POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times-Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 22, 1923

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A BONAR LAW MONUMENT.

The proposal made by Dr. Clarence Webster, that a great granite boulder with a bronze tablet be placed at Rexton, Kent County, in memory of a Rexton boy, Rt. Hon. Bonar Law, whose ashes rest in Westminster Abbey, will commend itself to all New Brunswick people. Indeed the house which was his birthplace might well be preserved by the people of Kent County as one of their show-places in the years to come. One goes to Lexington or Concord, or some other town or city in Massachusetts and finds a modest wooden house carefully preserved because there some famous man had lived, or because in some way it was linked up in a very notable way with the country's history.

The monument to Mr. Bonar Law will appeal to people all over the province. The cost will not be great, and large subscriptions are not asked. Very many will desire to share in this simple and most appropriate tribute to one who went forth as a boy from Kent County to become in later years one of the great statesmen of the Empire. We have far too few memorials to famous men and women who first saw the light under New Brunswick skies. The lack is borne in upon everyone who goes abroad, especially in the United States, and notes the monuments to be found in every little town.

On another page of today's Times appears Dr. Webster's letter and the beginning of the subscription list for the Bonar Law memorial.

ATTRACTING TOURISTS.

The Tourist Association of the Province of Quebec has drawn up a quite remarkable programme for the whole province in the interests of tourist traffic. It proposes a permanent central bureau in Montreal, district branches throughout the province, with their own executives, a publicity campaign, a survey of the province, schools for guides and hotel keepers, and other new departures along the line of comprehensive organization. This programme has been sent to the various bodies interested and will later be dealt with at a general meeting called for the purpose. A very vigorous effort will be made to get all parts of the province interested. The Gazette summarizes the main suggestions as follows:—

"It is provided that the headquarters at Montreal should collect funds for the provincial work, establish and maintain a permanent bureau of information, promote increased and improved accommodation and secure information regarding fishing, hunting, etc., for the benefit of tourists throughout the whole province. It is also provided that the headquarters should undertake the inspection of hotel accommodation throughout the whole province, granting the insignia of the Association where the standards required by it are established and maintained. Special stress is laid on this, as it is planned that the insignia of the Association shall mean that any hostelry entitled to use it shall be of a type to cater to the requirements of tourist traffic in every way. Other lines of enterprise to be undertaken by headquarters in Montreal are: To undertake the general educational and publicity work necessary; to arrange for the establishment of a tourist bureau in each district; to co-operate to the fullest extent with the different bodies already in existence to carry on tourist welfare work."

In so great a city as Montreal, which has so much to gain from American tourist traffic, there is no difficulty in getting a large fund subscribed by hotels and business houses. With a province-wide organization it will be quite as easy to secure in that city what is needed to carry on its part of the work.

With regard to other centres it is proposed to have a district branch in each, with a chairman and vice-chairman, and an executive of eight prominent citizens, with an advisory board and local press committee. These branches would raise money for their own work which would include publicity, camp sites and other accommodations, and the exploitation of local hunting, fishing and entertainment. These branches, it is suggested might have school courses for guides and innkeepers.

The general scheme provides for getting the endorsement of Boards of Trade and other business organizations and clubs; and asking for a Government grant for a three-year period. Membership subscriptions for a three year period would also be sought. A survey of the province is suggested, to get information about hunting, fishing, hotel accommodation, historical data and inspecting instructors for hotels. There are other suggestions relative to different phases of the work, and if the programme is adopted and carried out the result should be a great increase in tourist travel to Quebec in the next few years. That province is setting an excellent example. The Maritime Provinces should profit thereby, and adopt a somewhat similar course, varied perhaps to meet their local conditions.

IMMIGRATION.

In another article in this issue reference is made to what Quebec proposes to do to attract tourists. Hon. J. E. Perrault, Minister of Colonisation, tells what it aims to do in regard to immigrants. He says the desire is rather to repatriate Canadians who are in the United States than go after people in Europe. Hon. Mr. Perrault says:—

"In this connection I have made two important suggestions to the Federal Government. First, I have asked Hon. Mr. Robb to open agencies in the principal French-Canadian centres in the United States, to try to repatriate our compatriots. These agencies would be directed by Franco-Americans, who are aware of the location of those who are liable to be attracted back. A Canadian agent could be attached to those agencies also and advise persons wishing to return of the advantages offered in various sections of the province."

But this is not all. Hon. Mr. Perrault goes on:—

"The second request I made to the Minister is that a subsidy equal to the one given to the Canada Immigration Society, which has its principal office in Winnipeg, be handed to us for repatriation purposes. This organization receives at present $10,000 per month. I have suggested that the same amount be given to a colonization society of this province, or to my department, to be utilized for the repatriation of French-Canadians from the New England States."

Hon. Mr. Perrault also announced that the Province of Quebec had started a campaign of propaganda in England and in Belgium to attract settlers, and correspondence was being exchanged regarding the coming of some Danes who had manifested a desire of establishing themselves in the province.

The Maritime Provinces are less concerned at the moment about getting new settlers than about such an improvement in conditions as would encourage our own people to stay at home. No doubt some settlers could be placed to advantage if they had funds of their own, and any aid the Federal authorities may give in that connection will be very welcome; but that is not our most pressing problem. We must try to keep those settlers we have.

A NEEDED WARNING.

Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of Mines has sent out a pamphlet relating to the menace from the careless handling of explosives. During 1922, of 135 accidents due to explosives, more than 40 per cent. were due to ignorance or carelessness. There were, we are told, 27 accidents, injuring 32 persons, that arose from playing with detonators; 11, killing two and injuring ten persons, from playing with other explosives; and 21, causing the death of one person and injuring 18 others, due to various causes not readily classified, but, in most cases, associated with ignorance, carelessness or recklessness on the part of someone, not necessarily the victim. In many, probably most cases, the victims are children. The purpose of the pamphlet sent out by the Minister of Mines is to bring to the attention of the people, and especially of those handling explosives for working purposes, the need of the utmost care, not only by workmen while using explosives, but by all who handle them, in order that the number of accidents may be lessened among workers, and all others protected from danger. The subject is of sufficient importance to warrant the warning, and to have it kept constantly in mind by all concerned.

We quote the following from the Vancouver Sun's report of the speech of a prominent shipping man delivered recently in that city:—"In 1880 the population of Vancouver was practically nothing. Less than 50 years later there are a quarter of a million people in the city. The same thing applies to the commerce of the port. In 1880 there was very little trading in the port of Vancouver, while the tonnage entering and clearing in a year now runs to about 5,000,000."

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The smuggling of liquor and narcotics across the American border is to be the subject of a conference between representatives of Canada and the United States to be held this month. Determined joint action would no doubt reduce the amount of smuggling to a considerable extent.

The Maritimes' Contribution To Canadian Literature

(Summary by V. C. Timberley.)

This week has been set aside by the Canadian Author's Association and the book publishers of Canada as Canadian Authors' Book Week. This week is being observed annually in an endeavor to encourage the reading of Canadian books of Canadian authorship. The main idea behind Canadian Authors' Week is to stimulate the sale of Canadian books in order to encourage both author and publisher alike to put forth their best endeavors to build up a Canadian literature worthy of a place beside the great literatures of the world. The authors and publishers of our country have set themselves a stupendous task and it will need the unstinted support of the great Canadian public to bring about a realization of their ideal. It is, of course, a fact that great literatures are not built upon the sale of books, but upon an adequate and clear expression of a great ideal. The writers of a country have a great and difficult task before them if they would live up to the standard set by their forefathers. Shelley's description of the duties of a poet seems to me to apply alike to all writers. "Poets are the trumpets which sing to battle. Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

If there is no sale for the writings of Canadian authors in Canada, it can but mean that one of three things will happen: the author will become discouraged and cease writing, the publishers will refuse to print the writings of an author whose books will not sell, or the writer will leave Canada for a country which will not be so slow to recognize true merit. It is undoubtedly true that a great many of our Canadian books are trashy and crude without a vestige of inspiration or idealism behind them. But I feel that we may safely leave the sorting of the wheat from the chaff to the eternal thresher—Time!

What The East Accomplished.

Let us now see what part the Maritime Provinces have played in the building up of Canadian letters. Many are the great men to whom the Cradle of Canada is proud to point to as her native sons. But we will consider here only those natives or near natives of the provinces by the sea, who have followed the call of literature. They have entered practically every field of writing—history, biography, poetry, fiction, essay, etc., and have emerged in most cases with flying colors.

To enumerate all the writers and their works since the confiscation of New France by our ancestors would fill a small book. We will therefore consider only those whose writings have given us cause to remember them with gratitude.

Such names as Robert Christie, who wrote a "History of Canada;" Lt. Col. John Hunter-Duvar, the author of "Enamorado, A Drama," and other books of verse; James DeMille, Sir J. G. Bourinot, James Hannay, Cornelius O'Brien, Arthur John Lockhart, and many others, mean very little to most of us today. But who does not remember with mixed feelings such names as Thomas Chandler Haliburton, the witty author of the "Sayings and Doings of Sam Slick," "The Clock Maker," etc. Hon Joseph Howe, whose Speeches and Public Letters" were a valuable addition to Canadian Letters; George Munro Grant, the author of "From Ocean to Ocean; Theodore Harding Rand, who wrote "At Minas Basin, And Other Poems," and other books of thoughtful verse?

Turning now to more recent times, we have every reason to feel proud of such names as Bliss Carman, Charles G. D. Roberts, L. M. Montgomery, Grace McLeod Rogers, Basil King, H. A. Cody, Theodore Goodridge Roberts, etc.

Bliss Carmans Fame

Foremost among the poets of the American continent we find the name of Bliss Carman, a native of Fredericton. Bliss Carman's reputation was made in the United States, where he found many friends who gave him the encouragement he needed at that time. His first book of poems, "Low Tide on Grand Pre: A Book of Lyrics," was published in 1893. This was followed by some 25 or more books of poetry and essays. The first Canadian edition of his poems, "Later Poems," was published in Canada two years ago. It is only necessary to read that lovely poem "Easter Eve' in 'Later Poems' to understand the reason of his success.

Who has not read "Beautiful Joe," by Miss Marshall Saunders of Halifax, N. S., that classic of animal life? Miss Marshall Saunders' place as a teller of delightful stories was assured by her lovely autobiography of a dog. Miss Saunders has written quite a number of books of fiction among which, her latest book is very well known "Golden Dicky," a sweet story of a canary.

A writer with remarkable insight is Basil King who is a native of Prince Edward Island. His first book "Griselda" was followed by many that have made his name. Perhaps his best known books are "The Inner Shrine," "The Lifted Veil," "The Conquest of Fear," "The Empty Sack," and "Earthbound." The last two mentioned and "The Lifted Veil" are likely to be remembered long after his other books are forgotten. His latest books "The Dust Flower," "The Happy Isles," and "The Discovery of God" are now being read by thousands.

Miss L. M. Montgomery

I feel sure that Miss L. M. Montgomery has made more friends, especially among the young people, than perhaps any other writer in America. Miss Montgomery, or Mrs. McDonald as she now is, hails from the Island and has woven the majority of her delicious pastoral idylls around her birth-place. The Anne books are read by every person in whose heart the flame of youth still burns even though they be long past the allotted three score years and ten. Miss Montgomery also writes poetry which has appeared from time to time in the national magazines. Her latest book which rivals the much beloved Anne, "Emily of New Moon" is now delighting her vast reading public.

The Two Roberts'

Undoubtedly the name of Charles G. D. Roberts stands out as the foremost writer of nature stories in America. Mr. Roberts, a native of Fredericton, and a relative of Bliss Carman, has given us many fine books on wild animal life. Mr. Roberts' first book, "The Canadians of Old," was a translation from the French. This was followed by his better known books such as "The Forge in the Forest," "In the Heart of the Ancient Wood," "The Kindred of the Wild," and "The Watchers of the Trails." We always welcome a book from the pen of Mr. Roberts or his talented brother Theodore Goodridge Roberts who has also a number of fine books to his credit. Lloyd Roberts the son of Charles G. D. Roberts is also a writer of fiction. Lloyd Roberts has written a number of fine outdoor stories for boys.

"Joan at Half Way" was written by a Nova Scotian, Mrs. Grace McLeod Rogers of Amherst. Mrs. Rogers is best known by her Joan books. We are glad to see that her first book "Stories of the Land of Evangeline" has just been reprinted.

None can doubt the value of the Rev. Canon W. C. Raymond's contribution to our literature. His book "The River St. John" is the best known book of its kind. It is unfortunate that this book is not in the hands of an interested publisher who would reprint it for national distribution.

Rev. H. A .Cody

The name of H. A. Cody needs no introduction here. Mr. Cody a native of New Brunswick spent some years in the Yukon working in the missionary field and was in constant touch with the mounted police. Around his experience in the north west and the home of his forefathers in New Brunswick are woven his stories of our great outdoors. Mr. Cody's first book, a biography of Bishop Bompas was followed by such well known titles as "The Frontiersman," "The Fourth Watch," If Any Man Sin," etc. Mr. Cody is becoming better known as time goes on by the introduction of his novels in the United States and England. In the opinion of the critics on both sides of the Atlantic "The King's Arrow" was Mr. Cody's best book. This has been followed by "The Trail of the Golden Horn" a story of the mounted police in the great north west.

The impossibility of including the names of all the writers who have published books from the Maritime Provinces is understood when the nature of the present writing is considered. I trust that the foregoing will give the reader an idea of the important part that the Maritime Provinces has, and is, playing in the building up of the literature of our country.

MY LITTLE LAD.

(Elisabeth Scollard.)

Sometimes I see him at the hint of fall,
Or hear the ripple of his running feet
Echo along the windy village street
As the old school-house bell begins to call;
Sometimes the ways of winter hold him thrall,
He coasts and skates, each hour is full of sweet,
From sun to sun the time seems all too fleet,
He wishes day would never end at all!

But when the winds of spring blow back again
And crocus cups are lifted to the dawn,
On, then of all the year is he most glad!
I see him playing ball down in the lane—
And yet when I would seek him he has gone.
For he is but a dream—my little lad.

COMEDY PRESENTED IN ST. ROSE'S HALL

St. Rose's Hall, Fairville, was filled to capacity last evening, when the dramatic club of the church presented in artistic manner the comedy "Here Comes the Bride." The play was in three acts, centred in the interior of Professor Wyse's house at Yale College, with a lapse of two years between the second and third acts. The orchestra, composed of Mrs. J. J. O'Toole, pianist; Miss May Betts, violinist and Joseph Maxwell, cornet, played well before the curtain was raised and through the intermissions. The singing of the Ramsay children was especially enjoyed and was the occasion for repeated encores. They were Beatrice and Ernest Ramsay, young performers, but very excellent.

The costuming was very pretty and reflected credit on those who had this work in charge. The five college girls in the play, Dorothy Viger, Kathleen Leger, Gertrude Wallace, Margaret Donovan and Alice Garey, sang a lilting chorus and Miss Mildred White and Miss Dorothy Viger were soloists for the specialties. Preston Jennings did some grand acrobatic stunts, in the characterization of a colored boy, acting his part true to color.

Those who took part in the play were: J. E. Fitzgerald, A. des Raches, J. B. Richards, J. J. O'Toole, Irene O'Toole, Alma O'Toole, Colena Quinn, Hildreth Humphrey, Dorothy Viger, and the five girls previously mentioned. The characters represented were, John B. Wyse, Dr. Graham, Billy Blake, Jupiter Jackson, Mrs. Iona Ford, Zoe, her daughter, June Graham, Rosalind Wilson, Kitty, Mary, Lily, Millie and Jennie, in the order named, corresponding to the names submitted.

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PREMIER MEETS COMPENSATION BOARD MEMBERS

Report of H. G. Acres on Grand Falls Expected Soon.

Hon. P. J. Veniot, Premier of New Brunswick, was in the city yesterday, and while here met the members of the Workmen's Compensation Board during the afternoon, and Hon. Dr. E. A. Smith, chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, during the evening. The Premier stated that he expected the report of H. R. Acres, the engineer who is reporting on the Grand Falls project, by the end of the month.

Hon. Premier Veniot, who was in the city yesterday, had his attention called by a representative of the Evening Times-Star to the suggestion put forth by Dr. J. Clarence Webster, of Shediac, who is a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, that the people of New Brunswick should show their appreciation of Bonar Law, one of the sons of this province, whose ashes now lie in Westminster Abbey and who was Prime Minister of Great Britain, by erecting a granite monument to his memory in his native village of Rexton, Kent county.

The Premier thought the idea an excellent one and said he would support it by word and deed and asked that his subscription be the third upon the list. Dr. Webster in a private letter accompanying his communication which is printed below requests The Telegraph-Journal to receive subscriptions and this is gladly complied with. Those who subscribe to this fund, will kindly remit either by cheque, postal note, money or express order as the responsibility of losses of currency in the mail should not rest upon anybody. Dr. Webster claims the right to be the first subscriber. The Telegraph-Journal is the second subscriber and Premier Veniot the third. The Doctor's letter, making the suggestion of a monument, follows. He estimates that a splendid boulder of New Brunswick granite with suitable bronze tablet could be placed in Rexton for $1,000 to $1,200. He names as a committee in charge of the fund, Col. Murray MacLaren, M. P., Premier P. J. Veniot and A. B. Carson, of Rexton.

Dr. Webster's Letter.

Dr. Webster's letter follows:

Editor, Telegraph-Journal:—

The recent burial of Bonar Law's ashes in Westminster Abbey is an event which should make a deep impression on all Canadians, especially on those who are citizens of the Province of New Brunswick. An honor of this nature is not paid to the dead in the capital of the Empire unless there is a general conviction that it is well merited. Not all of our illustrious dead sleep in the old Abbey and some have been interred there who were not worthy of the honor. Nevertheless, this ancient church has been a resting place for a mighty host of those who have contributed to the material and intellectual advancement of the Empire.

Would it not be fitting that New Brunswick should in some way pay a tribute to its illustrious son?

In the village of Rexton, in Kent county, still stands the home of his boyhood days. Might it not be possible to collect a sufficient number of small subscriptions, not to exceed ten dollars each, for the purpose of erecting a monument to Bonar Law in his native village?

I know of nothing better than a boulder of New Brunswick granite with a bronze tablet, for it would be symbolical of the character of the man. I would suggest that the Premier of the province, Col. Murray MacLaren and A. B. Carson, of Rexton, would form an admirable committee to carry through the project. I shall be only too glad to contribute my services in an executive capacity and to offer the first subscription of ten dollars.

Yours very truly,

J. CLARENCE WEBSTER.

Shediac, N. B., Nov. 19, 1923.

Bonar Law Memorial Fund.

J. Clarence Webster	$10.00
The Telegraph-Journal	10.00
Premier Veniot	10.00

The monthly meeting of the Government will be held in Fredericton on December 12 and it will be preceded by a meeting of the executive at Moncton to hear some delegations. It is postponed until the second week of the month because of other business which will occupy the attention of the members.

The Premier is leaving tomorrow morning for Moncton, where he will attend the meeting of the premiers of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island with the committee of the Maritime Board of Trade, regarding the appointment of a permanent secretary and a freight expert.

Mr. Veniot will be the guest of honor at a banquet in this city next Tuesday as the guest of the members of the Legislature for St. John, city and county. He said he would also be present at the luncheon to be given on the steamer Montclare at West St. John on December 5, in honor of E. W. Beatty, K. C., president of the C. P. R.

A. O. Dawson, of Montreal, director of the Canadian Cottons, Ltd., arrived in St. John yesterday and attended a meeting of the directors of the Cornwall and York mills here. A meeting of all the managers of the Canadian Cottons, Ltd., will be held at Marysville today and tomorrow.

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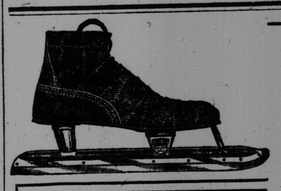

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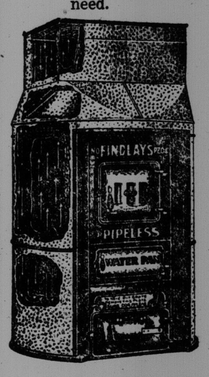

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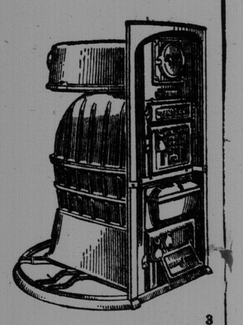

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