

# PICNICS

BY B. H. DARROW.

The summer picnic season is at hand. Farm clubs, Women's Institutes, Sunday Schools and numerous other groups are seen on the shores of our lakes, the banks of our streams and in our shady groves, eating together, playing games and having a good time generally.

And the most successful picnics will be those which have considerable variety. There may be splendid speeches announced, but most of us are more attracted by the chicken pie, and our young folks are not at all so much interested in visiting as in taking part in games and sports.

Our young dynamo, the Canadian boy, will instantly apply one acid test to the picnic we older folks plan. "Is there lots of activity, plenty of variety and something new?" If not, he will be enthusiastic only at dinner time and the next day will pass this significant criticism, "Yes, they had the same darned old things they've always had. And, gee whop, they give me a little stinky ice cream cone for rumm'ing my head off to win that race!"

Almost any boy or girl, honestly answering the question as to what they want, will say, "To have a good time." So it is important to make the picnic a joy and satisfaction to all ages, but most of all, to the boy and girl.

To thus satisfy all ages, the picnic needs to provide features that are classed as entertaining by little boys and girls, teen-agers, the courting ages, the young married couples, pa and ma, and grandpa and grandma. The gathering of old friends who can gossip about the past is itself a most satisfying entertainment to the latter, but to the younger element, who are looking forward, not backward, the ball game, the stunts, the swings, the ball throw and the athletic events are prime necessities.

The key to success is in getting the right people to come out to a meeting to lay the plans, granting of course that the plans are laid far enough in advance to give busy people a chance to do what they are assigned.

## DON'T SKIMP THE COMMITTEE.

The boys and girls should be represented. They will not only appreciate the recognition but will take many burdens off the older committee and do the job better. If the committee is to plan a large picnic, say a township affair, there should be from ten to twenty-five members; the larger the number the better if they are good workers.

If it is decided to have certain self-entertaining features for the early arrivals, a midway, refreshment booths, track and field events, stunts, parade with floats, picnic dinner, special music, special program with a well-known speaker, and a big ball game, a chairman must be appointed for each event and counsel given on how to put each across.

Then there must be a publicity committee, an invitation and reception committee, the latter being especially important if it is to be a "home-coming" picnic.

The success of the picnic is largely dependent upon how they discharge their responsibility. There is nothing automatic about conducting a successful picnic. It requires some thought and work.

The publicity committee should put preliminary announcements in the papers which reach the township and follow up with special details from time to time and in the ten days before the picnic have the program printed in full in one of the papers.

Some communities also distribute dodgers and put up posters at cross-roads. Here is where the young people function. They enjoy making posters, with illustrations cut from magazines to make them attractive.

If the event is to be a "home-coming," a committee of long-time residents will have to do the work of listing former residents and sending them invitations.

A committee on grounds is sometimes necessary in order to have the picnic grounds and the baseball diamond in readiness. Equipment necessary for various features is best provided by the chairman in charge so that he cannot sidestep the responsibility of his feature being a success.

In order that it may seem more real, let us assume the preparations from the story of the day and note that these are but a few of the many interesting things communities have done and can do to make an enjoyable occasion.

As the early crowd arrives, the babies find a sand-box, the little girls find swings and teeter-totters and perhaps a slide. The school kids find a playground ball and but any ball and net are sure to be used if provided.

Along your midway you may have the following:

Refreshment booths can generally make enough to pay for the band, speakers' expenses and other items. Ice cream, watermelons, peanuts, candy, popcorn, sandwiches, all may be sold.

Novelty booth with balloons. Articles which are typical of the county always interest, and if cheap, sell well. Take a Swat-out (name of community's Enemy, Ball-Throw. Make a set of "nigger babies" and make them in different colors, Ignorance, Faint Heart,

more than eight in the best. A volley ball or basket ball should be handled to the front man in each relay. The men spread their feet apart, making an "alley" with their legs. When the signal is given, the hoier of the ball in each relay rolls it down the "alley" to the man at the rear who places it between his knees and hops like a kangaroo around a person or persons established by the leader as "pegs." If the ball slips from between his knees, he must pick it up and begin his hopping where he left off. When the "kangaroo" has hopped up to the rear of his "peg," he may take the ball in his hands and run from the "peg" back to the front of his relay line, where he takes his place as the front man, passing the ball back through the "alley" to the man who is then the rear man, and so on until the last has run.

The chariot race is a sure excitement foment. Have several small mud boats made in advance. These may be merely a 2-foot section of a 10-inch board with an 8-foot piece of wire attached as a tongue. On the end of the wire, as a neck yoke, use any pole four or five feet long. As you readily see, the driver rides on the little mud boat and drives his team of four "horses."

Line up your horses and riders in pairs, having the horse and the rider in each pair about the same weight. Get them on the line. At the word "Mount," the rider mounts his steed and at the word "Go," races across a given line, where the rider dismounts and becomes a horse, the horse riding back to the starting point, where the winners are determined.

The women then do the biggest piece of entertaining of the day. Where tables and chairs are available use them because the crowd can be brought closer together that way, but chicken pie is good anyway one takes

Increasing activity is seen along the lines of immigration work. For the most part, the recommendations of the Provincial Committee as presented at last year's conventions are being followed.

The needs of orphan and dependent children have enlisted the active sympathy of the Institutes throughout Ontario, almost every district reporting assistance given by the Branches in the shape of money, food or clothing to the Children's Shelters.

The adoption of children by individual members also continues, and a friendly interest is displayed in the health and education of children from the various institutes.

The convenor for Eastern Ontario writes: "We have only one war bride in our community and she has just joined our Institute. We are co-operating with the Dept. of Immigration and Colonization in securing homes for about 30 boys, most of whom are making good. A number are in the homes of Institute members. We have been trying to get some girls, but so far without results. I would suggest that each member do what she can to make our newcomers understand our Canadian life and methods of working. If we each do what is nearest us, the work will be accomplished."

From the chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie convention committee comes the practical suggestion: "Begin by Canadianizing the hired man."

Much quiet help which, for obvious reasons, cannot be reported in detail, is being given to needy new Canadians by individual Branches. In one case in Central Ontario, the Institutes co-operate with the municipal authorities in tiding over a deserted mother and her four children until the deserting husband can be declared officially dead, and she becomes eligible for the Mother's Pension.

In another, a nurse was secured for a mother who, without this prompt assistance, would have in all likelihood lost her life.

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The Central Ontario convenor reports that a number of Mennonite families are coming in and adds: "I think the Women's Institutes can reach these immigrants much better than any other organization, since many of them settle in rural parts."

From the Provincial Supervisor of the Home Branch of the Soldier Settlement Board comes very warm testimony, for although most of Ontario's 1,400 Soldier Settlers have by now got on their feet, in many cases the wives being themselves active members of an Institute, they yet remain a few families in straits. The supervisor says: "We wish to express our great appreciation of the assistance coming from the girls and women of the East Simcoe Institutes. Orilla Branch sent a much needed housekeeper to care for three young children while the mother could be given the month's care in the hospital necessary to save her life. Lakeview sent a much needed gift of clothing and money to buy wool for those who could knit for their fam-

ies. The Junior Institute layettes and other gifts have been a wonderful help. Quilts and other bedding are still needed and may be sent direct to Miss Orton, Home Branch of S.S.B., 32 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, for distribution. Names of those in need, with the description of the family, will be sent to any Institute willing to send reading matter to individual settlers. In some cases this is a very real need."

"The Institutes have been very helpful in my work," said a police woman and immigration officer at the Sault in a Northern Convention, "especially in the follow-up and welfare work."

The members, too, continue to show tangible evidence that they are not forgetting our disabled soldiers in their various institutes.

It would be impossible to tell of all the large-hearted and truly patriotic work being done along immigration lines, but these few examples will suffice to show the trend of Branch activity during the year.

The Ontario Hostel Committee receives the young women coming in for domestic service under government direction. Almost none of these go to, or if they do, stay in the country. It might be worth while for the Institutes to make a study of the causes of this coming year and present to the chairman a schedule of what wages the average country housekeeper who desired help would be able to pay. In discussing this matter with a member of the British delegation, which under Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., visited Canada, an investigating tour of conditions, the suggestion was brought forward for consideration by the Institutes, that little girls, young enough for adoption, be selected in Britain and sent to approved country homes here. Your committee would commend this to your thoughtful attention and discussion.

A communication from the office of the Deputy Minister of Immigration and Colonization states that, up to August 31st, 1924, 42,623 persons had been admitted to Canada, 39,011 via ocean ports, 3,612 from the United States; also that under the Land Settlement Branch, 3,000 British agricultural families were expected in the spring of 1925. Under this plan the services of the Land Settlement Branch will be available at all times, to assist the newcomers to success, but it is quite possible that the local Women's Institute would co-operate with the District Office of the Land Settlement Branch in a valuable way in the direction of welfare work, once the newcomers are established.

In the opinion of thoughtful people, the most valuable immigrants and those requiring the greatest amount of attention and help, are still the ones who come to Ontario via the Canadian cradle. Consequently, it is far the chief concern of the members, judging from reports, to secure the best results in the feeding, clothing, housing and education of Canada's native born in their own homes and communities. We are glad to be able to report, therefore, steady advancement in the science of home-making, provision for sound recreation, and closer and more intelligent co-operation with the schools and health authorities and the raising of the general standard of health and morals of our people.

Hot coffee should be furnished or on sale at one of the booths.

When ready for the program, close the midway, start the music and demand that everyone get situated pleasantly near the improvised stage—a truck is often used—and give close attention to the program, which will be short and lively.

Songs, instrumental numbers, a history of the community, a pageant depicting the past, the present, or the future of the community, and a 25-minute address on some subject of vital interest are all possibilities for this period.

Then follows the ball game with all the entertainment that goes with it. All in all, the picnic can be a fountain of inspiration. It sends people home happier and more hopeful. In fact, the picnic ministers to all one's needs—social, educational, physical and spiritual.

## Cover the Flatirons.

Only about half the quantity of fuel will be required to do an ironing if the irons are kept covered while heating. An old bread pan large enough to cover three irons makes a good cover if a handle is put on. To put on a handle, punch a hole in the centre of the pan, put a smart bolt of the proper length through a spool, place two asbestos washers between the spool and the bread pan to shield the spool from intense heat, insert the bolt and screw on the nut.

One crop of buckwheat will kill wireworms for all time.—J. B.

When washing last week, the bell on the machine broke, so I finished with an old auto inner tube. It worked so well I think I shall use them entirely on washing-machine, separator, etc. All that is necessary is to cut the valve stem out.—M.

# HOME and COUNTRY

How the Institutes Are Helping Newcomers to Ontario

BY EMILY GUEST, TORONTO, PROVINCIAL CONVENOR.

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# The Sunday School Lesson

JUNE 7

Peter's Broadening Vision, Acts 10: 1 to 11: 18. Golden Text—Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.—Acts 10: 34.

## ANALYSIS.

I. VISION PREPARES FOR NEW TASKS, 5-14.

II. EXPERIENCE EVENTUATES IN NEW RECOGNITIONS, 15-18.

INTRODUCTION.—We have seen that Peter in his work for God was led by experience rather than by the possession of a far-reaching principle. He did not see at the beginning that the salvation of Christ was intended, not merely for the Jews, but for the wider world. A great dividing-wall existed in his thought between the Jew and the Gentile. Yet, step by step, by vision and obedience and further divine discovery, he was led forward until he grasped the great principle of Christ for the world.

In the present lesson, Peter explains to the Church at Jerusalem one great experience of this kind. It concerns the course which he was led to take in the case of Cornelius, the devout officer of the Roman garrison at Caesarea. Peter was led to deceive Cornelius and his entire household into the Church by baptism. His action in this matter was criticized by conservative Christians at Jerusalem, who did not know the circumstances under which he acted, and Peter describes for their benefit the whole history of the case, beginning with the vision at Joppa and coming down to the descent of the Spirit on the assembled household at Caesarea.

I. VISION PREPARES FOR NEW TASKS, 5-14.

V. 5. The vision, which prepared for the mission to Caesarea, came to Peter while he was staying at Joppa. Joppa was a seaport city, and its streets would contain, besides Jews, a miscellaneous aggregate of seamen and traders from all the heathen lands around the Mediterranean. It may have been that Peter was reflecting on this medley of peoples and tongues, and that these reflections in turn had something to do with his vision. Vision generally concerns the things which are uppermost in our minds. However that may be, Peter was praying at the time; and, falling into a deep reverie or trance, in which his immediate surroundings were forgotten, he saw what seemed like a great sheet being let down from the sky by four corners, right to the place where he was.

V. 6. Peter's astonished eyes discovered within the mysterious sheet a motley collection of quadrupeds, domestic and wild, also reptiles and birds, which he immediately recognizes to be forbidden for food purposes by the Jewish law. The animals are those which the Old Testament pronounces to be unclean.

Vs. 7, 8. So when the voice comes, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat," Peter protests, saying in effect that as a loyal Jew, faithful to the law, he has never transgressed the food regulations, or eaten anything "common or unclean."

Vs. 9, 10. But the voice comes again from the sky: "What God has cleansed, thou must not call common." This was very startling; for it seemed to imply that God had abrogated the laws dividing the clean from the unclean, and by consequence the Jew from the Gentile. And as the whole

proceedings were thrice repeated, a very great impression was left on Peter's mind. What did it all signify? Did it mean that Peter was no longer to draw a line between the Jewish people and those other races and tongues which he beheld before him in Joppa? The explanation is soon forthcoming.

Vs. 11, 12. At that moment three men from Caesarea present themselves at the street-door. They are a deputation from Cornelius, the Gentile centurion at Caesarea, who, in response to a vision, is desirous of seeing Peter. Peter at once recognizes the point of his own vision. "The Spirit bade me go with them, making no distinction," and Peter sets out for Caesarea accompanied by six brethren.

Vs. 13, 14. At Caesarea Cornelius relates how he was moved by a vision to send for Peter because, he said, it was impressed upon his mind that Peter had a message from God which would just fit his need of salvation.

II. EXPERIENCE EVENTUATES IN NEW RECOGNITIONS, 15-18.

V. 15. Now follows the discovery which convinces Peter that God meant to bring the Gentiles into the Christian fold. As he was reaching for Cornelius' house, the Holy Spirit fell upon the company, reminding Peter of Pentecost. The "signs" were probably the same—ecstatic speech and prophecy.

V. 16. And at that moment there came into Peter's mind the great word of Jesus about his disciples being baptized, no longer with water like John's converts, but with the Holy Spirit.

V. 17. So Peter argued—and rightly—since God had, by bestowing the Spirit, showed that he recognized no difference between these foreigners and Jews, neither ought he, as a Christian man, to refuse baptism to them. To refuse would be to oppose the clear will of God.

V. 18. It shows the Christian wisdom of the church at Jerusalem that, after hearing Peter's statement, they made no further objection. On the contrary, they gave praise to God, recognizing the principle that God, by his own act, had included Gentiles as well as Jews in the offer of eternal life to all who repented.

The whole incident supplies a clear case of the great apostle and the Church, being taught by experience that God had a wider purpose and destiny for the Christian religion than they with their loyal and faithful, but nevertheless, narrow and timid, conservatism towards the past were willing to allow. The people of the Church of Christ need faith and constant readiness for new tasks, as well as tenacious attachments to past traditions and customs. We see very clearly here how God seeks to lift us up above the distinctions of class and race into a new appreciation of humanity, and how only a truly great-hearted religion and a readiness to obey the promptings of the Spirit are capable of leading us onwards to the goal. Not tradition, but the Spirit, must be our guide. However good the past may be, "faith, hope, charity" are the principles which must direct and advance our actions.

Many times we have a poor quality of separated cream and milk, or it sours quickly, and we wonder what the cause is. It may often be traced to a cream separator improperly cared for.

It should always be carefully washed, but in warm weather this is especially necessary. As soon as the separator stops running, it should be taken apart and washed at once. The milk is still warm and easily rimes off, whereas if we wait too long it sours, making it harder to clean.

Wash in cool water first to rinse off the milk; hot water will set it. Then it should be washed in hot water containing washing powder or soda. Finally it should be scalded and dried. If possible it should be placed in the sun, as that is the best way to kill any germs which might remain. Treat milk pails and cans the same way.

A good way to keep the strainer clean is to rub coarse salt through it once a week. This will remove any particles which have lodged in the screen.

Each disk should be washed separately at least twice a week, and if treated as stated they will not be hard to keep clean.

## Better Buttonholes.

Buttonholes that break and stretch out of shape in underwear and shirts are soon mended to stay if you work around them—not too closely—first taking a stitch from end to end, then working over that long stitch on each side. With boys' shirtwaists and underwear it is an especial comfort. Done when the garment is new, it saves endless mending.

When sewing buttons on the garment, before laying it aside after you sew the buttons on in the usual way, just go back once through each button, not cutting the thread but leaving it attached from button to button. If the button loosens you will find in nine cases out of ten it is still there to be sewed on again, for the extra thread holds it.

Birds eat red currants before they do white ones. Why not remember this when planting, if birds take your fruit? The same holds for red and green gooseberries.

# ANOTHER DISILLUSIONMENT

The buzzing bee has always been set up as an example of industry, as an inspiration, by poets and men of affairs to our growing youth. But, somehow, we always believed that there was a sting in the matter somewhere, and now we are stung.

Cold and calculating scientists have pecked their inquisitive proboscis into the flowers of inspiration, and now tell us that this insect of industry is a bummer instead of a busybody.

These scientists have checked the bees as they go in and out of the hive and find that they spend more time in the hive than out hunting honey. Sometimes when they are out they spend nearly two hours getting 25.3 milligrams of honey, not enough to sweeten one mere swallow of coffee. Must be these bees have the human failing of sleeping in the shade of the bush when they ought to be working.

These busy bees make only thirty-two trips in a lifetime. This is very disappointing information, for we always thought they made about that many in a day. No wonder honey is so high. We simply will have to get our efficiency experts after these bees to get them on a better production basis.

But, one thing the scientists probably have not found yet, and that is what those bees did while they are in the hive. They may be sleeping on couches of ease, but more likely, they were converting the raw material they had gathered into a marketable product and then packing it for market. Sometimes such things take more time than just going out and getting the goods. At least, we optimists and bee enthusiasts can still feel that the bee is an example of diligence, for buzzing around we often notice it is not the most important factor in the honey gathering business.

And so it is in life. The noticeable things are usually of the least consequence. It is the quiet thinking, planning, and the final touches which are the fundamentals of success in life. More thoughts to each action will make the action more useful. This will be found true in our daily round of activities and in our common farming operations.

Spare the Axe.

Sick or ailing chickens should be killed whenever found, but it is a mistake to do this killing in such a way that blood is spilled where other chickens can get to it.

There are some diseases that are easily spread through the spilling of blood from infected birds. The easiest way to avoid this is to kill the fowls by what is known as dislocation rather than by beheading.

To kill a bird in this manner, grasp the shanks firmly in one hand, holding the bird head down. Grasp the head with the other hand, the thumb extending across the back of the neck just behind the head, and the palm of the hand passing under the beak and the throat. The position of the hand should be such that the thumb is toward to body of the bird while the little finger is at or beyond the tip of the beak.

A straight pull is then exerted while bending the bird's head back over the thumb at an angle of about 90 degrees, with the neck. If the pull is made quickly the bird is killed instantly because the head is separated from the neck in such a manner that both the spinal cord and the large blood vessels of the neck are severed.

In order to accomplish complete bleeding the head should be separated from the bone of the neck by about two inches. This forms a pocket in which the blood will collect. All sick or diseased birds should be burned after killing.

Produce Infertile Eggs.

Now that the breeding season is over it is well to make definite plans which will insure the production of infertile eggs throughout the summer and fall. The reason why this is important is that during warm weather a fertile egg is at best an uncertain quantity in so far as its ability to keep is concerned. The longer the time elapsing between egg laying and consumption the greater is the difference in quality likely to be as between fertile and infertile eggs. In general, any factor which tends to decrease the quality of an egg after laying will be more serious in its effect on the fertile than on the infertile egg.

It should be remembered that germ development will start in a fertile egg if that egg is held at any temperature above 68 degrees Fahrenheit. At low temperatures this development will naturally be very slow, but it will nevertheless be sufficient to bring the embryo to the point where decomposition is likely to set in and thus render the egg unfit for food.

As soon as the last lot of hatching eggs has been collected, all breeding males that are not to be kept for use next year should be sold. The better birds that are to be kept over should be confined by themselves in a place which will allow them some opportunity to range outdoors but which will prevent any possibility of their getting with the hens until the next breeding season.

This is the time of the year when you should examine the pork barrel and see that every bit of pork is covered with brine. If not covered it will spoil very quickly.