.V.A. president, Geo. A. Smith. The addresses were enthusiastically cheered, but the crowd cheered still more vigorously and persistently for the two heroes of the occasion.

The welcome was carried well along into the next day, for after the public reception there was a pleasant little supper party at the home of Pte. Boivin.

Not A Stranger Here

Pte. Harvey Boivin was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matt. Boivin, two of the most highly-esteemed pioneers of Timmins, while Pte. Nash was one of Harvey's comrades-in-arms who had accompanied him here.

It was Pte. Nash's first visit to this part of the North, and the public welcome made a great impression on him. "I never met before so many friendly people," he said. "I don't feel like a stranger here now. You know I had the idea that Harvey was a regular prince of good fellows. I'll never forget my welcome to Timmins."

Welcome To An Old-Timer

Returned men kept slipping quietly into town all through 1919. For most of them there was no more than the informal welcome. It was February before there was a chance for another public affair. Then word was received here that Pte. Jack DeSormeaux, a popular old-timer, was coming back to town after four year's hard service overseas. Of course, Jack got a great old reception. Mayor Dr. McInnis and President Geo. A. Smith leading in the honours to this cheerful soldier. The big crowd gave three cheers and a tiger, over and over again.

Other public receptions followed, but enthusiasm waned on account of the number of "false alarms" regarding home-comings.

In November a public banquet was tendered the returned men by the Town of Timmins, but that makes a story in itself.

"Just Right For Me, Bo!"

No member of the voluntary reception committee grudged the time or trouble in meeting all trains. There was genuine pleasure in welcoming returned men, and even in the cases where no servicemen arrived, there was sometimes fun.

One April evening the committee was at the station to meet the evening train, but the soldier reported as on the train could not be found.

Still, the committee found somebody to welcome.

Gib McGinnis, a popular character of the early days, was a passenger, coming in "from the trenches of South Porcupine," as The Advance phrased it at the time.

Gib stared for a minute or two at the welcoming committee. Then he rushed over to them and shook hands all around.

"Say, Bo!" he said, "this is sure great for you to welcome an old-timer back to the good old town like this. It's just all right for me, Bo!"

It was quite evident that Gib was pleased at first. But then he became a little suspicious of the motives of the welcoming committee.

"Yes, Bo!" he said to the mayor. "If this were meant just for an old-timer like myself. But it may not be that. Perhaps you guys just thought I might have a bottle on me hip. Eh, Bo?"

Jews Observe The Eight-Day Feast Of The Passover

By Rabbi Irving Margolies

Passover, commemorating the exodus of the Hebrew people from ancient Egypt nearly four thousand years ago, will commence on Saturday evening, April 1st, and will be observed by the Jewish people for eight days. Passover, known also as the Festival of Freedom, recalls the passage of the Israelites from slavery to freedom through the intervention of God.

In a Passover message on "The Meaning of Freedom," Rabbi Irving A. Margolies of the Hebrew Congregation called on his fellow Jews to "adhere to a traditional observance of the festival by abstaining from eating any bread or leavened food during the eight days. This is forbidden to us as a sign that our ancestors' redemption from Egyptian slavery was so sudden, and the Israelite departure so hasty, that they did not have time even to prepare their bread in the usual manner, but they were compelled to bake the dough before it had a chance to ferment. Therefore the Israelite was commanded to avoid all bread during the Passover week and to eat Matzoh (unleavened bread) instead.

"Thus, our Festival of Freedom is marked by moral restraint and obedience to the Law of God.

"People in democratic countries often speak about a Bill of Rights but ignore the bill of duties without which the bill of rights becomes a farce. Our Bible, therefore, placed these many rigid restrictions upon us at the very festival of freedom so that each person will recognize that liberty and moral restraint are not mutually exclusive of each other, but on the contrary, go hand in hand and are inseparable partners in the venture of freedom.

"History records no other event to equal the universal spiritual significance of the exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt. The Exodus has profoundly affected not only Jewish history. Many progressive nations of the world have drawn upon it as a source of inspiration for their struggle against oppression."

The Passover services at the Synagogue, 13 Cedar Street will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday; at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday and Monday. Rabbi Margolies will preach Sunday morning at 11 a.m. on "Easter and Passover."

NO MORE SKIING

Ski Tales and Trails will be discontinued in a week or two. Next season it will not be written by the same columnist.

Hollinger Classes End—

Close to 200 employees of Hollinger consolidated Gold Mines met at the Hollinger Hall recently to mark the closing sessions of the Hollinger Evening Classes for the season. Completing a series of 40 meetings held since last fall at which almost all phases of the company's activities were discussed, the final sessions were in the nature of a review of the points covered and questions dealt with by the various speakers. The final meetings featured a special panel of speakers, representing management of the company. Members of the panel were E. L. Longmore, general manager; T. E. Hawkins, industrial relations manager; W. L. Hogarth, office manager; E. P. Thompson, assistant mine superintendent; J. W. Thomson, production engineering superintendent, and E. T. Turner, plant engineer.

Special Guests
Special guests at the closing meeting were members of the Hollinger Civics Classes, employees who last year earned certificates at the initial classes and this year are attending a special series of meetings at which matters of civic importance are explained and discussed.

The closing meetings of the evening classes were opened by Mr. Longmore who, as moderator of the panel, called upon each of the panel members for a short resume of activities in their particular department last year, and an outline of plans for the year ahead.

Understanding Hoped For
Mr. Longmore expressed his pleasure at the response of the class members throughout the series of meetings, and the hope that as a result of the meetings, a better understanding of each other's problems had been achieved.

Help for Any Home

Homemaker Service particulars are announced by the Timmins Red Cross. (The office hours: 9:00 to 10:30, Monday to Friday, inclusive). The aims of the service are as follows:

1. To provide capable homemakers who will care for the family while the mother is ill at home or in the hospital, or other emergencies.

2. To give service to all in need, regardless of race, creed, color or income.

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3. To permit the father to continue with his work assured that his family is well cared for.

If you need a homemaker please call 746 R. Mrs. M. F. Wilkinson, 58 Fourth Ave., Schumacher.

NATURE UNSPOILED



YOURS TO PROTECT

The GRACKLE is a handsome blackbird. Larger and more graceful than the starling, he's known by his long tail, greater size and more streamlined appearance. The coloring of the male is striking, with his green iridescent head. Protect him—he's a very attractive neighbor.

YOURS TO ENJOY

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75th ANNIVERSARY

WHEN WHEAT BECAME KING

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