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Bernard Scott a Freshman Orator

Grandson of Watford Citizens Wins First in Detroit College Oratorical Contest

"THE END OF WAR"

The following interesting article, clipped from the Detroit News of Saturday last, vividly describes the oratorical contest staged in that city last Thursday evening, when Bernard H. Scott, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scott, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott, of Watford, won First Prize and a silver medal with his oration, "The End of War."

"Bernard H. Scott, 19 years old, 5231 Vancouver avenue, who won first prize in the College of the City of Detroit's third oratorical contest at the college auditorium, Thursday night, was not one of those originally selected to participate in the contest, it was learned today.

Seven classes in public speaking at the college under the direction of Dr. V. V. Phelps were to be represented by one orator each. Accordingly, each class conducted try-outs, members of the class choosing the student to represent them. Scott was not one of these seven and would not have competed had not Dr. Phelps reserved the right to choose an orator-at-large. Scott thus competed as an "extra."

"I simply had to deliver my oration," he said later. "The ideas I wanted to express had been rambling around in my head for weeks and I had to let go."

Scott's theme was "The End of War." He stressed the point that the citizens of the world had the choice of ending war or being ended by it. He dramatically painted the horrors of the recent world conflict and the disasters which followed in its train. He said:

"We now know that science has discovered a gas so deadly that a few bombs containing it could destroy every vestige of life in our city. To consider the possibilities of the recently developed engines of war is to arrive at the conclusion that we must end war or be ended by it. We must become more sensitive to its horrors.

"The strength of a nation lies not in battleships or in material wealth but in men—men of character, men of principle, men of love. The trouble with the world today is a disease of the heart.

"Arbitration, education and legislation are good as far as they go but they aim at the outside. We must get to the hearts of the peoples of this world. Brotherly love among all nations can bring about more toward this end than the greatest documents ever drawn up by statesmen.

"The future lies before us like a closed book. Shall it be a future of war or a future of peace?" Scott is a freshman at the college.

Showered by Words.

"What is the fourth dimension?" "Well, ladies and gentlemen, the fourth dimension originally was believed to be the fuzz on a cylindrical ball. Modern scientists have proved, however, that—"

"Why is a spaghetti?" "Spaghetti, my dear sir, has a peculiar and intimate connection with the fourth dimension. History tells us that the discoverer of the fourth dimension lived solely on spaghetti during the many years they were conducting their research Spaghetti, moreover—"

"Give us your opinion of capital punishment and also explain metaphysics as briefly as possible."

"The study of metaphysics, friends, has often driven men to drink. Drink leads to crime and crime to capital punishment. Aristotle, it seems—"

"How far is up? Give five reasons."

What a Relief.

"Well, well, that is an interesting question. Now—"

"Time!" called the chairman. The speaker, his brow perspiring, sighed and withdrew. The chairman waited for silence.

The next speaker and more heckling. Indeed, heckling was quite the vogue in the auditorium of the College of the City of Detroit last night and an enthusiastic crowd was there to do it. It was the scene of the college's semi-annual oratorical, a wonderful opportunity to all. Many persons in the audience, it seemed, had been saving up their clever inquisitive bits for years. All one had to do to gain immediate public recognition was to reverse that old quip into a question and join heartily in the laughter.

But some of the speakers simply refused to be out-witted. One/or two, in fact, appeared to employ

mental telepathy by anticipating the heckle before the heckler was done heckling.

Become Personal.

Toward the end of the contest, the questions became almost too personal to merit answers. Some of these were: "Are you in love? If so, why?" "What have you got to do with dinosaurs?" "Would you like to have a massage?"

The more dignified part of the evening's program, the orations, came first. Seven men and one woman participated, their orations being limited to five minutes. All the speakers showed evidence of excellent training and all were well received.

The heckling contest, though shorter and less profound, elicited more interest. Each speaker was allowed two minutes to battle with a steady stream of impertinent and, usually, altogether nonsensical questions. Six men and one woman entertained.

The oratorical contest was won by Bernard H. Scott, 5231 Vancouver avenue, who received as first prize a silver medal. His oration was entitled, "The End of the War." Gordon T. Hill, of Mt. Clemens, who spoke on "Idealism vs. Money," won a bronze medal as second prize.

Others who took part in this contest and their subjects were: Aaron J. LaBoe, "Our Opportunity in South America," William B. Hall, "Worldism," Edythe K. Ramber, "Sororities and Fraternities," Harvey H. Hinz, "The Evil of Idleness," Harry A. Perry, "The Business Man of the Future," and Earl H. McCauley, "Abraham Lincoln."

All of the speakers are students in the college public speaking classes under the direction of Dr. V. V. Phelps and his wife, Dr. Helen Phelps. Each class selected representatives in the two contests.

The judges of the contests were Allan Campbell, president of the Board of Education; Arthur H. Little, editor of "Business," and Harvey Campbell, secretary of the Board of Commerce.

WILLIAM Y. FITZGERAID SPEAKS ON "THE BRITISH EMPIRE."

Strathroy Boy Wins District Title

Cameron Corrigan of Strathroy annexed the district title in the Western Ontario secondary schools association oratorical contest for boys in competition last Friday night with boys from Sarnia and Watford collegiates.

The girls title was won by default by Miss Helen Donald of the Sarnia collegiate institute.

The addresses were all of great merit and the judges at the close mentioned the great difficulty they encountered in separating the merits of the competitors.

Sheriff A. J. Johnston presided and the judges were Professor Allen and Collin, of Western University and T. E. Clark of the London normal school staff.

Able Orators.

The subject taken by the winner was "Heroes of Our Polar Expeditions," and very ably he dealt with a subject providing a wealth of scope. Harold VanHorne the Sarnia contestant in excellent manner, spoke of the benefits of peace and how they might best be attained and W. Y. Fitzgerald, representing Watford, dealt with the wonders of the British Empire.

Sarnia collegiate hopes now rest with Miss Helen Donald, who though without opposition, gave the good sized audience present last evening, a splendid talk on "Physical Education." Miss Donald will tax the eloquence of any girls she may meet in the further stages of the contest.

Mr. Fitzgerald has brought quite an honor to the Watford High School, in getting second place in this contest, this being his first attempt. Mr. Corrigan who won first place in this contest, we understand, has previously been in similar contests. We are informed that the judges stated it was pretty hard to decide who should be the winner.

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The new M. C. R. bridge at Niagara Falls was officially opened for traffic at noon on Monday.

Brooke Boy Goes to Moscow at Soviets' Request

"ERNIE" BOLTON OFF TO RUSSIA TO ATTEND PARLEY ON WORLD AGRICULTURE

Russian Govt. Defrays Expenses.

Resigns Post as Director of Farmers' Union to Accept Invitation.

The following article, clipped from the Saskatoon "Star" of Saturday, February 7th, is of special interest to Watford vicinity as it discloses the important advancement made by one of Brooke Township's own sons: Alton Ernest Bolton, a son of the late Isaac Bolton, who resided on the Brooke and Enniskillen Townline. Here "Ernie" Bolton was raised; after learning his trade as an iron moulder he called to the West overtook him and he left Ontario in 1909 and settled down to "homestead" in the Kelliher district. The following year he was married to one of Brooke's daughters, Miss Emma Higgins, a daughter of the late James Higgins, and a sister of Thomas and David Higgins, still residing on the Brooke-Warwick Townline. Miss Higgins had attended Watford High School and will thus be remembered by several.

Many of Mr. and Mrs. Bolton's former friends in Old Ontario will be pleased to learn of the signal honor conferred upon him by inviting him to the World Conference in Russia. Mr. s. Bolton is remaining in Saskatoon during the absence of her husband.

Guest of Soviets



A. E. BOLTON

Of this city, who is going to Moscow to attend a conference on agriculture called by the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

"Alton Ernest Bolton, of Saskatoon and until recently of Kelliher, Sask., is leaving this afternoon for Moscow, Russia, on invitation of the Soviet Agricultural Council of Russia, to attend the World International Agriculture conference called by the council to discuss economic and financial problems of agriculturists. Mr. Bolton who accepted the cabled invitation a short time ago, is making the trip entirely at the expense of the Soviet Agricultural Council.

Director of Union.

"Mr. Bolton has been a prominent member of the Farmer's Union of Canada, occupying the position of director of the union as representative of Last Mountain constituency, and has been one of the union's most successful organizers, his territory being the Kindersley and Saskatoon constituencies. He has resigned from both positions in the union to undertake his mission of attending the world agricultural conference.

"Mr. Bolton has been a close student of farm problems, and is the author of several pamphlets, dealing with farm economics, among them one dealing with Canadian banking in relation to agriculture, and it is through this pamphlet which reached the Russian agricultural council, and the invitation to attend the conference was sent Mr. Bolton. He is a Socialist in his economic views.

"He will be accompanied by Sam Simanoff of Kinley, who speaks Ukrainian, Russian and German and who will act as Mr. Bolton's interpreter. Mr. Simanoff has been a resident of Canada for 15 years, and is a correspondent of the Russian Agricultural Council on Western Canadian agricultural conditions and methods of agriculture.

Returning in April

"Passage will be by way of New York or Halifax to England, then through France and Germany to Russia. Mr. Bolton expects to reach Moscow in three weeks, and to return to Saskatoon by the middle of April.

"On his way home, it is Mr. Bolton's intention to spend a short time in London, Eng., where he will meet members of the executive of British Labor party and committee on foreign settlement of that party. Mrs. Harrison Bell and F. G. Plant, secretary of the Labor committee on foreign settlement, visited Saskatoon during the past summer and consulted Mr. Bolton in regard to Western Canadian conditions for settlement at that time.

"Mr. Bolton was born on a farm near Watford, Ontario, in 1884, of English parentage. He came to the Kelliher district in 1909 where he homesteaded and for several years has farmed successfully. In the provincial election of 1921, he was an Agrarian candidate against J. M. Parker, government candidate, in Touchwood constituency, where he was defeated by a majority of 504. He is known as a fluent speaker. In addition to his farming experience, Mr. Bolton is a journey man iron moulder.

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