

# Widening Educational Horizons

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

It was the night the dear Christ Child came to Bethlehem. In a tiny room away from him an old woman named Babouscka sat in her snug little house by her warm fire. The wind was whirling the snow outside and howling down the chimney, but it only made Babouscka's fire burn more brightly.

"How glad I am that I may stay indoors," said Babouscka, holding her hand out to the bright blaze. But suddenly she heard a loud knock at her door. She opened it and her candle shone on three old men standing outside in the snow. Their beards were as white as the snow, and so long that they reached the ground. Their eyes shone brightly in the light of Babouscka's candle, and their arms were full of precious things—boxes of jewels and sweet-smelling oils and ointments.

"We have travelled far, Babouscka," they said, "and we stop to tell you of the Baby Prince born this night in Bethlehem. He comes to rule the world and teach all men to be loving and kind. We carry him gifts. Come with us, Babouscka."

But Babouscka looked at the driving snow and then inside at her cosy room and crackling fire. "It is too late for me to go with you, good sirs," she said. "The weather is too cold." She went inside again and shut the door, and the old men journeyed on to Bethlehem without her. But as Babouscka sat by her fire, rocking, she began to think about the little Christ Child, for she loved all babies.

"Tomorrow I will go to find Him," she said. "Tomorrow when it is light, and I will carry him some toys."

So when it was morning, Babouscka put on her long cloak, and took her staff, and filled a basket with the pretty things a baby would like—gold ball and wooden toys and strings of things—she set out to find the Christ Child. But oh, Babouscka had forgotten to ask to ask the three travellers the road to Bethlehem, and they had travelled so far through the night that she could not overtake them. Up and down the roads she hurried, through woods and fields and towns, saying to whomsoever she met: "I go to find the Christ Child. Where does he lie? I bring some pretty toys for his sake."

But no one could tell her the way to go, and they all said, "Farther on, Babouscka, farther on." So she travelled on, and on, and on for years and years—but she never found the Christ Child.

They say that old Babouscka is still travelling, looking for Him. When it comes Christmas eve, and the children are lying fast asleep, Babouscka comes softly through the snowy fields and towns, wrapped in her long cloak and carrying her basket on her arm. With her staff she raps gently at the doors and goes inside and holds her candle close to the little children's faces.

"Is He here?" she asks. "Is the Christ Child here?" And then she turns sorrowfully away, crying: "Farther on, Farther on." But before she leaves she takes a toy from her basket and lays it beside the pillow for a gift. "For His sake," she says softly, and then hurries on through the years, forever in search of the little Christ Child.

## THIS ROYAL THRONE

"This Royal Throne" is the title of a very fine, beautifully illustrated booklet published by the Northern Electric Company. "This Royal Throne" reviews the evolution of constitutional monarchy through the reigns of the Kings and Queens of Great Britain and the Commonwealth during the past nine centuries.

The booklet was designed to be read by boys and girls and as an aid to teachers and others in awakening the interest of their pupils in their country and its historical background.

"This Royal Throne" and an accompanying portrait of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II will be sent to any reader of "World Affairs" without charge on request to Northern Electric Company Ltd., P. O. Box 6124, Montreal, Quebec. Copies will be supplied in bulk to the teacher for distribution, if preferred. Be sure to write direct to Northern Electric Co. Ltd., 1900 Notre Dame St. W., Montreal, Quebec.

### Vowels

The letter Y is a vowel when it is within a syllable or at the end of a syllable or word. Y is a vowel in the words—mayor, city.

The letter Y is a consonant only when it begins a word. Y is a consonant in the words—yet, yellow, and young.

Find Y in the words below. If it is used as a vowel write V after the word, if it is used as a consonant, write C after it.

coyote—timidly—year—yards—yourself—muddy

W is a vowel in such words as—draw, threw, flower.

W is a consonant when it comes before a vowel as in the words—went, willing, wall.

Find W in the words below. If it is used as a vowel write V after the word, if it is used as a consonant, write C after the word.

women—slowly—weary—know—walked—William

### Synonyms

In each of the sentences below you will find a word in black type. Choose synonyms for them from the list given. Copy the right synonym on the lines.

thoughtfully—dully—kindly—talked—machinery—remembrance—disputed—put of a gift—warm—tools—sincere—stupidly—hinder.

Jane's grandmother gave her a bracelet for a keepsake.

1. Jane's grandmother gave her a bracelet for a \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The late rains will delay the harvest.

The late rains will—the harvest. The late rains will—the harvest.

3. Paul looked solidly out of the window.

Paul looked \_\_\_\_\_ out of the window.

Paul looked \_\_\_\_\_ out of the window.

4. Paul sold all his farm implements before he left Canada.

Paul sold all his farm \_\_\_\_\_ before he left Canada.

Paul sold all his farm \_\_\_\_\_ before he left Canada.

5. The boys argued about who would sit next the window.

The boys \_\_\_\_\_ about who would sit next the window.

The boys \_\_\_\_\_ about who would sit next the window.

6. The neighbours waited considerably until the family greetings were over.

The neighbours waited \_\_\_\_\_ until the family greetings were over.

The neighbours waited \_\_\_\_\_ until the family greetings were over.

7. The village of Trent was preparing a hearty welcome for its returned men.

The village of Trent was preparing \_\_\_\_\_ welcome for its returned men.

The village of Trent was preparing \_\_\_\_\_ welcome for its returned men.

## Navigation Lock

The provincial department of transport answered the first question with the announcement that a navigation lock would be built into the causeway near the Cape Breton shore, Hardy Maritimes seamen answered the second one by pointing out that with the causeway forming a dam across the strait, there would be no current through the narrow waterway. No current, they said, no fast-moving ice floes. While winds would carry drift ice into the strait, a change of wind would carry it back out. Spring temperatures warmer each year, would eventually end the annual yo-yo action. The causeway would be practical after all.

A standard dictionary defines a causeway as "a paved road or pathway over wet ground or shallow water."

But this particular pathway is being constructed across the Strait of Canso at a point where the water ranges in depth up to a maximum of 187 feet, with 25 feet of light silt below that. This silt to move it well out of the shallow-water category. The surface width will be 80 feet, while at the base, the causeway will fan out to 600 feet. Overall length will be 4,300 feet—from Mulgrave on Cape

## Outstanding Engineering

The first load of fill dumped into the strait, in June 1952, became the cornerstone for one of the greatest engineering feats ever seen in the Maritimes, and what will be one of the world's outstanding causeways.

To construct the causeway, engineers are transplanting an estimated 9,000,000 tons of rock fill from the face of Porcupine mountain, a quarter-mile from the construction site, into an orderly line across the water.

Bulldozers took the first step when they smashed a construction road from the highway to the base of Porcupine, where a base camp was set up. The camp consists of offices, bunkhouses, mess, power plant, garage, weighing station and other buildings which now combine to give the impression of a Northland boom town against the backdrop of the wooded mountain.

"Coyote" Blasting

The first leg of the task completed, rockmen began tunnelling for "coyote blasting" of Porcupine mountain.

For a typical blast, a tunnel is driven into the face of the mountain for about 50 feet. The opening is drilled about three feet wide by four feet high. At the end of this entry, cross tunnels are driven at right angles, for approximately 40 feet in each direction, parallel to the face of the cliff.

A carefully calculated charge of C-I-L Ammonia Dynamite is packed at each end of each cross tunnel and primed with a detonating fuse called "primacord".

Rock fill is tamped tightly into the tunnel until the midway point of each is reached. Here, more cases of dynamite are packed and connected to the "primacord" trunk lines which run to the portal.

At the portal, electric blasting caps are fixed to fire the blast. Finally, the entry tunnel is back-filled right to its mouth to ensure proper confinement of the charges.

A small blast of this type may use some 60 cases of dynamite each weighing 50 pounds. A larger blast may run to 400 cases.

After the blast, giant electric shovels scoop out six-cubic-yard loads of the shattered rock into diesel trucks, which are capable of carrying a 34-ton load down the face of the slope, across a weighing platform and on to the family of trucks in a dump. As the trucks are pushed off the end of the causeway by bulldozers, whose operators entertain spectators by driving to within inches of a watery plunge off the end of the "road".

Working around the clock, engineers are driving ahead of schedule—placing more than 400,000 tons of fill monthly—and completion of the link is now anticipated by September 1954. The causeway should play a major part in bringing new prosperity to Cape Breton Island.

By next fall, the causeway will have withstood the ice floes of two winters; the one-time sceptics will be forced to admit that, with optimism and dynamite, the dreamed-of causeway across the Strait of Canso has been made a fact.

## Canso Gets Its Causeway

Some historians tell you that Canada was united in 1867, those in Newfoundland set the date at 1949. But any enlightened Cape Bretoner will let you know that Canada will not be truly united until the Canso Causeway is completed late in 1954.

At present, the mainland of Nova Scotia lacks a connecting link with the MacDonalds, MacNeills and MacAskills of Cape Breton by the less-than-mile-wide Strait of Canso.

In addition to the Macs, Cape Breton contains Sydney's big steel mill, the richest coal fields of Eastern Canada, and recently discovered uranium ore.

But up to the present, the Macs, the coal and the steel have been able to leave the Island only by water. When ice blocks the narrow strait, they must go by air.

When construction of the causeway really got under way early in 1952, Nova Scotians lost some of the color from their election campaigns and shook their heads in disbelief.

Since the Victorian days when the giant MacAskill luffed record-shattering weights, each campaign had been marked by new promises of a bridge or tunnel linking the Island with the mainland. After the election, the politicians returned to the mainland (by ferry) and continued on to Ottawa—where the causeway, bridge, or tunnel was somehow forgotten.

With the announcement that a causeway was to be built across the strait, many Nova Scotians rose to shout that it couldn't be done. What of the coastal traffic using the strait for the run from Atlantic ports to the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes? How long could a causeway withstand the pounding of the Spring ice floes which annually race through the strait?

## United States-Spanish Co-operation

The new United States-Spanish agreement on military co-operation is causing considerable debate in the United States and elsewhere. Americans are intended to strengthen their defences against Communist Russia. Some dislike the idea of working with Spain, though, because they do not like the Spanish Government. Several of the Allies of the United States fear that United States' aid to Spain will mean less for them.

The arguments will be taken up further along in this article, but first let us take a look at the agreement itself. The measure was signed on September 25 in Madrid, the Spanish capital, by U. S. Ambassador James Dunn and Spanish Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Artajo. The agreement is for 20 years.

The United States gets the right to use Spanish air and navy bases. Among the airports the U. S. expects to use are those near Madrid, in the center of Spain; Seville in the southwest; and Barcelona in the northwest; Cadix in the southwest near the Straits of Gibraltar; and Cartagena, a Mediterranean seaport. Other possible bases are shown on the map.

The bases are in poor physical shape. The U. S. is to pay for modernizing them. The cost of new buildings, improved runways at the airport and strengthened docks at the navy bases may total \$300 million or more. The job of putting bases into shape is expected to get under way soon. A U. S. military mission has been planning the work for some time. Spain is to get \$226 million in American aid in the near future. Approximately \$141 million will be for armaments. This sum will enable Spain to start modernizing her armed forces. Almost all Spanish equipment in old and in poor condition. The fighting forces need everything from new uniforms and shoes to planes and warships. About 485 million in aid will be for developing industry and agriculture and for improving transportation facilities. Spain now has few big factories, her farmers are poor and lack modern equipment, and railways and highways are in urgent need of repair.

The present economic grants will be enough only to start a modernization program. Washington officials expect President Eisenhower to ask Congress for fur-

## DIFFERENT MEANING

"Something to look forward to" Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Ralph Younker, Mrs. Hibbert Tremere and Miss Alice Edwards.

meeting is to be answered with "Something to look forward to" Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Ralph Younker, Mrs. Hibbert Tremere and Miss Alice Edwards.

## HAMPSHIRE W. I.

The regular meeting of the Hampshire Women's Institute was held at the home of Miss Lyla Watts on Dec. 8.

Roll call was responded to with a Christmas present for "My Secret Pal". Nine members paid their dues and three new members were welcomed to the Institute, making a total enrollment of 20 members for the new year. Several visitors were present, at our meeting, also.

It was decided to give the office of secretary treasurer for the coming year. Mrs. John Edwards was appointed secretary and Miss Alice Edwards, treasurer.

A report on purchasing a stove for the hall was given by Mrs. Charles Larter and Mrs. Hibbert Tremere and Mrs. Richard MacLean were authorized to purchase one.

Mrs. Charles Larter and Mrs. John Edwards were appointed to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Hilson Tremere for a corner lot of land given us, on which to place our hall.

It was unanimously agreed that the hall will be named "Hampshire Community Hall." Mr. George Kitson was appointed to see about getting chairs for the hall. It was decided to clean the school on Dec. 28.

Mrs. Ralph Younker and Mrs. Everett Clow were appointed to pack boxes for shut-ins and send cards at Christmas. Mrs. Clow was also asked to get candy bars for the children's treat at the school closing.

On motion it was decided to send \$2 to the T. B. League seal campaign.

Mrs. Redvers Stewart and Mrs. Health Larter were asked to make cuddly toys for the orphanage.

A successful "Parcel Post Sale" was held and the sum of \$19.25 was realized.

Mrs. Charles Larter invited the group for the next meeting and the lunch committee appointed Mrs. Richard MacLean, Mrs. John Clark, and Mrs. John Edwards.

The roll call for the January

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