

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

HAITI AND ITS CITADEL

Our interest in the Black Republic of Haiti, greatly increased, after reading of the terrible damage caused there last October, by the hurricane Hazel, which was spawned in the Caribbean Sea just north of Venezuela, where it looted for about four days before sweeping north on its terribly destructive course.

It struck Haiti first at Les Cayes just east of Cape Dame Marie, and roared over the peninsula, across the Gulf of Gonave and over the Mole as it swept north through the Windward Passage between Haiti and Cuba, leaving the citrus and banana plantations devastated, the villages and towns wrecked with great numbers of people killed or injured.

The first Spanish settlement in the New World was near Cape Haitien on the north shore of the Island of Hispaniola where Christopher Columbus first landed in America in 1493. The island at that time was inhabited by Central American Indians, who under harsh Spanish rule were soon destroyed. They were an independent race, but their crude weapons failed before the superior Spanish arms, as they fought until exterminated. The negroes are not natives of Haiti but were brought as slaves from Africa after 1506.

French pirates gained possession of the western section of the island about 1650 and Spain handed over France the area known as Haiti in 1697, retaining what is now the Dominican Republic. Haiti is spoken of as the Black Republic and was formed by the negroes in 1804 under the leadership of an ex-slave, Toussaint Louverture, in a revolt against the French Government following the French Revolution.

He proclaimed himself Governor General Toussaint. He put into effect the Constitution which remains to this day. France tried to put down the revolution and Napoleon sent 70 ships and 25,000 troops; but the negroes fought so valiantly that the result was a stalemate. Their leader, Toussaint, was asked to attend a false armistice and was treacherously taken prisoner, cast into a prison where he was kept until he died. Haiti honours him today as a great national hero.

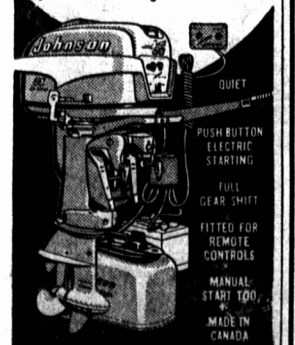
The War of Independence was continued by two negro leaders, Dessalines and Petion who won out in 1803. France after losing Haiti, sold under the Louisiana Purchase one of her interests in North America to the United States. Dessalines was murdered shortly after the close of the war and was succeeded by Henri Christophe, who proclaimed himself "King of the North". Dessalines, had called himself Emperor but Haiti a Republic then acquired a King.

To celebrate the freedom of Haiti and to commemorate the faithful work and perseverance of the coloured folk of the Republic, King Henry Christophe built in 1820 "The Citadel on a Mountain top. It is a gigantic fortress that covers more than an acre of ground and rises as a sheer mass of stone and mortar 300 feet high. It has a moat like a giant stone ship with only two sally-ports near the top to break the bare walls. This mighty fortification, one of the most impressive pieces of masonry ever constructed, was eight years in building, and stands intact today, although never quite completed, nor occupied by the army.

The materials used in constructing one of the great wonders of the world were hauled to the top of Laferriere heights, 3,000 ft. above the sea by slaves, horses and mules, through the jungle and up the steep rocky trails of the mountain.

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SPRINGTON SCHOOL

March Report of Springton School:
 GRADE IX — 1. Jean Farrar.
 GRADE VIII — 1. Iris Lamont.
 GRADE VII — 1. Florence Farrar.
 GRADE VI — 1. Alistair MacIntosh and Jimmie Farrar (equal); 2. Donald Nicholson and Eleanor Thompson; 3. Lawson Thompson.
 GRADE II — 1. Sylvia Gauthier; 2. Vernon Farrar.
 GRADE I (Sr.) — 1. Donna Nicholson.
 GRADE I (Jr.) — 1. Phyllis Gauthier.
 Highest Average in Senior Grades — Jean Farrar 88%; in Junior Grades Donna Nicholson 87%.

Perfect Attendance: Alistair MacIntosh, Donald Nicholson, James Farrar, Eleanor and Lawson Thompson.

Teacher — Shirley E. MacLennan.

Miscouche

—On Saturday, March 19, three Patrol Leaders and three Patrol Guides of the Miscouche Girl Guides attended a conference held in the Epworth Hall, Summerside. Mrs. Harry Cudmore, Mr. Keith Lapp, Mrs. Ferno Rogers, Miss Sue MacKinnon and Miss Barbara Smith, R.N., gave interesting talks on Guiding, map and compass reading, and First Aid.

They felt it a shame to have the natives force these small beasts to carry such loads, but were assured by the boys, who wielded the switches, that the ponies liked it better than hauling a plow which was the other alternative. These native boys lugged on their own backs flour sacks of soft drinks for their guests, as they climbed barefooted over the stony road. These sharp, slab-sided little horses were sure-footed and tenacious and went where ordinary animals would have balked.

On the way up they had a good view of the famous ruins of the Palace of Sans Souci. These tourists, as they saw the great Citadel loom above them, kept wondering how it had been possible for men to lug cannon, rock and other material up the steep trails. This left an impression on them that will endure long after other incidents of the trip are forgotten.

When they reached the top, saw the immensity of the Citadel, the draw bridge, redoubts, the many batteries underground cisterns, storage rooms for provisions and the view from the heights, they felt well repaid for their difficult ride. They also saw heaps of iron cannon balls, beside the muzzle-loading cast iron cannon that were everywhere about the citadel.

The tourists expected the return journey would be much easier, but shortly after their arrival, clouds filled the sky, they had only time to secure a few Kodachrome pictures, when the white fog blotted out the landscape. A pelting rain hit them as they started down and continued for two hours to soak those without raincoats so that drenched and shivering from cold they got so stiff on the ponies backs that they couldn't even shiver.

This and many incidents on the trip formed topics for conversation and cemented friendships from the rough trip that made memorable their trip to "the Summit the Black Majesty's Citadel."

DARNLEY AND SEA VIEW

W. M. S.

—The March meeting of the Darnley and Sea View Auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Cousins; theme "Let's this mind be in you"

Prayer was led by Mrs. Robert Cousins, opening hymn 156 was sung. Scripture reading by Mrs. Gordon Cousins and Mrs. James Heckey; prayer by Mrs. Keir MacKay, Mrs. Gordon Cousins and by the leader, brought the worship period to a close.

The president then took the chair for business period. Roll call was answered by seven members with a verse with "forgiveness" in it.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. A reading on Christian Citizenship was given by Mrs. Robert Cousins and by Mrs. James Heckey; a reading on Christian stewardship.

The friendship secretary gave her report: four calls, nine treats, and five cards. Offering was taken and declared. Mrs. Harry Crozier had charge of Study Book assisted by members, closing hymn, God of Mercy, God of Grace, was followed by Benediction. Lunch was served by the hostess.

attended. Proceeds were in aid of the Miscouche Band.

Mrs. William Perry of Miscouche, recently motored to Halifax to visit her daughter, Mrs. Eddie Doucette, who is ill.

Friends of Mrs. Theodore Gallant, Miscouche, will be sorry to learn that she has entered the Prince County Hospital, Summerside, where she underwent an operation.

Sympathy is extended to Arthur LeClair of Miscouche on the death of his sister, Mary Anne Le Clair, who passed away on Tuesday, March 29, in the Prince County Hospital. The funeral took place on Thursday, March 31, interment in Church cemetery.

Friends of Jeanette Perry, Miscouche, will be glad to learn that she has returned to her home after having spent some time in the Prince County Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Richard and family of Cape Egmont spent Sunday in Miscouche at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Pairier.

Stresses Importance Of Road Safety Conference

By H. L. JONES

Canadian Press Staff Writer OTTAWA (CP) — One Canadian dies in a traffic accident every three hours.

To put it another way, 56 people die on Canada's roads or streets every week or about 225 every month.

The calculations are those of C. W. Gilchrist, managing director of the Canadian Goods Roads Association. He makes them on the basis of the 1953 traffic death toll of close to 3,000, the highest since the Second World War.

Those are the grim figures, he said, which have prompted the CGRA to call Canada's first highway safety conference here May 24-26. At the meeting federal, provincial and business and industrial representatives will formulate a national program of action to cut the mounting toll.

URGE PERMANENT BODY

The conference will consider establishment of a permanent organization to correlate the work of existing traffic safety bodies across Canada and to make every Canadian safety conscious, whether he be motorist or pedestrian. Only in this way, says the CGRA, can the problem be met.

Traffic fatalities in Canada have climbed steadily since the war. There were 1,663 traffic deaths in 1945; 1,759 in 1947; 1,976 in 1948; 2,276 in 1949; 2,270 (approximate) in 1950; 2,412 in 1951; 2,701 in 1952 and 2,906 in 1954. Figures, yet to be compiled, may be slightly lower than in 1953, but not much, say officials.

Mr. Gilchrist draws a comparison showing that the postwar traffic death toll exceeds the number of Canadians killed in all the land battles in which Canadian troops fought in the Second World War and in the Korean conflict.

And that doesn't take into account the thousands of persons injured in the post-war accidents or the hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage.

CHECK EVERY ANGLE

It will be the objective of the conference to consider the problem from every angle. Five functional committees have been set up to consider the safety factors in highway design, vehicle design and traffic control; law and police practices; education in and out of the schools; methods of vehicle inspection, licensing and accident records; and in the field of public information and community safety education.

A number of these committees already are at work. Their reports will be circulated in advance of the conference and will come in for round-table discussion at meetings with the conference steering committee. It will be made up of representatives from agriculture, business and industry, education, labor, motor organizations, public officials, public transport, women's organizations and youth groups.

The five final reports, approved by a plenary session, will constitute the action plan of the national highway safety conference to cut the death toll on the country's highways.

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GRAND AWARD BROADCAST

"C-I-L Singing Stars of Tomorrow" Winners—Sunday



Lesia Zubrack Bernard Turgeon Emily Cundari Gaston Harnois

The four major award winners of the C-I-L Singing Stars of Tomorrow 1954-55 season will be presented in recital and receive their C-I-L music scholarships at a Grand Award broadcast Sunday evening from Massey Hall. The top scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to Miss Lesia Zubrack, coloratura soprano, of Prince Albert, Sask. She will also receive an R.C.A. Victor Red Seal recording contract. A \$1,000 award will be presented to Bernard Turgeon, baritone, of Edmonton. Miss Emily Cundari, soprano, of Windsor and Gaston

Harnois, baritone, of Shawinigan Falls, Que., will receive \$500 second place awards. Dr. Edward Johnson, retired former general manager of the New York Metropolitan Opera Company, will make the presentations. Greg Clark will tell another of the stories he writes specially for the program. Rex Battle, conductor of the regular series, will be musical director of the Grand Award Broadcast which will be one hour, starting at 10:00 p.m. on CFXY.

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