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Notes and Comments

How Hallowe'en Began

We all know that November 1st is All Saints Day, a Holy Day—All Hallows, as the Saints were called in olden times. But why the eve of that holy day should be given over to practical jokes, pranks and roistering, sometimes even to law-breaking seems to need some explanation.

All Saints' Day was not originally kept on November 1st. Some authorities say it was on May 1st, others that it was on the day now observed as Trinity Sunday, and that it was as late as the seventh century that the Church decreed November 1st as All Saints' Day, this being the ancient date when the northern tribes held a festival bewailing the departure of the Sun.

Sun worship, the cult of Baal, was almost universal in prehistoric times, and Baal demanded human sacrifices. One of the centres of this worship was Phoenicia and the Phoenicians were the great travellers of antiquity. They carried their religion to the ends of the earth and the Druids seem to have had something in common with it.

The departure of the Sun for the winter was celebrated with much zeal, and great fires and a human sacrifice were part of the ceremonies. After the tribes were converted to Christianity, these festivals gradually passed away, but shadows of them remained and we can see in our Hallowe'en pranks the beliefs of two or three thousand years ago.

The bonfire is a universal custom at Hallowe'en wherever there is a safe and easy place to have it with a tar barrel if possible—an offering to the departing sun. In Scotland, quite recently, part of the fun was to see a boy jump over or through the fire—a hangover from the days when he would have been a sacrifice to Baal.

The idea that witches, ghosts and bogies of all sorts are out seems to be another link with the superstitions of heathen worship. Divination was thought to be at its easiest on October 31st and spirits from sea and land were invoked. This obtains at present in the custom of seeing spirits in mirrors and various other conjuring tricks practised here and there.

Restraint being somewhat in abeyance, even now hoodlums take advantage of the night to carry rough fun to the limits of public endurance.

Meanwhile the Hallowe'en parties everywhere give a chance for much noisy, harmless fun.

Anniversary Time is Here

Writing about anniversaries, the Oshawa Times states that this is the season of the year when many churches celebrate their anniversaries. It is the occasion of holding of special services when prominent clergymen are invited to address the congregations. These services are very largely attended and the church assumes more importance than at any other time of the year with the possible exception of the Christmas and Easter seasons.

It is fitting that the founding of a church should be marked as it provides the opportunity for taking stock of the progress over the years. They also, with the coming of the fall season, enable a rededication to the work of the church.

In many town and country churches anniversary time is taken advantage of by the taking of a special offering which goes far toward the balancing of the church books, as well as providing the money needed for heating during the winter months.

Anniversary time serves a very useful purpose in the life of any church.

OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

Written exclusively for The Stouffville Tribune by M. L. S Schwartz.

In face of the by-election results in several recent contests in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec and rumours accompanying them, the anticipated cabinet changes are likely to be made as expected earlier and this is hinted in well-informed sources on Parliament Hill. Likewise, an absolutely impartial view here is that the Government is in possession of an overall, though small, majority for the next session of Parliament planned tentatively for quite early in 1947. There are estimated to be on the relatively safe side for the Government no

less than 125 supporters in general and others include 67 Progressive Conservatives, 28 C.C.F., 13 Social Credit, and 11 others, with one vacancy.

The "go ahead" signal seems to have been given in Ottawa for the creation of the Canadian peacetime forces and these will be rather impressive in comparison with the similar armed forces in existence in other peacetime years in Canadian history. In fact, recruiting for both the Active and Reserve forces of the post-war Canadian Army is now proceeding steadily, involving new rates of pay, terms of service, revised pension scheme, and training opportunities in the technical branches, with the latest figures showing Active Service volunteers numbering no less than 15,000, leaving only about 10,000 vacancies, these forces being in addition to a

planned strength of about 180,000 for the Reserve Force. It is understood that officer ranks are well filled and in the Air Force there is an actual overflow of officer applications. Indeed, the R.C.A.F. had such a tremendous wartime organization, reduced now to 16,000, that, with the approval of Air Minister Gibson, Canadian material is being sought by the Royal Air Force of Britain where there is no difficulty in filling enlistment quotas but the relatively smaller size of the R.C.A.F., and available Canadian material may allow getting "better selection" by seeking certain vacancies to be filled in the R.A.F. by Canadians. The Royal Canadian Navy is likewise engaged in filling its peacetime ranks, offering better pay, better opportunities and better conditions in general for Canadian volunteers, aiming to bring its strength to the authorized 10,000 officers and men and with the reserve to 18,000 men.

It may not be known by the man-in-the-street across this country but incomes from tourists are extremely important for the people of Canada, with authorities in this capital making no attempt now to minimize its importance and emphasizing the practical side. Consequently, when a meeting was held in Ottawa between representatives of provincial and federal tourist officials, it was noted that strong competition for Canada in tourist earnings in this country was carefully discussed, though a report indicated that up to the end of August of this year no less than 675,558 Americans visited Canada for periods of 48 hours or more. In other words, Canadians may or may not get the tourist business, paying millions of dollars, so that a strong effort is going to be made by the authorities to attract tourists.

"We don't want to spend all our time looking after chickens and turkeys, cream and honey, and not know what is being done about the prices we are to get for them," said

Mrs. C. A. Campbell in Ottawa in dealing with Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the reasons why the members of the Women's Institutes should also belong to the Federation.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has given about 2,000 talks to over 150,000 children at the request of school authorities, with this being a distinct contribution in combating juvenile delinquency and it is recognized that these talks have proven most impressive upon the school children. "The policeman is your best friend," said Cpl. H. J. F. Ade in addressing an Ottawa school. "He is not interested in spoiling your fun. He wants to make sure you and your property are protected."

Americans who cross the international border into Canada for a short period, such as a day, merely to buy meat are not being satisfied, if they have no ration meat coupons, with this being done because of the huge numbers of such visitors said to be entering Canada for this purpose at various border points. Likewise, removal of price controls over meat in the United States is not expected to produce any sharp results in Canada, it is hinted in Ottawa, nor affect rationing in general. A really big mining conference will be held in this capital within the next several weeks, either at the end of this year or the start of 1947, bringing close to 2,000 mining men to Ottawa for a convention of the Canadian Mining Association. Three of the Dionne quintuplets came for a visit to Ottawa, though the purpose of this visit was not revealed and it received little publicity. A spokesman for the Government of France told newspapermen in Ottawa that France was desperately in need of manpower, requiring about 1,500,000 new workers. At the same time, a prominent official of the British Government disclosed in Ottawa that civil servants in Britain are

Littering the Streets

Stouffville takes pride in the smart, clean appearance of its Main street, especially the business section. But how many residents, boys and girls do their part to maintain such condition. Frankly, members of the council and others will tell you that the general public is very thoughtless.

We Canadians are a free people, too free sometimes or in some ways. Throw things any old place that is convenient for us. It is mostly thoughtlessness, and perhaps the authorities are a little to blame in not providing receptacles for waste materials. But that neglect hardly gives us the right to stroll down the street scattering refuse thoughtlessly as we go.

That empty cigarette package, that banana skin, chocolate bar container. Who cares? Certainly not the majority of people who throw these things about for someone else to sweep up.

The responsibility is on every citizen. Those who think and those who fail to think, and just go along littering the streets.

The Most Popular Government

John L. Lewis has warned the United States that another soft coal miners strike is in the offing, if the union does not get a new contract. Isn't it remarkable how this man Lewis can issue his threats to disrupt business in a big way, and get away with it. One would think that the U.S. government could go on a war-time footing just long enough to make it impossible for one individual to foment enough trouble that will surely bring disaster to the nation.

People will tell you that the government cannot or will not do anything about strikes that injure the whole country, because they are afraid of the labor vote. They will tell you that is why the Ottawa government stood by when the Hamilton strike went on.

They may be right, but it is about time that we came to realize that a government that would deal boldly with strikes would be more popular than the weakling that the issue. It is a mistake to think that if a government dared to outlaw a certain strike it would lose votes. We believe many strikes themselves would command a government for taking such a stand.

Graphite Aids Self Expression

It is a widely accepted view that "the pen is mightier than the sword," and by the same token, the lowly pencil should come in for its share of glory. The "lead" of pencils is formed of the mineral graphite, mixed with fine clay, the name graphite being derived from the Greek word meaning "to write." It is found in distant parts of the world, but also in Canada, examples of the natural mineral in the Royal Ontario Museum having been taken from the Ottawa valley. Artificial graphite has been manufactured in this country also, and possibly the "lead" in the pencil you used today came from Niagara Falls.

The Habit of Chewing

Health authorities of the South American republics are reported to be alarmed at the growth of the habit of chewing coca leaves. Coca is much different from cocoa, being the shrub grown in several republics from which cocaine is produced. There are said to be about eight million South Americans who are coca addicts to the extent that they are becoming mental and physical degenerates.

Coca-leaf chewing has been practised many years, and among the Indian tribes it is known as the "miracle leaf," because it produces a tingling sensation of the body, creating a sense of well-being and increasing endurance. It can abolish feelings of hunger and thirst for days, and gives a sense of physical power. Miners are said to be able to work 20 hours at a stretch under the influence of the coca leaf, and some mining companies give coca leaves as part wages, also time off for a chew. The result is, however, that the worker does not take sufficient nourishment and he begins to crack up in course of time.

Chewing, as distinct from eating, is an old and universal habit. In some tropical countries the natives chew the betel nut and red juice is constantly oozing from their mouths, but it is not apparently, a dangerous habit.

Millions of people chew gum, many men chew tobacco, and the man on the farm will chew a straw or a blade of grass—just for the sake of chewing.

New Playings! Friday & Saturday, Nov. 1-2
 "The Gay Senorita," Jinx Falkenburg
 "Rocking in the Rockies," M. Hughes

Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 4-5
'Smoky'
 FRED MacMURRAY and ANNE BAXTER

"FOTO-NITE" Thursday!
 "Confidential Agent"
 CHAS. BOYER and LAUREN BACALL
 Wed. and Thurs. Nov. 6-7
\$295.00 OFFER!

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-9
 "PINOCCHIO"
 Disney Feature Cartoon
 "DON'T FENCE ME IN"
 Roy Rogers—Dale Evans

STOUFFVILLE STANLEY Theatre of the Stars!
 Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 11-12
 "THE VIRGINIAN"
 Joel McCrea—Brian Donley

Coming!

now "frozen" in their jobs, though the war has ended such a long time ago, because it was feared that business firms are so eager to get workers that they might attract these persons away from the government's service by offering better wages. There is no truth in the report that "25,000 new Air Force shirts had been deliberately destroyed or torn up so that these could be sold as rags." This charge had been made in gathering of consumers league members but Air Minister Gibson declared in Ottawa that it was "wholly false."

We Solicit Your Business
FARR'S ELEVATOR
 CLAREMONT
 Phone Res. 38J. Office 38W.
Feeds! Feeds!
 We solicit your patronage for Poultry, Hog and Dairy Feeds, Western Oats and Barley, whole or chopped and delivered.
Salt!
 A carload of fresh Salt in large or small cakes.
Binder Twine.
 Binder Twine and Rolled Roofing.
 Claremont, Ontario — Phone 38W

Attention Men!

MONDAY NOV. 4th

The Stouffville Christian Men's Fellowship will commence their third season of meetings.

Mr. Oliver Raymer of Toronto will bring the address.

Mr. Kenneth Miller, tenor, will sing.

During the past two years the meetings have been profitable and inspiring.

Start this season off right by attending the first meeting.

COME — BRING YOUR FRIENDS

The Time — 8 o'clock

The Place — STOUFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Evening Shop Classes

MEN and OLDER BOYS

IN THE

Stouffville High School

Nov. 1st until April 1st

Woodwork — Metal Work — Farm Mechanics

One Evening per Week — Time to be Arranged

Registration Fee \$2 — Class number limited

Register at once with

L. C. MURPHY, B.A., Principal

First Meeting at the School Shop November 4th at 8 p.m.

