

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1925

CHUMS OF SCHOOL DAYS HONOR THE DEAN OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Charles G. D. Roberts Speaks of New Brunswick at Informal Lunch Reception Given by Body of Representative Citizens

That there is something in the very atmosphere of New Brunswick that keeps us young and our affections warm; that wherever he journeyed about the world he came across sons of this province holding high and mighty positions; that the Bluese race is a restless energetic one seeking romantic adventures in the outer world rather than accept greater chances of success right at home here, were some of the high-lighted viewpoints of Dr. Charles G. D. Roberts, dean of Canadian literature and son of New Brunswick, at an informal lunch-reception tendered him in the private salons of the Admiral Beatty Hotel Sunday by the Fortnightly Club and the University of New Brunswick Club, a party of 50 representative citizens.

The lunch party arose at 8.45, an additional half hour being spent in personal chats with the distinguished guest.

REMINISCENCE

It was a delightfully reminiscent occasion. Intimacy and open-heartedness colored the speeches and Dr. Roberts confessed that his reply was not the speaking of his mind but rather the promptings of his heart. It was a deeply sentimental occasion to him, he averred, to return to his homeland after so many years in distant places and sit at table with chums of his boyhood days in college, pupils of his tutoring days in Maritime seats of learning, among kith and kin and the cherished friendships of a life-time.

W. J. S. MYLES' TRIBUTE

W. J. S. Myles, principal of the High School, a former president of the Alumni of the U. N. B., presided in the absence of W. F. Burditt, president of the Fortnightly Club, who was ill. A. F. Blake, of the Fortnightly Club, acted as vice-chairman.

After the King had been honored, Mr. Myles said it was a distinct privilege to those present to thus greet a native son of New Brunswick who had attained not only leadership in the Canadian world of letters but was one of the outstanding literary favorites of the English-speaking tongue. It was deemed fitting that the Fortnightly Club as a literary society should not let pass this opportunity of honoring the dean of Canadian literature and University of New Brunswick graduates desired at the same time to recognize the most outstanding of the children of their Alma Mater. Mr. Myles paid graceful tribute to Dr. Roberts' high note of Canadian citizenship, struck in his poetical works particularly, claiming for it a powerful influence in fostering a national spirit and giving distinctiveness of character to the nation.

Dr. Roberts had ever expressed the feeling of the Canadian people better than any other of its writers and it was the speaker's hope that he would be long spared to sing the same sweet song.

The noted author struck at sectionalism and proclaimed a broad Canadianism. After a long absence from New Brunswick was glad to welcome him.

back. The lunch was not a formal affair, by any means, said Mr. Myles, and the guest of the occasion was not expected to make a formal reply to anything that might be said.

Mr. Myles then called upon Dr. W. White, as a former college chum of Dr. Roberts.

DR. WHITE'S REMARKS

Dr. White said it was more than 40 years since he and the honored guest were young fellows together in the University of New Brunswick, indeed it was fully 35 years since he had had the pleasure of meeting him personally. Time had not wrought any great changes in "Charlie," as he chose to call Dr. Roberts—for to the English-speaking people he had become prominent enough and endeared, enough to admit of this familiarity—he could see in him today the same youthful spirit and good-fellowship that was enjoyed by his chums at boyhood age.

It was with pride that Dr. Roberts' friends cherished memories of these early days for in the realm of literature he had made himself peculiarly attractive with his wonderful nature stories, lyrical and national poetry. In infinitely masterful style his engrossing tales of the denizens of the woods, his interpreting of the voices of the Wild, in flower and in leaf, had given this son of New Brunswick high position in the world's wealth of prose and verse, not to say preeminence in Canadian literature.

He had brought honor to the New Brunswick university, honor to his birthplace and it was with a great degree of pride and pleasure the speaker said him his respects.

The chairman next called on Rev. H. A. Cody.

FORMER PUPIL SPEAKS

As a pupil of Dr. Roberts during his occupancy of a chair in Kings College, at Windsor, N. S., Rev. H. A. Cody paid a striking compliment to his former teacher. As he sat in his little log hut in White Horse, Alaska, during a missionary sojourn, the author, clergyman said memories of home and his old college days were added pleasures in reading Dr. Roberts' charming verse and fiction that he had occurred to Mr. Cody that the Maritime Provinces of Canada—particularly New Brunswick—were not heralding the fact that such literary eminence as Roberts and Carman belonged to this part of the world. In Scotland and the Old Country in general the birthplaces of noted poets and story writers were veritable shrines to tourists. In Nova Scotia, the Land of Evangeline was the objective of thousands of people because of the locale of the pathetic story of the Acadian maid immortalized by Longfellow.

Now that tourists were seeking the recreational advantages of New Brunswick why should not the fact be made known in literature and guide books that this was the home of such notable literary men as Roberts and Carman? Before closing his observations Rev. Mr. Cody expressed his sincere satisfaction at being present at so hearty an occasion with Dr. Roberts at the same board.

DR. ROBERTS' REVERIE

"Frankly," said the distinguished guest at the lunch-party as he rose amidst a warm greeting, "I should prefer not to say anything at all. I do not feel like speaking," he said. "I prefer thinking. Indeed," he continued, "it is not my brain that is speaking now, it is my heart. Here I am surrounded by chums of my boyhood days, other old friends and kinsmen and I really cannot tell you how deeply it affects me."

Then, in an easily-spoken ramble through memories covering nearly half a century, Dr. Roberts charmed his hearers with recollections so intimate and locally colored that he held them rapt.

A BLUENOSE SHEIK.

He characterized the average New Brunswicker as a restless energetic personality. Wherever he went he felt at home or he felt like a stranger. He was full of life and energy, he said, with folks from this Bluenose country occupying leading positions and contributing largely to the progress of the place of their adoption. Apropos he cited the amusing incident of an Arab orchardist in the environs of Tunis, North Africa. As was his wont the author-traveler engaged the roadside native in conversation, using the French tongue. In halting sentences the sheik-like foreigner enquired if his chance acquaintance was not English.

"Well, yes, I am sort of English," was the reply, "one brand of English; I'm a Canadian."

"What part of Canada?" quickly quizzed the Arab, eyeing the doctor closely and wrapping his flowing raiment about him.

"The east of Canada," said the doctor, "the Maritime Provinces." "Shake," said the sheik, "that's my country too!" and he extended a brown bony arm, giving the author a hearty shake.

The story elicited rounds of merriment which was increased when Dr. Roberts made some humorous references to the New Brunswicker's Mohammedan customs and his protestations that in deference to his Canadian upbringing he was indulging the luxury of two wives only, although Mohammed allowed him four, according to the rules.

SAYS CARMAN BEST POET.

It was a glowing compliment that Dr. Roberts paid Bliss Carman, his noted contemporary in Canadian letters, by claiming for him leadership as our national poet. Dr. Roberts made this assertion in mild protest against Rev. H. A. Cody's claim that he (Roberts) occupied that position. In this opinion the speaker said he was supported by no less a poetic author-

EUROPE VISIONS NEW ERA AS FRANCE AND GERMANY EMBRACE



Signing of pledge by France and Germany never to go to war again is being hailed in Europe as the dawn of a new era. Photos, taken at Locarno conference, shows the men who framed the pact, which Italy and England are signatories, both agreeing to go to military assistance of either nation which should be victim of violation of this pledge. Austen Chamberlain, foreign minister, headed British delegation; Aristide Briand, foreign minister, spoke for France; and Chancellor Luther and Foreign Secretary Stressemann represented Germany, in the negotiations.

ity than Swinburne, of England himself.

CANADIAN UNITY.

Before closing the guest of the party spoke of Canadian unity. All over my people everywhere," he said, "to be sure we have our Maritime Rights—but they are just rights—but we are none the less loyal Canadians."

"And now, gentlemen," said Mr. Roberts, in taking his seat, "I have said much that I had not thought of saying, some of it in a spirit of frivolity but underlying it all there has been a very deep emotion."

"I am home again, home amongst my fellows."

THOSE PRESENT.

Those present at the lunch were Rev. H. A. Cody, Col. E. C. Weyman, Postmaster Alex. Thompson, J. Frank Owens, Dr. C. L. Emerson, John N. Flood, William Brodie, D. Gordon Willett, William A. Denham, Douglas

Fritz, Dr. H. D. Fritz, Dr. J. V. Anglin, D. Carleton Clinch, Dr. J. W. Manning, W. S. Fisher, Richard Hooper, A. F. Blake, Inspector G. J. Marr, Walter R. Pearce, E. L. Rising, Miles E. Agar, Dr. H. L. Spangler, W. J. S. Myles, P. A. Dykeman, Dr. C. M. Pratt, Judge H. O. McInerney, Sheriff A. A. Wilson, Walter H. Golding, J. Fraser Gregory, H. I. Knowles, Dr. J. Roy Campbell, Arthur N. Carter, Dr. W. W. White, Hon. Dr. W. E. Foster, Dr. Murray MacLaren, Richard O'Brien, Duncan G. Lingey, C. A. D. MacAllister, Randolph H. Bennett, and F. W. Daniel.

Bad Weather Seen Staying Some Time

TORONTO, Ont., Oct. 25.—The unsettled condition of the weather which has prevailed practically since Sept. 21, will continue for some time, said Sir Frederick Stupart, chief of the weather bureau here Saturday.

"We have had a most unusual season of autumn cold. I think it is many years since the mean temperatures have been as low as they have, since Sept. 20."

SHUNS PLEBISCITES

Ferguson Declares Ontario Government Will Determine Policies.

TORONTO, Ont., Oct. 25.—Declaring that his announcement merely meant that the province of Ontario was back to responsible government and that in the future the government would determine the policy to be followed on any issue, Premier Ferguson Saturday refused to elaborate to any extent his remarks before the Hotel Men's Association Friday, when he announced that in future there would be no further plebiscites or referendums while he was in power.

The premier added: "I merely meant that if we decide to continue the O. T. A., we will take the responsibility for that and if we decide that the law can be improved in any form, we will also take the responsibility for that."

Miss Frances Kerr has left for New York for a vacation trip.

JUSTAMERE CLUB TEA MUCH ENJOYED

Halloween Event Conducted in Hall of Charlotte Street Baptist Church.

A successful and greatly enjoyed Halloween tea was held in the hall of the Charlotte street Baptist church on Saturday afternoon under the auspices of the Justamere Club of the church. The decorations were specially attractive. Each of the three tea tables was centered with an illuminated pumpkin and black candles in yellow candlesticks also graced the tables. The lights were softly shaded in yellow. The waitresses wore yellow canoe-shaped hats trimmed with black cats.

FAIR COMES TO END

Prize Winners at Church of Assumption Event Are Announced.

The Assumption church high tea and sale closed its most successful three night run on Saturday when there was a large crowd in attendance and many fine bargains were secured. The prize winners and the winners of the drawings on Saturday night were as follows: Door prize, first, \$10 in gold, Mrs. Charles T. Russell; second, 98 pound bag of flour, Mrs. W. J. Dalton; considered linen runner, donated by Miss Genevieve Wetmore, won by Rev. F. Walker; linen and flit crocheted tray cloth, donated by Miss Genevieve Wetmore, won by Rev. W. M. Duke, dressed doll, donated by a city firm, won by little Miss Carmela Kindred, of Montreal; fancy dressed doll, given by Mrs. Edward McMurray, won by Mrs. J. C. Coles, 21 Rodney street; mahogany tray, gift of William Emerson, won by Master William Irvine; barrel of apples, won by Murray Amos; hat, donated by a city milliner, won by Mrs. John Gallagher; fancy cake, donated by a local baker, won by Miss Hilda McPeck; ladies' bean board, first, Miss Susie Murphy; second, Mrs. Geary; men's bean board, William Gulge, and ten pins, Miss Julia O'Reilly.

Among those noticed at the supper dance at the Admiral Beatty on Thursday evening was a party chaperoned by Mrs. N. L. Brennan, composed of Miss Marjory Steeves, of Hillsboro, Albert county, cousin of

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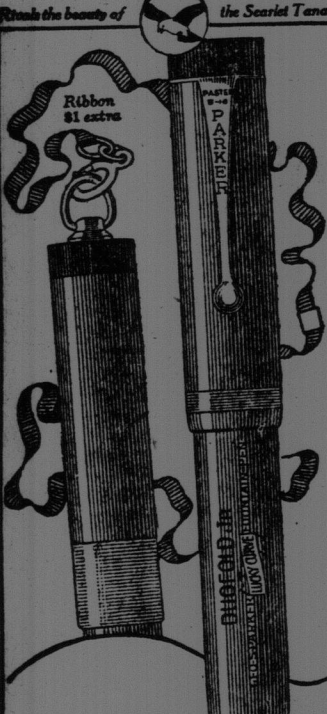
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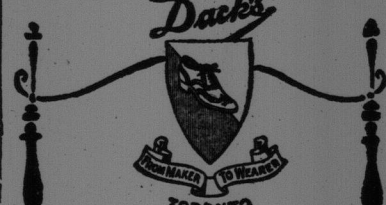
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