

CORRESPONDENCE ON
THE ESTHER CANTATA

Dear Sir:

In reading The Monitor of the 26th issue I noticed the letter written to you by Arthur C. Chesley requesting information regarding the Cantata Queen Esther over forty years ago. As I am about the oldest person living who sang in the Cantata at that time, and also one of the main characters, I will answer his question as far as my memory permits.

To begin with, it was not the people of Lawrenceville who rendered it at that time, but the singing school class taught by Prof. N. H. Phinney, of Lawrenceville, at West Paradise. The characters were as follows:

King Ahasuerus, Ernest R. Morse
Queen Esther, Blanche B. Saunders
Mordochai, the Jew, Sam Saunders
Haman, Frank J. Poole

Zerish, Haman's wife, Eunice A. Shaw
Other smaller parts: J. Parker Mergeson, E. Clarke Moore, Mrs. Ephraim Beckman, Mrs. Winchester Daniels; also a large chorus of singers, and flower girls, with Miss Lavena Mergeson as organist. With the exception of Miss Blanche Saunders, who took the part of Queen Esther, the characters are all living but scattered all over the world. I had the pleasure of attending the same Cantata given by the talent of Lawrenceville a few days ago and as a good judge of such performances, I would say that it was perfect in every feature. The singing, both solos and choruses, were well rendered and would be difficult to beat even by the best of singing groups. Although all the characters rendered their different parts perfectly, yet special mention must be made of the Rev. Harry Backlund, who took the part of Mordochai the Jew, and acted the Jew to perfection. His voice is sweet toned and his pronunciation very distinct. The costumes were beautiful. I do not think there were any in the Cantata recently held in Lawrenceville who were in it forty odd years ago. I hope this will prove satisfactory to Mr. Chesley and would like to hear from him personally.

Yours respectfully,
FRANK J. POOLE
West Paradise, Dec. 21st.
R. R. No. 4.

Premier King showed that the policy of his government is to ship Canadian goods through Canadian ports. The policy will greatly benefit Halifax. Vote for a supporter of the King Government.

Ship your Cream to MCKENZIE'S CREAMERY at MIDDLETON, N. S. Satisfaction guaranteed. We pay twice a month. Price paid the Patrons for the first half of December was 41c, a pound Butterfat for special grade and 42c, for first grade. WRITE FOR PARTICULARS.

DETAILS have just been announced concerning the "Aorangi," the new motor ship that is being built by the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand. The motorship is under construction at the Clyde yards of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company and when completed will be the largest motorship in the world, having a displacement of 25,000 tons. On the Pacific she will be exceeded in size only by the "Empress of Canada" and the "Empress of Australia" of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which is her agent.

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There are now over 500 miles of streets in Winnipeg, and many of the names are still in dispute. The best of the first flush.

NOT long since, Fort Garry was the point of exchange between the traders and hunters of the plains—the bartering point of the great fur country to the west. The fur traders flocked around the fort, snatching every opportunity for trade and thus, within a stone's throw of Fort Garry, was begun the foundation of the city of Winnipeg. The lake sixty miles to the north had long since been named "Winnipeg," a contraction of the Cree Indian "Win-nipig" or "Winnipeg," meaning "Win"—murky, and "Nip"—water, so the name was adopted for the new metropolis.

Across the river was the old Catholic settlement of St. Boniface and one ranges up and down the corridors of time and history walking its streets, overshadowed by great old trees, gazing in the pellowed cathedral and buildings, with the imprint of time on them. It was as early as 1817 that a band of French soldiers made their headquarters at Point Douglas and established St. Boniface.

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WILL PROPOSE PREFERENCE TO
AUSTRALIA

Ottawa Reports Canada Offer Commonwealth Wide-Open Reciprocal Agreement.

Ottawa.—A wide-open reciprocal preference, not only on certain specific commodities, but on all the articles of commerce which the two dominions produce, will be proposed by the Canadian government to Hon. Stanley Bruce, Premier of Australia, when he comes here at the end of January.

This is the authoritative intimation here. What is to be proposed is, that Canada extend to Australia the preference she gives to Great Britain and that Australia reciprocate by giving to Canada her British preference.

They are quite dissimilar, the Australian preference being lower than that of Canada. It will not be suggested, however, that they be equalized. Although the Australian tariff is high and no preference between the two dominions prevails, Canada's exports to the Commonwealth last year were about \$2,000,000, as against \$2,000,000 of imports.

The probable rejection of the preference proposals of the Imperial Conference, especially if it applies to currants and raisins, will, it is believed here, improve the chances of a Canadian-Australian agreement.

Service in the Methodist Church on Sunday at 3 o'clock by the Rev. Robt. Thomas.

Miss Dorothy, our school teacher, has gone to her home in Melville Square, to spend her Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Judson Longmire, of Hillsburn, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. David Milner, on Christmas day. The annual school concert, was held on Dec. 19th, the night being a very nice moonlight one the hall was filled to its greatest capacity. The programme consisted of dialogues, recitations, drills and music. The scholars were well trained under the influence of their teacher, Miss Lane.

At the close there was a well-filled Christmas tree and Old Santa distributed presents to all the school, and also presents from the school to their teacher. A collection was taken for school purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Weir and family visited Mrs. Weir's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hudson, of Hillsburn, on Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Austin Halliday, of Hillsburn; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hudson and family, of Lake Brook, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Anderson, on Christmas Day.

Several of our young men arrived home very recently to spend the winter months at their homes here. Miss Alice Longmire, of Hillsburn, is visiting her cousin, Mrs. Ruth Robinson, over the holiday season.

Wishing the editor and staff and all its readers of The Monitor a Prosperous New Year.

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DEEP BROOK

Mrs. William McPadden, of Clements, is spending a week with her daughter, Mrs. Carl Nichols.

Miss Ethel Purdy is spending the Christmas vacation, the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Purdy.

Miss Clara M. Sulis is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Sulis, for the Christmas season.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. A. Rice spent Christmas with Mrs. Rice's brother at Upper Clements.

Miss Wanetha Burrel, of Acadia Seminary, Wolfville, is enjoying the holiday season with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Avard Burrel.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Sherman entertained over Christmas Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Snell and son Chester of Bear River, and son Lawrence, of Sydney.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Sulis entertained a family party on Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roope and family and Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Shortliff, all of Digby.

Miss Annie Ruggles is spending the holiday season with her parents at Bear River East.

W. A. Spurr, of Kentville, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Spurr.

Mr. and Mrs. Edson Ellis and daughter Jean, of Eastern Harbor, C. B., were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hutchinson.

Robbie Skinner, of Weston, N.S., spent a few days of last week calling on relatives and friends at Deep Brook.

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hutchinson spent Christmas at Lunenburg, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Rice.

Mr. S. A. Spurr and daughter Pauline left here on Monday for Boston. Pauline will enter the training school for nurses at the New England Hospital for women and children. Mr. Spurr, after a short visit in Boston, expects to go to St. Petersburg, Florida, for the winter months.

Miss Margaret McClelland is spending the Christmas vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McClelland. Mrs. Howard Adams, with her son, Vernon, and daughter, Myrtle, spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Blaney, Stony Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Elburn Berry spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Berry.

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Here and There

Exports in Canada's inter-Empire trade last month exceeded imports by over \$12,000,000. Against imports from 23 countries belonging to the British Empire, amounting to \$15,713,000, Canada exported goods amounting to \$27,885,000.

Noel Victor Fearnough, aged seven weeks, son of a farmer of Morrin, Alberta, the youngest child on record to travel alone, left pool, England, in charge of officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Steamship Lines throughout the trip.

An experiment in shipping Canadian peaches to England has proven successful. The peaches were packed in small boxes and placed in cold storage, reaching London in fine condition. There is likelihood of an increased demand for Canadian peaches.

Representative of the best sheep and swine blood of Great Britain, 33 animals imported from the Old Country arrived in Regina, Saskatchewan, recently. There were 19 sheep and 14 hogs in the shipment. The animals were bought by the government for farmers in the province.

Canada's highest lookout station has been completed and will be ready for use next year. It is situated on Mount Carleton, near Revelstoke, British Columbia, and is 8,623 feet above sea-level. It will be used for the detection of forest fires and for meteorological and other observations.

The Canadian McIntosh red apple is the champion dessert apple in the British Empire, so judges at the Imperial Fruit Show, which opened in Manchester recently, adjudged. They also decided that Cox orange pippins from British Columbia, on the whole, are the best of the sixteenth century exports from overseas, and winners, therefore, of the "Daily Mail's" fifty-guinea cup.

What is declared to be a world's record for the transportation of grain has just been achieved by the Canadian Pacific Railway. In one period of 24 hours there were moved from Winnipeg for the head of the lakes 1,776 loaded cars. The best previous record, also held by the Canadian Pacific Railway, was 1,700 cars, moved east on October 25th, 1921.

One thousand young buffalo will be taken from the Dominion park at Wainwright, Alberta, and turned loose in the north in the region in which wood buffalo are found. Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior, announces. This will prevent the slaughter of these animals made necessary by the increasing size of the Wainwright herd.

A dispatch from London says that the gold medal of the British Dairy Farmers' Association has been awarded to the Government of Ontario for its collection of dairy produce, including bacon, dead poultry and eggs, at the Dairy Show held there recently. First prize in the colonial farming section, namely the silver medal was won by the Ontario "Beckwith" Association of Guelph, and the bronze medal was awarded to H. Leclerc, of Montmagny, Quebec.

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"A Guid New Year."

The New Year we believe an especially propitious time to say we feel deeply indebted (to you) the general public for the many favors shown us throughout the year. May the incoming year bring you an ever increasing share of Joy and Prosperity.

STRONG & WHITMAN

PHONE 22.

RUGGLES' BLOCK

A
CHRISTMAS
WISH

To our Good Friends everywhere, one and all,
We wish a very Merry Merry Christmas
AND
Prosperous New Year

It has been your loyal support that has made our STORE what it is today, and we are deeply appreciative

BUCKLER & DANIELS

Phone 90

QUALITY STORE

Bridgetown, N. S.

SIR HENRY THORNTON'S
MESSAGE TO EMPLOYEES

Appreciative of Year's Work And His Confidence in Future.

The following signed message from Sir Henry W. Thornton, K.B.E., President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canadian National Railways, to officers and employees of the system, is published in the December issue of the Canadian National Railway's Magazine:

To Officers and Employees:
I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For twelve months we have been engaged in a joint enterprise and any success we have met with has been largely due to the fine spirit and efficient service rendered by officers and employees.

I thank you one and all for the way you have responded to the demands upon you and for the excellent service you have given the company. Especially, I wish to thank those employees who come in contact with the travelling public for the courtesy they have displayed. They have, indeed, treated every passenger on our railway as a guest of the company, with the result that not only have our men found satisfaction in their work but they have materially added to the good opinion of our undertaking existing in the minds of the public.

We will face the oncoming year with enthusiasm, courage and a determination to establish still higher our standard of service.

With your continued co-operation and support, I am confident the day is not far distant when we shall justify the wisdom of those who were responsible for our National Railway System and make that System a source of profit and pride to the people of our Dominion