

Notes and Comments

Camp Life

With the approach of summer and the end of the school year, many parents consider sending their son or daughter to a summer camp.

In every well-organized camp, there are wise counsellors, who are familiar with the problems of youth. These camps are of great value in eliminating any anti-social tendencies, and team play is emphasized. The spirit of "camaraderie" which is built up by this team work, is of the utmost importance to a growing child. From being in a group of his own age, in the performance of camp duties and activities, the children learn what they owe to their homes, parents, the community at large, and to the nation.

While the child is not conscious of it, there is a process of education present in camp activities. They learn nature and folk lore, become experts at swimming, canoeing, playing ball, and making things with their hands. They receive instructions in first-aid, life saving and resuscitation techniques, and are made more self-reliant, courteous, and considerate of others. Fortunately, few campers are aware of the "educational" aspect of camping, but it is present nevertheless. The President of a great U.S. university is credited with saying: "This summer camp is the North American Continent's most significant contribution to the field of Education."

A few weeks at a summer camp have become essential for the children of many families. Even comparatively young children will benefit greatly from the disciplined freedom that they find there.

Decline of Penny

A single penny is still one-hundredth part of a dollar, one-tenth of a dime and one-fifth of a nickel. It still has its place in the every-day use of money to make right change. But the purchasing power of a single penny has gone into a sad decline. What can you buy for a single penny?

Today's children are unaware of the joys once to be had for a penny; of the fun and adventure available in bygone times when the spending of a penny required careful decision because it could buy

so many fascinating things.

If a child wanted to eat what he bought, he went into the neighborhood store where a wide assortment of sweets looked most alluring. Sometimes it was mighty hard to choose between a chocolate-covered marshmallow elephant or sugar coated peanuts which could be eaten behind a book in the schoolroom.

There were, in fact, so many different kinds of candy to be bought for a penny that a child looked as he dawdled, knowing all the while that he'd be late at home or school.

And if a girl or boy wanted a penny's worth of something to last longer than candy, there were jacks, marbles and even sheets of colorful transfers to stir imagination as well as laughter.

In those days, children knew the value of a single penny; to them it seemed a big piece of money. Now, one penny clutched in a small hand is a lonely thing; there's almost nothing it will buy.

Redesigning The Hen

Man keeps tinkering with nature in the hope of making improvements. A case in point is the interesting project of a Maryland scientist who is trying to develop a type of chicken lacking flight feathers and unable to fly.

The expert has been working on this scheme for seven years and says he now has a flock of 1,000 hens that can barely get off the ground. They cannot get over an 18-inch fence and their nests and roosts have to be close to the floor or, in the alternative, ramps or steps must be provided.

The explanation of all this effort to redesign the hen, says the Ottawa Journal, is that it would cost less to prepare the bird for market if it did not possess these strong flight feathers in both wings. The question is not one that concerns the comfort of the hen, and its security would be impaired if anything by its inability to quit the ground for a perch beyond the reach of hungry dogs — behind the experiment is the profit motive.

If the day ever comes when chickens are wingless, it would mean fewer problems for the amateur carver.

And the Ottawa paper thinks loss of this appendage wouldn't matter much to the hen, which is not too bright and not much given to flying or to introspection. It goes on to say: "Give a hen its daily ration of what a hen should eat and it will go gladly about its business of producing eggs and, in due course, its allotted function in the preparation of a chicken dinner. Feathers or no feathers, wings or no wings, it doesn't mean a great deal to the hen."

Maybe not in these times when baby chicks are raised in hatcheries. But there was a time when the mother hen would have been hard put to keep her children peeping cozily without having wings to keep them warm.

May Amend Veterans' Land Act

By Michael Starr, M.P., Ontario Riding

On Wednesday, May 19th, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Hugues Lapointe, moved that the House go into Committee to consider the following Resolution:

"That it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend the Veterans' Land Act to provide financial and technical assistance to Veterans for home construction, and also to provide further financial assistance to veterans presently settled under the Act as full-time farmers or who may be so settled in the future, and to veterans who may in the future become qualified as part-time farmers or commercial fishermen."

This Resolution presented by the Minister seeks authorization by the House, to introduce a Bill to amend the Veterans' Land Act by adding to it two new parts to provide veterans with new means of assistance to build their own homes and to settle on the land for full-time or part-time farming.

This portion of the Bill will be known as Part 2 of the Veterans' Land Act. Its purpose is to assist veterans of World War 2 and the Korean operations to become home owners. It is particularly designed to assist veterans who, because of the nature and location of their employment cannot be established conveniently on two or three acres of land as part-time farmers under the Veterans' Land Act and whose income is not sufficient to meet payments on the cost of a home built by a

regular contractor under the National Housing Act.

In introducing this Resolution the Minister expressed the opinion that in his experience he found that many veterans, if given technical guidance and supervision, were willing and ready to put their own labour into building a modern home and thus bringing the cost within their reach. The assistance proposed by the Department provides training courses which are planned to give the veterans who are concerned a general knowledge of house building, supervision and technical guidance during construction, financing on an interest-free basis while the work is in progress, the supply of standard plans and drawings, and free legal service up to and including deed and mortgage.

Under this measure there will be no conditional grant as for full-time and part-time farmers but veterans retain their right to re-establishment credit which, if it has not been used, may form all or part of the down payment required under this proposed legislation. This Bill authorizes the Director of the Veterans' Land Act to enter into a construction contract with an eligible veteran who, after a course of instruction or another suitable test, is considered to be competent to build his own house, and who has been approved for a loan under the National Housing Act.

Before entering into such a contract the veteran must either pay to the Director not less than \$500 to be used to purchase a lot, or transfer to the Director title to a suitable lot worth at least that amount, or make his down payment partly in land and partly in cash. There will be no restriction as to the size of the lot, provided it is suitable for a single-family dwelling.

This cash or land requirement will serve, first, as a security deposit during the life of the building contract and, second, as all or part of the veteran's down payment when the property is re-conveyed to him, subject to a mortgage in favour of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation or an approved lender under the National Housing Act.

The cost of construction, up to a maximum of eight thousand dollars will be financed through regular progress payments by the Director from a revolving fund of \$15,000,000. Upon the completion of the house the Director will convey title to the property to the veteran and register a mortgage in favour of the lender. The proceeds of this mortgage will reimburse the revolving fund.

This legislation was approved by all parties in the House and will be most welcome to veterans who have, up until now, been unable to donate their own labour to the construction of their home for the purpose of holding the cost down to where they are able to handle it properly. The Canadian Legion proposed this sort of plan in a brief which they presented to the Government last November.

Reel or Rotary

Buy The Mower Best Suited to Your Lawn

A popular question is which type of lawn mower do you recommend — the old-fashioned reel mower, or the recently introduced rotary-type mower?

The reel mower operates on the principle of revolving blades cutting against a stationary knife bar, while the rotary type features a single blade revolving at a high speed.

The answer depends upon the conditions involved. For the home owner who is fussy — the old-fashioned reel mower is recommended because it cuts more cleanly and evenly.

However, for an impartial opinion the old gardener refers to a series of tests conducted last year by James Tyson, head of the soils science department at Michigan State College, and an authority on lawn care.

Tyson points out that the arguments of both groups must be judged in the cold light of proven results.

"Before beginning this experiment, I believed that both types of power mowers had definite merit but that the decision to buy one type over the other depended greatly upon the situation in which they were to be used," said Tyson.

Setting aside several test plots near the college in which growth conditions could be

carefully watched, Tyson and his assistants planted one area with a fine quality Merion Blue Grass to simulate the "nice" lawn.

Another area was planted with a common variety of lawn grass which soon became infested with tall weeds and dandelions approximating the kind of lawn area not too well tended.

One half of each area was cut with a reel-type mower, and the other half with a rotary mower. Each machine was factory new to guarantee maximum performance for the

tests, and eliminate the possibility of unfair advantage of one type over the other.

Basically, Tyson found that for areas where the lawn is allowed to grow higher than four inches and contain fast-growing tall weeds, such as at a place in the country visited only on occasional weekends, the most satisfactory power mower to buy is the rotary.

On the other hand, he finds that for the average lawn that is mowed frequently and is made up of such grasses as blue grass, fescues and bent,

which are sown for their carpet-like appearance, the reel-type mower, with its superior cutting qualities, is generally recommended.

"The test swaths cut by the reel-type mower had an even, healthy appearance, whereas the swaths cut by the rotary mower appeared comparatively ragged and with a pronounced whitish-brownish cast that remained for as long as 48 hours," he said.

"However," he concluded, "the rotary will give excellent performance for 'problem' lawns."

A Man Should Plant A Tree

If a man plants a tree and watches it grow over the years he has a personal, intimate link with the faith and mystery of life. There is more to this experience of living through the cycling seasons than just the bread and butter of daily routine.

If a man plants a tree he has established a link with the virtues that govern our flowering world. He may not understand, but he has faith; and living without faith is dwelling in a house built on shifting sands.

Within a tree is the answer to problems that have beset man's mind since ancient days when he first watched the moon wax and wane and the sun rise and set. The seed of a tree is the kernel of life; cut open an acorn and within that shell is the embryo.

Billions of seeds fall to the earth each year and many fall on barren ground. Many start the life process and die, returning to the soil which gave them birth.

When a man plants a tree he can choose the species; he can select the spot; he can nurture it with food and water. Year by year as his own life passes he

can watch the growth of that which he has planted. The slender shoot reaches toward the sky; the small limbs become large, and the birds come to build their nests.

What is the meaning of life? What should man accomplish in his three score and ten? Who among men can give the answer? But this we know; this can give comfort and strengthen faith. If a man plants a tree he is working with a Spirit that keeps the planets in their courses and offers man an occasional glimpse of the light at the end of the trail. — Ottawa Journal

FOR PARENTS ONLY



"FIRST BABY"

By Nancy Cleaver

Do you remember when your first-born was put into your arms? There are few moments in all of life which can compare with this experience. There are none greater!

Mother forgets the long months of waiting, the hours of childbirth in the joy of feeling this warm, vibrant little bundle, with the soft hair, the long lashes sweeping the delicate pink cheek, the miniature nose and mouth. She slips one of her fingers into a tiny shell-like palm, and baby's fingers close tightly around hers.

"I had no idea a new baby was so small!" a young father said recently. "But when I looked through the Hospital Nursery glass at my son asleep in the tiny crib, did I ever feel big!" Many a father is almost as relieved as a mother that the baby is safely here—and is perfect in every way. If father had been counting on a boy, and a daughter arrives, any sense of disappointment soon disappears. Little girl babies have ways of casting a spell over their fond fathers!

One of the loveliest of good wishes for a child's future appeared in "Antony, A Record of Youth" by The Earl of Lytton. Antony writes these lines to Lady Gage, after the birth of her son. "May all the best things in the world be his all ways, and life fall on his shoulders like a brave, rich and beautiful cloak."

"The best" things in the world—all parents want just that for their children, and whether or not boys and girls will receive this heritage depends to a great extent upon the character and ideals of the parents. The mother or father must try to be what they want their children to become, because example is so much more effective than precept.

A well-adjusted, happy, successful individual usually comes from a home where parents enjoy their children. It is not easy to enter imaginatively into their joys and sorrows and

try to understand the reasons for desirable or undesirable behaviour. A good parent views problems objectively and not with a personal or emotional bias.

In a recent book Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage by R. P. Randall, there is a chapter "Four Dollars A Week," of the early married life of the future president of the United States.

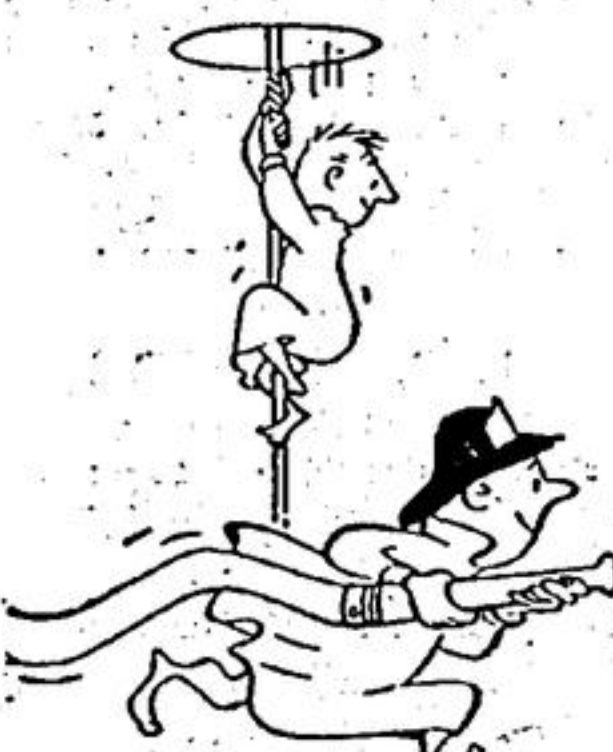
The author writes: "One can picture the anxiety in the deep-set eyes at the birth of his first-born, and then their lighting with the joy of fatherhood. A basic human experience had come to the Lincolns to bind them together; two heads bent over the perennial miracle of a newborn baby, flesh of their flesh. From this time on the name 'Molly' disappears from the record. Sometimes Lincoln called her playful pet names like 'Puss,' 'child-wife,' or 'little woman,' but mostly after this he called her 'Mother'."

Freda Newton Bunner, a Canadian poet who is the mother of three children has echoed the emotions of many parents as they look down on the lovely little form of their baby in these thoughtful lines which are quoted by special permission:

NEW-BORN

This is our child—at last! The dream of yesterday is past, And now he lies—a person—in my arms. What have we done? What have we done! Brought a new soul to birth, To face a lifetime on this earth. All lies ahead. And what's ahead? Oh God! What glory, or what dread? What can we do? We are not wise enough, we two, To guide this precious life we have begun. "God show the way!" We both must pray— We both each day.

In many a case the person who yields to the itch to write has a tough time scratching out a living.



"Nightgowns" for FIRE-FIGHTERS

WIDE-AWAKE fire departments may soon be turned out in a new heat-resisting suit built on the general lines of the old-fashioned nightgown. Made of reflective aluminum foil, this outfit gives the hook-and-ladder lads a lot more protection from extreme heat.

Canadian farmers have the same idea when they build their barns of aluminum sheet. Not only is aluminum fire-resistant but it also keeps barns cooler in summer because it reflects the heat of the sun; and in winter reflects back into the barn heat that would otherwise escape. In fact you might say that in the products of Canada's aluminum industry are reflected countless aids to better living—on the farm, in the city, in your own home. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

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