



A BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED TEA TABLE

Mrs. Carl McKenna is pouring tea at the Spring Bonnet Tea and Mrs. Edwin Brown and Miss Blanche Conway are tea assistants.

The beautiful table floral arrangement was donated by Flower Cart, the blue iris tying in

with the colors of the hospital which are blue and white. Mr. R. L. Blakeney was in charge of the floral decorations

throughout the hall. These were greatly admired at the Spring Bonnet Tea.

ELLEN'S DIARY

How They Enjoy Farming— These Happy Generations

As the farming goes, do we encounter no difficulties, nor concerns at Alderlea this season? While our days are usually serene, due to the farmers who enjoy and are well experienced in the care of the livestock, there nevertheless appears times like this morning when one of them or both, may discover with dismay an animal in stable or sty or fold in the early stages of a misery. At once symptoms are noted, causes explored to determine the nature of the ailment — maybe a home remedy is administered though increasingly more of late we notice they have come to depend on the services of the veterinarians, whom they call.

So this morning when a comely yearling, heifer showed no inclination for breakfast, a call went out along our rural line, skipped to an urban one and before long to the farmers' relief, professional help was at hand.

We are often amused at the ease with which our young fry can recognize at a glance the ears of those folks whose lives touch ours on the farm: the veterinarian's machine, those of buyers from this or that packing-house or "plant," or the individual drovers and salesmen who contributing in part to our life and living come in and go out of the yards.

Naturally on those Island farms that continue to follow old customs of marketing, with "the time of the singing of birds" comes too the season for the disposal of the winter-fattened cattle. And at Alderlea we note, not

without interest, as an incidental to this, certain replacements of feeders, are these days being brought in. Younglings in varied shades and sizes, their ancestry often the subject of some speculation and good-natured banter in the family abode.

"I see you're making some changes in the farming — turning from beef to dairying!" one offered recently with a chuckle surveying such a pair just brought in.

"It's because of the floor-price on butter!" we overheard the younger farmer say drily in reply.

"You'll be buying a big cream-separator?" still teasing.

"You wait until next fall — they will be beef to the heel!"

What a nice time they have at the farming — father, sons and grandsons.

"Not gardening yet, Ellen?" James queried at supper.

"No — it's a bit early, don't you think?"

"Yes, but do you know what I was fancying today?" he smiled, "a tangle of lettuce, home-grown."

The wood-splitting at Alderlea came to an end this afternoon.

"And what's next?" we asked, tonight.

"Fencing," I reckon," James replied, "though on a farm we never know what a new morning will bring. Remember this one! But," he added, settling down in the old armchair to some reading, "all's well that ends well" we can say."

Until tomorrow — — Diary — Goodnight. . . .

WE AND OUR NEIGHBORS

Soviet Primary Education; Do We Want It?

By Ruhamal S. Frank

Since the Russian Sputnik many disparaging comparisons have been made in Canada (and the U.S.) between our "soft" system of education and the Soviet "tough" one. In a recent issue of a leading American magazine widely read in Canada (Saturday Evening Post, April 26) there's a thought-provoking report of a visit to a Soviet Primary school conducted for the children of Soviet and Czech diplomats stationed in Washington, D.C. The writer does not comment or criticize but presents facts that should serve as a basis for comparisons. They should make clearer in our minds what we do and do not want in our systems of education.

ONE CENTRAL AGENCY Do we realize that every tiny detail of the entire system of education throughout the Soviet Union is shaped and dictated by the central Ministry of Education? Curricula, methods, text books, class-room decorations — everything is uniform — planned and executed to the will and purpose of that central all-powerful single agency.

The above is the foundation stone of the Soviet system of education. Undoubtedly it accounts for much of the "efficiency" at which many of us cast wistful, admiring glances. But let us take a look at some minor points. Many of us feel that the school year could be lengthened. Soviet children have a shorter summer vacation, fewer school holidays, and go to school all day Saturday. Thus there are almost as many school hours in their ten years as in our twelve.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

English teaching begins in Russia in grade 5 and continues through high school. In the school discussed an American teacher gave lessons to all (first graders included) after school.

Only ink is used in writing beginning in first grade (for more careful work.) 80 per cent of the time is spent on language skills, arithmetic, science, history, geography. Arithmetic ends in grade

5 — algebra and geometry begin. 8 per cent of the time is devoted (in primary grades) to craft-work and painting; same amount to sports, and 4 per cent to music. Dramatics and other activities take place after school.

Until recently there was Sunday homework and unlimited amount other days. Now full hour's homework in first grade — increasing to 4 hours nightly in high-school — because of protests of school doctors.

TEACHING AIDS

Slides, moving pictures, etc., are freely used (sent to every school by central agency). Field trips, experimental garden plots etc., are also a school practice.

Space forbids more detail but the atmosphere in the classroom and attitude of the teacher is to me more important than everything else outside of the complete uniformity and dictated nature of the entire system of Soviet education. And atmosphere and attitude too are as much alike in every classroom throughout the vast Soviet empire — as is humanly possible. Never once did the teacher smile (states the report) during a 45 minute period in the first grade. A cool "correct" to the right answer.

The child who gave the wrong answer was simply passed over without sign or comment. Under three very large pictures of Lenin — no other decoration — sat each small child without squinting — "Completely quiet, attentive" — It can be done. Do we want it?

STUDENTS STYMIED

QUEBEC (CP) — Three University of Montreal students were refused an interview with Premier Duplessis for the 34th time Monday. Bruno Meloche, Jean-Pierre Goyette, and Francine Laurendeau, have been attempting to see Mr. Duplessis since March 7, to arrange an interview on behalf of the presidents of the student associations of Quebec's universities.

your discussion (Feb. 14) of a wife's complaint that her doctor husband neglects her socially. You say that both man and wife have something to learn in this case, about the patterns of accommodation required, to make a good relationship.

May I add the following — not original with me:

"A wife is for her husband that which he has made her . . . Woman is weak and in marriage she should submit her will to man's. In return, man owes her the sacrifice of his selfishness and self will . . . Marriage must continually vanquish a monster that devours everything: the monster of habit." — Blazac.

"A woman's torment is not the man's tyranny — but his indifference." — Jules Michelet — R.R.

Dear R.R.: All things considered, I doubt that Bazac has much to contribute towards the relief of domestic tensions. As for Michelet, judged by the quote, he is an egotist; but is he a healer? M.H.

MARY HAWORTH

Little Known Of Marriage

Dear Mary Haworth: When I read your columns I wonder where you get your store of knowledge. You do so much good for so many people, and probably most of them never have had to write you themselves. They are helped by reading your answers to others.

I have always honestly wondered about the institution of marriage; and in your column of Feb. 27, you illuminated the subject about as well as I ever care to have it done.

I think the so-called ideal marriage, that the majority of people are seeking, is almost never found. Life in marriage (as compared to the "ideal" leaves so much to be desired, that oftentimes married people consider themselves the unhappiest of all.

MARRIAGE IS SHELTER

If they could know at the start, or learn to know as they go along, what you have said — "Marriage is a shelter for human nature, a providential sort of arrangement for protecting humanity from its own weakness and waywardness — and instability." It would be such a help; and make for so much more understanding and happiness in the world. I know.

My own experience, and the lives of others I know, are proof positive. I believe that less is known about the real reason for marriage than almost anything else in the world. And I am so hoping that you will further expound your notion that "this unit-plan (marriage) is of divine origin, conceived and established to sanctify the creation, and guarantee the long term moral nature, of human beings."

Your column carries help to peoples and places you will probably never know. Your publishers should be proud of you. H.B.

Dear H.B.: Thank you for these kind words. Such knowledge or wisdom as I may dispense come from the universal mind, of course — the source of all that is. Any truths that we share, as the common treasure of mankind, trickle through to us faintly via the faulty transmitter system of our five (or is it six?) senses.

If there is fresh understanding in my present thinking about the meaning of marriage, I am probably chiefly indebted to two books from British writers, that have come to my attention in recent years.

The one is "Society and Sanity" by Frank J. Sheed. And the

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Women

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HAPPENINGS

The faculty and graduating class of St. Dunstan's University have sent out invitations for the commencement exercises and solemn high mass and baccalaureate sermon in the college chapel Sunday morning, the eleventh day of May, at eleven o'clock. The sermon will be delivered by Reverend A. A. Francis, Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia. Degrees will be conferred in the alumni auditorium Tuesday, the thirteenth of May, at three o'clock. Mr. Charles de Koninck, Ph. D., Laval University will address the

graduates. The Glenview Presbyterian Church, Toronto, is a very large and impressive modern structure having been built about twenty-five years ago. It is situated in the residential section of North Toronto. The minister for many years has been the Rev. Kenneth M. Glazier, Ph. D. The assistant is a young man from Prince Edward Island, the Rev. Gardiner C. Dalzell, B.A.

Brigadier W. W. Reid and Mrs. Reid and Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Parent were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Ceretti, Borden, on Saturday evening.

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Former Island Organist Is Praised In Edmonton

The following tribute to Mr. Frank Johnson, a former organist at Zion church, will be read with much interest in Charlottetown, McDougall United Church is the church in which the Rev. H. A. Ashford was minister after his charge in Charlottetown.

Mr. Ken Hopkins and Mr. Ray Armitage on trumpet and trombone. It was one of the finest programs of Easter music ever heard, I am sure, in the City of Edmonton; so again I wish to extend my thanks to all who participated. It was wonderful.

TRIBUTE
Sir: — I would like to pay tribute to McDougall choir for the Easter music they presented, especially on Easter Sunday morning. I have attended a good many Easter services but never before have I heard magnificent music to compare with their rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus," and their other presentations, with Mr. Frank Johnson, organist and choir leader. Mr. Ken McLaren as baritone soloist, and

95 Avenue. K.S.

HOUSEHOLD HINT

Before buying that spring suit, examine the lining to see that it is cut amply enough to give when worn. If it isn't, it will be uncomfortable and liable to pull apart at seams.

WIFE PRESERVERS



Include your wall con-opener in your dishwashing routine. Often forgotten, it can harbor bacteria.

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