

L I T E R A R Y . . .

THE HISTORY of HALIBURTON

It may interest readers of this page to know that within a few hundred yards of the Gazette office, the oldest literary society of Canada is functioning with a briskness that denies its age. In a country where antiquity is revered that has managed to attract nine hundred and sixty members and hold six hundred and forty-four meetings is a fairly hoary institution, since these figures prove that some time must have passed if so many ordinary Canadians attended such an impressive number of 'literary' meetings. It has taken sixty-two years to make up these impressive totals; "The Haliburton" (the official title of the ancient club in question) was founded in Windsor, Nova Scotia, in 1884.

At its inception, the Haliburton was planned as a combined college literary society and a fairly pious memorial to the memory of Thomas Chandler Haliburton, at that time the most impressive figure in the world of letters who had any connection with the university of King's College. Since 1884 the Haliburton has enlarged its scope and activities, until now it is concerned with the encouragement of Canadian writing in any form or style, and by its constitution, committed to the collection of literary Canadiana.

Although there is a close connection between the Haliburton and King's College, since its meetings are held in the King's buildings, and there are a large number of King's professors, alumni, and students on the Haliburton rolls, membership is open to all residents of Halifax and vicinity, the only condition being that applicants give the executive sufficient proof of being male. Haliburton meetings are strictly stag, which is probably one reason for the club's longevity. Members have the right to give papers before the club, in any department of literature that they please, and in addition are encouraged to amplify, clarify, or defy the efforts of other members in this direction. Members of the Haliburton also have access to an excellent collection of rare books and pamphlets of considerable importance in Canadian literary history which has been accumulating through the years by the efforts of generous members. This collection is at present under the care of the librarian of King's College.

Since 1895, the Haliburton has conferred fellowships upon distinguished Canadian literary men; the first of these fellows being Sir Charles G. D. Roberts and the last, appointed only last year, Thomas Raddall. Among the other men who have received this recognition are the late Dr. Harry Piers, curator of the Nova Scotia Provincial Museum, the late Archdeacon F. G. Scott, and Dr. William Inglis Morse.

The meetings of Haliburton are characterized by an informality that is likely to shock newcomers. The topics of the paper, the comments of the audience at the end of the papers, and the discussions

that arise as a result, provide a form of entertainment that cannot be equalled by any other local organization. And because the Haliburton is interested in antiquarian research, many of the papers given by persons with a private source of information throw a light on odd and interesting facets of local history. The musicians among its members provide the club with their special contribution to its cheer, and even those whose literary and artistic talents are limited to after dinner speaking, are given their chance to shine when the various toasts are given and answered during the supper. Yes, meetings of the Haliburton provide food for the body as well as the soul, which is a rare feat among literary societies. On the whole, the members and friends of the Haliburton are of the opinion that their club is a wonderful and particularly rare literary society.

—Howard Greer

Nova Scotia ... Viewed With Alarm

When a minister of the provincial government states that six provinces are in a bad way, and one is "desperate", "it gives one furiously to think"! Perhaps he was referring to the late baseball shambles? Ah, unfortunately he was talking about our provincial economy.

Are we desperate? Is Nova Scotia faced with gradual depopulation, snowballing liabilities and deteriorating resources?

Nova Scotia is indeed suffering from depopulation. During the last half century there has been a steady movement of young people from the Maritime area to the continent. As a result, the unproductive percentage of the population, the very young and the very old, has increased alarmingly. The remaining taxpayers are thus threatened with an ever-increasing tax burden they cannot hope to carry, or even attempt to raise. Taxes have been further increased to assist those who have suffered from the monotonous decline of our producing power.

Coal mines are a case in point. Once a producer of superior coal, Nova Scotia is now mining a product of such poor quality that its sale is possible only through subsidies. Merely to maintain employment, the government is running one Cape Breton mine at an annual deficit of approximately \$90,000.

Again in point, are our 40,000 acres of marshlands, which are, without doubt, the richest, and, potentially, the most productive soils in the province. Through the neglect of dykes, the lack of concerted effort, through insufficient

(Continued from last week)

Germany has never been self-supporting in food, and the war had drastically reduced the normal output. Besides this, the deportees were being moved from a normally food-surplus area into the Western region, which was already on the verge of famine. On top of these discouraging factors, Germany was, as the Economist puts it, "at the end of the world food queue"; Mr. Churchill however, told the commons that he saw no cause for alarm in the prospects of the deportation. As the Economist says, the Potsdam powers could hardly have failed to foresee what followed, and one must assume that they willed it.

What followed was inevitable. Many died in transit. Their removal "was, in the main, carried out with extreme brutality and an utter lack of internal organization." The arrival of the remainder definitely brought on the inevitable famine. Sir Jack Drummond, scientific adviser to the ministry of food, described the rations as being at starvation level. The Russians sent no food to the Western zone, from the food-surplus areas which they occupy.

Under international law it is the duty of the occupying power to feed the inhabitants of the occupied zone, a duty on which the

British government used to insist during the war when proposals were made to relieve Axis-occupied countries. The British attitude might (or might not) be summed up in a statement made by Mr. Hebert Morrison, when he said: "We do not love the Germans, but their coal . . ."

The Economist lays the blame where it belongs—on the shoulders of our upright selves. One cannot excuse it as payment in kind, because we have always considered ourselves to be morally superior to Nazi bestiality. If one were to attempt to excuse it as such, the punishment has been unevenly divided; war criminals at least had prison rations and clothing, but many women and children died of undernourishment and exposure during their transportation.

In the earlier part of the article the Economist considers the moral implications of our policy. Our **Threatened Values**, a book written by Mr. Victor Gollancz, is mentioned as having laid down the fact that Western civilization has "gradually evolved a certain moral code, a system of values centred on respect for human personality." Practice has not always conformed to them, but their denial was rare. The author infers from what he calls the "slavers" attitude of the British that these morals are being lost. Who, during the war were so upright and moral as Great Britain and the United States? The fact remains, however, that the gov-

ernments of these two countries saw fit to aid in the expulsion from their homes of thirteen million people, sending them to areas suffering from a shortage of food. The principles of the Atlantic charter were abandoned in favor of a policy, or lack of it, compatible with Russian aims.

From these facts one might infer that the opinions of the great majority are based on material and selfish values rather than on moral principles, that they concern themselves more with what is advantageous than with what is right. It seems likely that only humane policies will introduce humane considerations into international affairs. Decent treatment will probably produce decent Germans, while the existing policies are more likely to further embitter them. Since our common sense seems somewhat limited, we had better apply what morals are left to us, if we are to expect a truly better world.

Lord Vansittart probably spoke for many when he criticized the German churches for supporting their country's part in the war and its program of expansion. Some might wonder how our churches look on the deaths of German mothers and children, and our apparent abandonment of Christian principles.

The conclusions of the Economist are worth anybody's attention, and it certainly needs no recommendation from me. **Peace Without Honor** will be remembered until such a time as the people of our countries are considerably more open-minded than they are at present.

Sur L'Enfer

A slight way back, when men were men,
And trains were running well,
A chap named Dante edited
A tourist guide to Hell;
Described the nine select hotels
Intending to entice
More tourists to this lovely spot
Rather than Paradise.
Just where he ended up himself
Is no affair of mine.
Although I feel inclined to bet
On hotel number nine.

Milton, however, disagreed,
(As taught in English 2)
Because he liked being different
And thought his blood was blue.
This may explain the attitude
Which he in places takes
That Hell was quite a nasty place
And full of horrid snakes.
He died one day in his old age
While justifying God,
And now he's probably lying drunk
In some celestial quod.
—Anon.

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in
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FROM MILWAUKEE"**

In the fisheries, some measure of federal control is probable. Meanwhile, the local government is encouraging the use of draggers, which, it seems, are not as harmful as trawlers.

This note of cheer turns sour when we view the field of labor resources. Enthusiasm for vocational education is widespread. The splendid efforts pending in that sphere will, however, encounter huge obstacles in the lack of competent instructors, and in the dearth of industry wherein such skills are practised.

Industrial decline has, of course, other causes besides lack of initiative and the drainage of craftsmen. The most damaging

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