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OUR EDITORIAL COMMENT

Merchants Have Saved Situation

Last week this column carried a dreary note on the drab appearance of our Main St. for the Christmas Season.

chase of a number of strings of coloured lights, and these have been installed. Their installation has given a real boost to Christmas in Stouffville.

The bill for the small amount of power used by these very important lights, we understand is going to be paid for by the municipality as part of the street-lighting account, and this is as it should be.

Parental Rights

The law of the land is self-contradictory in what it says about the rights of parents.

In any comparison of relative weight, many people would rate the medical higher than the pedagogical view of what's necessary and desirable.

If they prevent a child away from school, they may be fined and perhaps even imprisoned for repeated offenses.

This is a tricky question; and nobody wants unnecessary restraints on popular freedoms, including freedom to try out unorthodox systems of healing. Yet it would perhaps be generally agreed that the state has a right, even an obligation, to save a child's life against his parents' wishes.

It may be argued that a child's need of blood is a debatable medical opinion. True enough, but his need to go to school is a debatable pedagogical opinion.

If any sect proposed to put into practice a belief in the living sacrifice of the first-born, the state would hardly tolerate that.

Hazards of Christmas

Soon we will be putting Christmas trees in our homes, and decorating both the homes and the trees with gay lights, tinsel and so on.

a fireproof Christmas tree, there are treatments of trees brought into the home for Christmas decoration that greatly reduce the fire hazard.

Ontario Fire Marshal W. J. Scott has pointed out that Yuletide fire losses follow such a consistent pattern year after year that they can be closely predicted.

No one would put open-flame candles on a tree, but frayed or damaged wires and connections, hot bulbs touching dry needles and overloaded circuits can be just as dangerous.

"No one wants to do away with the many age-old and beautiful traditions of Christmas trees and decorations," Mr. Scott said, "but we can reduce their potentially high fire hazard in a number of common sense ways."

While there is no such thing as

Springhill Will Survive

A Special Report from a New Brunswick Editor for Canada's Weekly Newspapers

By J. Louis McKenna, Editor, The Sussex Kings Country Record.

Only a few weeks ago, sight or sound of the name Springhill would cause millions of Canadians, Americans, Britons and many others to turn their eyes to their newspapers, or their ears to radios.

so easily. Men like weekly newspaper publisher Charles Allbon, who rebuilt his plant destroyed in a major town fire between the two disasters, are not going to abandon Springhill to the vultures just yet.

One evening in late October, there was a rumble in the town of Springhill, a mining town of some 7,000 people in western Nova Scotia.

And they are being joined by others who want to see a revitalized Springhill. The Nova Scotia Government, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council and others are taking a direct and practical interest in Springhill. Dominion Coal and Steel Corporation, which has announced the mine will not be reopened, is willing to do what it can to help Springhill.

That was Springhill a few weeks back. There is no need to recount the grim drama which went on during the next ten days, before all hope was abandoned for the miners trapped by the bump.

These are all good signs. The people of Springhill need outside help. But most important is that they have the will to help themselves. It is not going to be easy for men who know nothing but mining to turn to other fields of endeavor; but we believe that the people of Springhill would rather submit to this transition than leave the town with the main street which winds up and down the hill.

Their bodies were buried, but what of their spirit? Springhill was dependent almost 100 per cent on the mines for employment. Nine hundred of the townspeople were on the payroll. Other small industries, and commercial enterprises, were dependent upon the money the miners received for their livelihood.

As Christmas approaches, many thousands of Canadians can feel better in the knowledge that through donations they have helped make things a little easier for the people of Springhill. This will be a dull Christmas there. Memories are too recent. Hardship is too great for it to be anything else.

The underground bump was a bump above ground for the entire community. It left saddened families without wage earners. It left retailers without customers. It left what could be the beginning of a ghost town.

But during this time of celebration, for those of us who live elsewhere, let us remember that the origin of Christmas was the birth of One destined to suffer greatly. He overcame many crises before that Good Friday when a cross was erected on a hill to bear His body. His birth was a time of great rejoicing.

Yet we doubt if Springhill does become a ghost town. The spirit which sent men back into the mines again after a similar disaster claimed more than half the number of lives of the 1858 bump can't be disposed of

Let us, then, during this Christmas season of 1958, hope and pray, that the coal-blackened town of Springhill, in Nova Scotia, will arise again to its place of importance, and that in the years to come Christmas will be a time of great rejoicing there once more.

LAFF OF THE WEEK



BETWEEN OURSELVES BY Archer Wallace

Bearing Others Burdens

At the turn of the century, a lad named James McCord, living in Illinois, decided he would like to be a doctor, preferably in Africa. His father was a hard-up minister with just enough income to meet the family needs, and hardly that.

For Parents Only

Christmas Everywhere

by Nancy Cleaver

Phillips Brooks, the beloved minister who wrote the words of the hymn, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem,' for his Sunday School boys and girls as he recalled his visit to Christ's birthplace the year before, also wrote a lovely poem called, 'Christmas Everywhere.' In the first verse he pictures how universal is this holy celebration.

Christmas Comes Once More, an Italian sings. 'Oh! Night among the thousands, a Pole sings: "In a Manger He is Lying," a Frenchman sings "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella," a Ukrainian sings "Ring Christmas Bells," they are repeating the carols which belonged first of all to their own native lands.

"Christmas in lands of the fir-trees and pine, Christmas in lands of the palm-trees and vine, Christmas where snow-peaks stand solemn and white, Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright, Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight."

Many homemakers have been neighborly to New Canadian women who have settled near them. One Scandinavian woman admitted to her visitor, "The begin is hard!" For anyone moving into a new area, the adjustment to new surroundings is difficult, but this is especially true in moving from one country to another.

Christmas is the time when memories of childhood come crowding to the minds of grown-ups. For the over a million immigrants who have come to our land since the Second World War, how rich and varied are these scenes! Every country has its own distinctive Christmas celebrations and many New Canadians will be homesick for their own country and the old ways among familiar faces.

Because "the begin is hard!" by being hospitable at Christmas time, we can make it easier. Our nation has been enriched by the music, the art, the handicraft, the ideas and methods in new industries, of the newcomers to our shores. Our home life will be enriched, too, when we invite New Canadians to be our guests this Christmas yuletide.

Over forty nationalities have come to Canada. The largest groups are: British, German, Italian, Dutch, United States and Polish (in that order).

Cardinal and widespread hospitality will spread the Christmas Spirit everywhere throughout our Dominion among all our people in the country and in the city. Let us all do our part to bring "Christmas Everywhere!" this yuletide. (Copyrighted)

In one Northern Ontario centre in a course for immigrant home-makers, special attention was given to spices. The women, accustomed to European cooking, used more seasoning than the average Canadian recipe calls for. These New Canadians were eager to discuss their cooking methods and compare their recipes with favorite Canadian ones.

The horse, like the hicksaw, is almost a thing of the past in the woods industry. It appears only a matter of time before horses vanish completely from the pulpwood operations in northwestern Ontario.

Europeans have a real flair for original and tasty cooking. We Canadian women could delight our families if these newcomers would share some of their baking secrets with us. In return we could have them sample one of our popular dishes.

A Tibetan greets one of higher position with protruding tongue and hissing intake of breath. Extended tongue shows respect. Sucking gasps indicate a desire not to defile the air. Cuba and Israel have signed the first commercial trade agreement between the two countries. The pact, running through 1959, contains the most-favored nation clause with respect to duties and consular taxes.

Dymond Sounds Warning - Careless Driving Charges

Ontario's Minister of Transport, in an address at Sunderland last week, cautioned his audience not to be "lulled into a false sense of security" about what they have read in the newspapers concerning the charge of careless driving.

Judgment Fund must pay the money back. It is just a loan fund. Under the new legislation passed last May, it takes only 21 days for payment of a claim after judgment has been given.

The Hon. Dr. Matthew B. Dymond, speaking at the Ontario County Progressive Conservative Association's annual meeting, pointed out that a Supreme Court ruling, given earlier this week, was being appealed.

York Branch United Nations Association The first monthly meeting of the York branch of the United Nations Association was held on December 8, at the home of the president Mrs. A.V. McLennan.

Plan Quarantine Dr. Dymond discussed the new demerit system which goes into effect in Ontario in February 1959. "We cannot legislate good into the people," he said.

Describing in realistic terms the probable devastating consequences of nuclear war, he put the first aim of the United Nations the preventing of such a disaster.

Clean Record He termed "inaccurate" an article in the December issue of Liberty magazine discussing the demerit system. "Everyone will start with a clean sheet when the system begins," they will be given 12 points to begin with, as the article states, but will have a clean record."

The meeting concluded with a question period in which the pressing issue of the entry of "Red" China into the United Nations was discussed.

When the three month suspension has ended, the person starts with a fresh record. Once a driver is charged and points are added to his record, he begins a two-year period. If his total points reach 12 during this period, his licence is suspended.

A tape recording of Mr. Mowat's talk is available to interested groups. Speakers on United Nations affairs are also available on application to Dr. Underhill, King, City.

Hence, if a driver has three points on his record in March and in May another three points are charged against him, he has a total of six. Two months after he was charged with his first violation, the original three points charged are taken off his record. The remaining three are not removed until two years after they were added.

The precious-noble metals are so defined because of their beauty, excellent physical properties and resistance to corrosion and oxidation. They are platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, osmium, gold and silver.

Dr. Dymond predicted that by the end of 1959 all appointee driver examiners in the province would be out of business. By then all persons applying for licenses will be given examinations by specially trained employees.

Booming, industrial Sao Paulo, mushrooming at the rate of 35 new buildings a day, now is challenging Brazil's largest city, Rio de Janeiro, home of 2,650,000 people. It hopes eventually to surpass Buenos Aires, busy capital of Argentina and South America's largest city.

New Appointees "There are presently 10 examination centres across the province now," he said. Forty-seven percent of the people applying for licences are failing. Another reason for stiffening the laws is to make certain a person can read and understand the traffic signs.

And no other form of headgear they say is as effective as the wide-brimmed top hat in keeping soot out of a chimney sweep's eyes.

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