

GERMANS CAN'T SEE BENEFIT OF LEARNING ENGLISH

Interesting Letter From School Teacher Working Among New Canadians

RETAIN OLD CUSTOMS

Manitoban Writes of Experiences With Germans In Saskatchewan

Regina, Dec. 23.—Teaching new Canadians is not all play. It has its hardships and its unpleasant side, which are lightened only by the teacher's confidence in the ultimate value of his work to the community and the country. Sometimes he is welcomed with open arms by a community anxious to have its young people educated in the language and ways of the country. At other times he meets with apathy or opposition from the parents. The following letter which has been received by Dr. J. P. M. Anderson, Director of Education among new Canadians, from a young teacher in a district where Russians, Germans and Polish predominate, shows some of the difficulties that have to be overcome in Canadianizing the new settlers in the province:

The people of this district are made up of Russians, Germans and Poles. Many of them come to Canada from the United States and most of the children and young people were born there. Others came direct from the old world. There are 40 children enrolled between the ages of six and seven, while there are a few who were fourteen and they are in grades as high as the fourth. There are 14 children in the junior division of grades I and II, in the senior; four in grade II; eight in grade III; and three in grade IV.

Lack of Interest

Little interest is manifested by the majority of the parents in the education of their children. Many of them can neither read nor write in any language and they seem content to let their children grow up almost illiterate. Some of them just send their children to school because it is compulsory and keep them out almost of any pretext; as soon as the children reach the age of 14 years they say farewell to the school, no matter what grade they happen to be in. School is kept in operation but a few months each year and while it has been open German has too often been taught to the neglect of English. However there are some who are anxious to have their children in school. One father came to me shortly after I came here to try to get his child, a girl of 11 years, in school. He lives out of the district, almost four miles away, and had never been able to get his girl in school, owing to the teachers saying it was filled up. There has been a larger attendance this year than ever before and yet the school is not quite filled. This girl has been one of the most regular in attendance, walking both to and from school all summer.

Last winter the people of this district had in operation for some time a private school, where German only was taught. The teacher, who conducted it taught here last summer and would have been back again but that he could not get a permit to teach. The people wanted him as he was a German, so when I came here I was looked upon as a usurper and treated accordingly. I would have quit, only I wasn't going to let him or anybody else, for that matter, have that much satisfaction. All kinds of stories were started by this teacher and others were spread around. I was supposed to be an atheist. One Sunday he came out to where I was boarding and tried to get the people to turn me out, thinking I could not get another boarding place and would have to leave. He started some kind of petition which was signed by two members of the School Board, and sent to the Department by the Secretary. I believe it asked for the removal of the chairman, who was about the only ally I had at first. None of their efforts have met with much success and now they are beginning to "come around."

Night School Needed

There is no night school conducted here, and I do not believe there ever has been, although one is certainly needed, as but very few in the district have a working knowledge of English. Shortly after coming here, I offered to try and give any who wished a working knowledge of English, arithmetic and simple business forms. Even though they were coming nothing and it would cost them nothing, none of them ever bothered coming to the school in the evenings.

Some of the people can speak English fairly well, while others, who have been in English-speaking countries for 20 years, know no more English than when they first came to the country. I personally know one family who have been here for 17 years and they do not know a word of English. They cannot see any need of it, as they have their own business men with whom they do their business and they have their own church conducted in their own language. They do not take any interest in the doings of the world outside. The pupils pick up English very quickly, but as it is only at school they hear it and have a chance to

speak it, and school is not open for long in the year, the progress has not been very good.

The conditions in the homes of the people certainly are not what one would think would make a healthy class of people; but despite the fact that they violate practically all the rules of hygiene, they are a very healthy and hardy people. Some of them sleep from six upward in a room and with the windows tightly closed Winter and Summer. I have been in most of their homes for meals and have also stayed all night in some, and seeing the lunches the pupils bring to school, I often wonder how they manage to keep body and soul together. Many a time I have wished there was a lunch outfit in the school, for even though I am a boy, I think I could cook something more substantial than dry bread and black coffee. I do not believe there are any early marriages. All that have been married this summer have been at least 18 years old. The birth rate is very high and conditions would make one think the mortality rate among infants would be high, but such is not the case in this district at least.

Trustees Indifferent

There are really no social gatherings around here—at least what an outsider would consider one, although these pupils seem to enjoy themselves at their picnics. I have never been to any of their dances, as they are always held on Sunday, and I cannot see my way clear to taking them in. I tried to get up a picnic at the school different times, but owing to successive crop failures money is very scarce and I have never succeeded.

The trustees are about the same as the average person around here. Although they all have large families of young children, they do not take the interest in their education that some of the other parents do. The chairman of the board can speak English fairly well and the Secretary can speak a little, but the other one has no knowledge whatever of English. None of them can read or write but very little. They are too ready to listen to kickers, instead of giving the teacher the support they should. I believe all these new Canadian schools should have, instead of a School Board, an official trustee appointed by the Department of Education, at least until they are better able to look after the affairs of the district themselves.

Teacher's Residence

I am boarding with a family of Russians near the school. They are trying to use me well, and I do not like to be a kicker, but I believe there should be a cottage built either here or between this school and the one west of here. They do not know anything of English ways and do not speak the language, and I would prefer "ballooning" than to remain here. If the cottage were built between the two schools, one teacher would be company for the other, and it certainly would lessen the loneliness there is at present. It would make teachers more independent to carry on their work without fear or favor.

The school is a fairly modern frame building, built cottage style. It is heated with a Waterbury heater, and the grounds are well fenced. Some slight changes should be made in the classroom to better the lighting arrangement, which at present is not very good.

The school stable and outhouse should be moved from their present position, in the centre of the ground, to the back. I have tried to get a strip of ground plowed around the grounds, so that trees could be planted, but the board has no interest in this.

A German Wedding

I don't know as I could begin to write about all the interesting experiences I have had here, for it has all been more or less of an experience for me. About a month ago I received an invitation to a German wedding, and as I knew the contracting parties and had never been to one of their weddings before, I went. There were two brothers married to two sisters, and the father and mother of the boys, who had been married for 50 years, were married again, as seems to be the custom here. They were married in the church near here and the ceremony seemed rather strange. After that, we went to their home and then the wedding dance started. It lasted for three days and nights, but two days and a night saw me satisfied. The conduct of the people may be all right, but I'm afraid if it had taken place in an English district, all would have been liable to prosecution for violation of the Temperance Act. The people here seem to regard liquor as I would water and use it just as freely.

Still Want German

When I first entered Normal last Winter I hardly knew the meaning of the word "foreigner." I was born and brought up in a district where it is almost as much of a novelty to see one as it is here to see one who is not. After hearing yourself and the official trustee for Manitoba, Mr. Stratton, I believe, speaking on conditions as they existed in these foreign districts and the work that was to be done, I thought I would like to try and do my share towards bettering them. I have had a second-class certificate, obtained in Manitoba, and last Winter took my second class Normal in Regina. The salary is \$1,200 per year.

There are no private schools around here. English is the only language

HON. T. A. CRERAR AGAIN TAKES UP TARIFF QUESTION

Addresses Annual Convention of Ontario Farmers in Toronto

NO ATTEMPT TO BE MADE

To Sweep Away All Tariffs and Make Clean Break, Says Crerar

Toronto, Dec. 19.—An enthusiastic audience of delegates to the annual convention of the United Farmers of Ontario welcomed the Hon. T. A. Crerar, President of the Grain Growers in Massey Hall, Thursday night, when the Western man was the chief speaker at the final session of a somewhat busy day. The most important item of interest at the business session during the day was the election of R. W. E. Burnaby, of Jefferson, Ont., President of the Farmers' Co-operative Company, in succession to R. H. Halbert, M.P., in succession to R. H. Halbert, M.P., in succession to Premier E. C. Drury. Mr. Halbert had been at the head of the U.F.O. since its organization six years ago.

As had been anticipated, Mr. Crerar dealt with the tariff question, and vigorously criticized the policy of protection. He summed up by saying: "The protective tariff confers special privileges upon those who are beneficiaries of it, and for that reason the organized farmers of Canada are opposed to the principle of protection in our tariffs. The protective tariff has been the agency of many of the corrupting influences in the political life of our country. If the sources of the campaign funds in our country should be exposed to public view for the last 40 years, and I am sure I am on safe ground in making this statement you would find that one of the greatest contributing agencies to campaign election funds have been the manufacturers. They have done it because they wanted their protection maintained, and they were willing to pay the price."

Most Important Plank

Mr. Crerar read what he termed was the most important plank in the farmers' platform, that wherein the system of protection is declared "economically unsound and morally wrong. Loud hear, hear, and applause from the audience followed this recital. "There has been some criticism," Mr. Crerar went on, "that the farmers seek to sweep away all tariffs; that they are going to make a clean break with the thing, and that nothing in the way of tariff will be left. That is not true."

Hon. Mr. Crerar said he did not wonder that the government of the United States had repealed their offer of reciprocity to Canada, but in commenting on the farmers' plank of reciprocity in natural products and food-stuffs, he said: "I can conceive of nothing that would more benefit the farmers of this country than to have that arrangement with our neighbors to the South. Here is a population of 110,000,000 to 115,000,000 people who in fifteen or twenty years will in many respects become a food importing nation. Canada is a nation that should supply her needs in that respect."

Mr. Crerar congratulated the U.F.O. and said that it was a natural thing for the farmers of this country to organize. In his own opinion, agriculture was the greatest industry in the Dominion. However, he made it clear that he did not believe that any one class should have the sole right to rule in this country.

At the meeting Thursday night a number of resolutions were passed including the following: Demanding the abolition of the Canadian Senate. Recommending that the expense of the Canadian Wheat Board be paid out of consolidated revenues. Demanding that orders-in-council prohibiting importation of certain economic and religious books be rescinded.

Expressing doubt as to the value and advisability of hydro-radial railways involving the expenditure of millions and unnecessary duplication of railways, and requesting that the Legislature "go slowly" in this matter. Recommending that a definite good roads policy be put into effect in Northern Ontario, and Recommending that the proposed sale of the T. and N.O. Railway to the Dominion Government be postponed, pending the securing of public opinion in the matter, and further that the presidency of that railway be placed in the hands of a competent and experienced railway official.

ASKS \$10,000 DAMAGES—CLAIMS FALSE ARREST

Saskatoon, Dec. 22.—John Elliott, of Lloydminster, has filed suit for \$10,000 damages against John Winkeweder, of Rosthern. Elliott charges that Winkeweder made false charges against him and caused his arrest, as a consequence of which he was kept in jail twelve hours.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTION RETURNS

Indicate Return of Premier Hughes—Vote Counting is Somewhat Complex

Sydney, N.S.W., Dec. 20.—A careful examination of the rather complicated election returns indicates that the new House of Representatives will consist of 36 Nationalists, seven Farmers, and 32 Laborites, the total membership of the house being 75.

The Nationalist Prime Minister, W. M. Hughes, has by his personality and war record retained his seat in the historic goldfield of Bendigo, but according to the count so far complete, four ministers have either disappeared or are in imminent danger of disappearing.

Both sides bid high for support of the soldiers, each promising \$25,000,000 in cash as war gratuity for active service men, but the results indicate that there was no great khaki rush to either side. The last House of Representatives consisted of 49 Nationalists, three Farmers and 23 Laborites, so there has been a notable gain this election for the Laborites.

The new preferential system of voting renders the present count unreliable of the ultimate result, but there undoubtedly will be a Nationalist majority, because half the Senate consisting of 36 members, is elected triennially, and the khaki election of 1917 returned 18 Nationalists, who still have three years to run. Certainly some Nationalists have been returned this time, assuring Hughes of a majority there.

NEW ZEALAND ELECTION RETURNS GREAT SURPRISE

Massey Sweeps Country While Ward Fails To Win a Seat

A "DRY" VERDICT

Intimated by Incomplete Returns—Liquor Interests Supported Ward

London, Dec. 20.—High Commissioner for New Zealand announces the general election results as follows: Reformers, 49; Liberals, 18; Labor, 10; Independents, 4. This gives the Government fifty seats and all other parties combined 30.

Licensing returns are incomplete but prohibition seems to be carried. The results come as a surprise to New Zealanders. Sir Joseph Ward, on broke from the Peace Conference returned with the Ward-Massey coalition. It was generally believed that Massey had lost the electors confidence but the poll has entirely confounded the prophets, Massey having swept the country and Ward himself failed to secure election.

If prohibition proves to have been carried the result will entirely reverse results of a few months ago, when the wets won mainly through a fairly sold soldiers vote. Ward had the liquor interests solidly behind him and although Massey was believed to be only lukewarm towards prohibition, it seems he received the prohibition vote. Ward advocated home rule and Massey is an Ulsterman.

LABORITES TRY TO FORCE ELECTION IN GREAT BRITAIN

London, Dec. 19.—Rumors that it is intended to dissolve parliament in February are absolutely denied by Government whips, and party agents assert that no preparations have been made for a general election. It is stated in political quarters that these rumors have been traced to the Laborites, who are said to be working for an election, recognizing the possibility that they may be able to force a crisis.

SUGGEST MEANS OF ADJUSTING CONTRACTS

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—Means of adjusting certain contracts made while the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was open were submitted to members of the Government by a delegation from Winnipeg. The delegation consisted of Dr. Magill, H. J. Symington, J. W. Botterell and L. C. Sellers. The representations made by the delegation were taken under consideration.

THIRTY-TWO I.W.W.'s GUILTY UNDER ESPIONAGE ACT

Kansas City, Dec. 19.—A verdict of guilty on all four counts in the indictment was returned by the jury in the cases of thirty-two members of the I. W. W., on trial in the Federal court in Kansas City on charges of violating the Espionage Act.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH LARGE CANTEN FUNDS

Suggestion Made That It Be Handed Back to Soldiers

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—The very substantial sum of \$35,000,000 is in dispute as to disposal at Ottawa. The amount has been brought back to Ottawa by Lieut.-Col. Cherry, of the foreign pay and audit branch of the Militia Department, and represents Canada's share of the profits of the canteen system of the British Expeditionary force, which came out of the fighting men in France and England. The organization under which the profits were made is the army and navy canteen board in Great Britain.

An organization has been formed under Sir Julian Byng which is now seeking suggestions as to how the money should be spent or disbursed. The formation of the Army and Navy Canteen Board was designed to do away with private catering among the soldiers and with the enormous individual profits made thereby.

It is contended that as the profits in question, of which Canada's share is \$35,000,000, are the result of the patronage of Canadian soldiers, the amount should go back to the soldiers and the suggestion is made that it should be added to the funds already at the disposal of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, under the supervision of General Ross, and utilized for the purpose of alleviating need. There is some objection to this. It is contended in the first place that the Patriotic Fund is a "charity" organization, and that it has no right to disburse money to which the soldiers are morally (if not legally) entitled. It is a civilian body, moreover, and it is claimed that the money should be disbursed by a soldier board.

TRAIN CREW RESCUES PEOPLE ASLEEP IN A BURNING DWELLING

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 17.—Engineer D. McKenzie, in charge of C.P.R. train number three, was swinging along early Monday morning a short distance West of North Bend when he saw a farm dwelling ablaze. He stopped his train and with other members of his crew, ran to the house, smashed down the front door and hauled out six people, who would probably have been burned to death had they not been rescued. The house was consumed in a few minutes and the unfortunate occupants, standing only in their night clothes, were taken aboard the train to the next station.

RUSH ANARCHISTS OUT OF U.S. TO SOVIET RUSSIA

Special Trains Carry Undesirables to Join Goldman on Homeward Journey

New York, Dec. 20.—Anarchists and undesirables from all sections of the United States were being rushed by special trains last night to Ellis Island to join the large colony of radicals already assembled there awaiting deportation to Soviet Russia. Immigration officials said the transport which will take the radicals, including Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman, on their homeward journey, will probably sail Sunday. Two alleged anarchists, who are said by the police to rank with Berkman and Goldman as radical leaders arrived last night from Chicago, in custody of detectives. They were Charles E. Ruthenberg of Cleveland, Ohio, and Isaac Ferguson, Winnipeg, indicted last November by the Grand Jury for statements in a manifesto issued following the convention of the Communists.

SIX MILLION KIDDIES IN U.S. UNDER NOURISHED

Probably One Result of the High Cost of Living, Says Mrs. Blair

New York, Dec. 19.—Six million school children in the United States are suffering from malnutrition, probably largely as the result of the high cost of food, Mrs. Elmer B. Blair declared here. Mrs. Blair made the statement in an address before a conference of farmers, merchants and educators at Columbia University, called to consider means of reducing high living costs.

WET NEW YEAR'S IS A POSSIBILITY

War Time Restrictions and Regulations May Cease to Exist Any Day

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—New Year's Day may be ushered in for the Canadian people with the tidings that war order restrictions and regulations have ceased to exist. The Government has ceased to speculate as to when the proclamation of peace will come and has come to the conclusion that as peace conditions prevail as far as Canada is concerned, Canadian people no longer should be linked with war restrictions which are their own domestic affair and which are not international in character. As a consequence it is quite within the realm of probability that all war orders, with the exception of that dealing with enemy property, shall be repealed before the end of the year. This includes the prohibition restrictions regarding importation, manufacture and inter-provincial traffic of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

The order regarding enemy property is not merely of domestic importance. It has an international significance. The terms of peace provide for methods to deal with the phase, but it is not considered wise that there should be any interregnum by which the regulations should cease to be in force. The Government has had under consideration the repeal of other war restrictions for some time past. The War Measures Act, itself cannot lapse until the proclamation of peace has been issued from the Governor-General. But since there is some question as to whether that proclamation can be issued until all enemy countries, including Turkey, are brought into the fold of peace, it is not felt that Canada which, to all intents and purposes, is at peace, should continue to burden herself with war restrictions of a purely domestic character.

It is possible that these orders may be repealed for Christmas. It is more than probable that the New Year will be issued in by their abolition. The Government does desire that there shall be any recourse to the courts in the way of testing the validity of such orders-in-council. The Canadian Express Company is threatening to take the verdict in the case of a consignment of champagne addressed to the Country Club, to a higher court. Moreover, it is stated that a brief is being prepared for a test case to the Supreme Court on the general validity of the liquor restriction. The Government desires to avert such test cases. Should the orders be repealed, then it would be immediately legal to import, manufacture, and engage in the inter-provincial traffic in liquor throughout the Dominion.

SERIOUS RIOTING AT ALEXANDRIA EGYPT SUNDAY

Incipient Disturbances at Cairo on Monday and Tuesday

Native Lawyers Declare Week's Strike as Protest Against Milner Mission

London, Dec. 20.—Serious rioting occurred at Alexandria, Egypt, Sunday, one Egyptian policeman being killed, according to belated cables received from Cairo. Incipient disturbances occurred in Cairo Monday and Tuesday, especially in native quarters, where the tram cars were stoned, but the police were successful in preventing serious disorders. Demonstration was carried out there by 250 students Monday resulting in the arrest of 11 who will be court-martialed. Native lawyers have declared a week's strike as a protest against the arrival of the Milner mission, while fifty per cent of the Government employees are said to favor similar action.

WINNIPEG BOY FELL THROUGH ICE; DROWNED IN THE ASSINIBOINE

Winnipeg, Dec. 17.—Police reported that William E. Sheppard, four-year-old son of Walter Sheppard, 507 Jessie avenue, fell into the Assiniboine river and was drowned. The body was recovered. The little boy is said to have been playing on the bank near Jessie avenue, where a sewer outlet has kept the river open.

BOMBS IN BARCELONA

Barcelona, Dec. 17.—The second of two bombs exploded at midnight on Sunday, causing considerable damage. There were no victims. The first explosion occurred near the stock exchange, injuring a bicyclist.

SEED EXCHANGE BEING OPENED IN THIS CITY

To Which Farmers Can Send Samples of Grain They Have For Sale

CANVASS OF DISTRICT

Now Being Conducted—Demonstration Table Being Set Up in Mr. Weir's Office

In order that every farmer will be able to procure his seed grain for next Spring in this district, a seed exchange is being opened up in the office of the Agricultural representative of this district. This will be good news to the farmers for under the new arrangement they will now be able to come into Brandon and secure their grain from samples shown in Mr. Weir's office. A canvass is now being made of the district to ascertain the amount of seed grain available for sale in this district, and the farmers are being asked to submit the quantity, samples and price of any grain they have for sale. A large demonstration table is being fitted up and those short of seed grain will be able to come in and get all particulars from Mr. Weir.

Not only is the seed exchange to be of benefit to the local farmers, but it will also help the districts which are very short of seed grain for next Spring. The Deloraine district for instance is calling for grain as the crops in that district did not yield anywhere near the amount required for the crop of 1920. Several cars of oats and wheat have already been asked for, and should the demand in Brandon for seed grain in this district not exceed the amount on hand, it is proposed to ship the grain to the districts most in need of the seed grain next Spring. Practically all of Southern Manitoba will be calling for seed grain and the Brandon scheme will assist in procuring the necessary amount after the local needs have been satisfied.

A stock exchange for the farmers is also to be established. Any farmer having stock for sale or wanting to buy is being asked to communicate with Mr. Weir and he will keep close watch on the supply in this district, and be in a position to know where the available stock is located.

THRIFT STAMPS AND SAVINGS CERTIFICATES NOT TO BE WITHDRAWN

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—The Government has decided to continue the sale of Thrift Stamps and Savings Certificates at banks, postoffices and other agencies, it is announced by the Minister of Finance, Sir Henry Drayton. However, to eliminate unnecessary expenditure, the National War Savings Committee and the different paid provincial representatives and head officials are relieved of their duties from January 1st, and the cost of propaganda will be saved.

The 25c Thrift Stamp will remain in sale, but the present War Savings stamp will be withdrawn and a new savings certificate issued in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100, maturing three years from date of purchase at 5 1/2 per cent, on the investment.

DEATH OF SENATOR LANDRY

Quebec, Dec. 20.—Senator August Charles Philippe Landry died this morning at the age of 73 years and 11 months.

FOR SALE A large fully MODERN BUNGALOW

Situated in West end, contains living room, oak flooring and artistic brick fireplace, etc., den, dining room, four bedrooms, kitchen and pantry, linen closet, bathroom, etc. Full sized cement basement, 27x40 feet, soft water cistern and hot water heating. This is an ideal home and in the best of condition. For further particulars apply J. F. WALLACE Box 1517, Brandon.

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