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Living Memorials

THROUGHOUT MANY COMMUNITIES, groups seeking money for their particular projects that are worthy but definitely for utilitarian purposes, have appealed to the emotions of people by designating their objective as a "Living Memorial" to the heroic dead.

There is a question of whether any utilitarian project can ever be a fitting memorial to the heroes of our country.

What is the purpose of a memorial? And will that purpose for which it will be dedicated be forever kept in mind, not for this generation alone but for generations to come?

The purpose of such a memorial is to reverence the memory of the heroic dead; to recall their epic deeds; to instill a feeling of reverence in our hearts; to inspire courage and faith and loyalty; to cause all who pass by to pause and silently pray for peace. Its meaning will be felt in the emotions and is spiritual.

Its purpose and meaning are seen and felt in the cenotaphs; in the Peace Tower, especially when the bells are tolling, and in the room kept sacred for the Book of Remembrance; in statues and monuments of bronze and marble or in the plain cairns and simple tables of many a small town; in an ever-lasting flame; in a painting, in a poem or in a song.

But it is doubtful if the purpose and meaning of a memorial to those who died that we might live be kept clear and long remembered in any utilitarian structure, however useful it might be.

Whether it is a library, an auditorium, a civic centre, a hospital, a park, a gymnasium or a home for veterans or the aged or anything else that a city needs or wants, none of these would for long be remembered for other than the use of which it was put. The purpose of its dedication as a memorial would soon be forgotten.

The materialistic concept has gone far beyond its original doctrine applied to history. It has unconsciously penetrated into our minds so deeply as to affect our thinking and actions on matters that are affairs of the emotional and spiritual part of human beings.

* * *

THE COPPER STRING

PRINCE RUPERT PEOPLE, who have become so used to good communications by telegraph, telephone and radio, came to realize again during the five days this week that the wires were down in the lower Skeena Valley owing to numerous trees blowing down over the line just how much we are still dependent upon our telegraphic service. Digby radio was pressed into service to handle urgent commercial messages but, otherwise, we were practically completely cut off. We had no long distance telephone communication, we were off the radio network, newspapers were unable to get their press dispatches. Business was slowed up and we felt very much cut off.

We still depend very much on the lines of wire which these many years have been the backbone of our speedy communication with the outside world. Like many other things to which we have come to become accustomed and take for granted, we only had to be without them for a few days to realize how much we should appreciate them.

* * *

INFANT MORTALITY

THOUGH THIS COUNTRY has made good progress in providing the things necessary to full health, there are still too many Canadians ill, too many babies dying, too many deaths in motherhood, and too great an attitude of 'let someone else do it' even in regard to caring for one's own health," says the November Monthly Letter of The Royal Bank of Canada.

"Every year the birth of a baby is of concern to about 300,000 homes in Canada, which means that every day it is the event of the year for 900 families," the article points out, and then continues in part: "In the four years 1938 to 1941 57,436 babies

under one year of age died in Canada, and 3,806 Canadian mothers died giving birth. This is a greater death toll than was suffered by Canada in her fighting forces in all four years of the first world war. Monuments in every city and hamlet show that we were sadly aware of the war sacrifices, but there is no general feeling displayed of our sense of the heavier losses on the home front through the death of many infants and mothers who could have been saved.

"The record has improved over the past 25 years, of course, but are we content with it? Those who point with pride to the reduction in infant deaths from 102 per thousand live births in 1921 to 55 in 1944 should go on to compare this with the record in other countries. Here are the figures; Sweden 29; New Zealand 29; Switzerland 38; Australia 40; Netherlands 40; the United States 40; England and Wales 49; and Canada 55.

"If some people are satisfied with the overall Dominion record, what do they say about the differences between various parts of the country? The number of children out of every 1,000 born alive who died before their first birthday varied in this way: British Columbia 40; Ontario 43; Prince Edward Island 44; Alberta 46; Saskatchewan 47; Manitoba 49; Nova Scotia 53; Quebec 68; New Brunswick 78.

"A similar situation is found in maternal deaths. The rate in Canada is high, but wherever adequate services are provided and taken advantage of the death rate is only half that of Canada as a whole. The point of pressing interest is that, according to the report of the Advisory Committee on Health Insurance issued in 1943. 'It is considered that by the adoption of adequate maternal services the death rate could be more than cut in half.'"



MACKENZIE KING PAYS SOCIAL CALL TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN—Shown on the White House lawn in Washington, Prime Minister Mackenzie King chats with President Truman during a meeting at the White House described as "a social call without any political significance." Mr. King left afterwards for Ottawa.

LIFE in this Prince Rupert

by BIDDEE JINKS

The last note reached into the audience, as perfect as the first—and I felt as though I had never heard "The Rosary" before. Somehow, I wished that Nevin himself might have been present, to listen to the close, double-strung harmony of his own composition, played as he meant it to be.

It was Raphael Keuert that played. In his hands he held a violin, a bow; beside him at the piano sat his brother Michael, whose soft touch rose and fell in accompaniment, as naturally as a breath. The knowledge that they had sat thus before great audiences in Europe, in Carnegie Hall, even before the King and Queen, could not prevent the two artists fading into the background of the music they presented, that pulsed and lived again under their masterly touch. Surely such was their desire, the key to their musical triumph.

Raphael Keuert's violin is one of the rare Guarneri instruments made by the Italian, Antonio Guarneri in 1719. Guarneri was a young man when Stradivari was at his best. These two are considered the greatest of all makers of violins. They did not work together but they each held the secret which makes one violin so different from another, theirs superior to all others.

Some claim the difference lies in the varnish applied but, generally, authorities attribute the superiority to a knowledge of tones and overtones. This knowledge they skillfully wrought into fine old instruments which they left to posterity; formed with the front and the back of exact size and shape, curvature and thickness, so that they both resonate in just the same way to the same note. Therein lies the fullness of their rich, musical tone.

Raphael and Michael Keuert were born in Montreal. Their parents are of Russian descent, who inherited from that land a love of music and ability. This they passed on to their sons. "We owe all our success to our parents," the Kellerts said. "Even when we were very young, we were taught to apply ourselves to whatever task we were given, to persevere until it was completed. When we commenced musical instruction at the ages of nine and 11 years, that lesson learned earlier received natural application."

This must have made them both a source of joy to their teachers, among whom were Saint-Saens, Massenet, Debussy and Ysaye of European fame. Many years of hard study abroad were spent by the Kellerts although their first concert was given in the city of their birth, with their father and mother present, filled with inexpressible joy in their sons' success.

It is so easy to sit watching an artist, listening raptly to the music he presents with seeming-

ly so little effort, and to forget the hours upon hours of practice which lie piled high behind that very success. Even during the years in which the Kellerts completed their matriculation, five or six hours were spent daily upon their respective instruments. At no time do they remember suffering from a loss of interest—which causes some of us with ambitions for our offspring to pray fervently that the bug that bit them might nip these of the present generation, be it every so lightly.

And in speaking of these youngsters, Raphael Keuert is very generous. "If they must have the classics in swing, let them have it. Then when they hear them played as they were composed, they will recognize them and listen. Of course," he added with a smile, "I prefer the composer's version."

Of Prince Rupert the two brothers had only highest praise. In the words of Michael: "We like it very, very much! In fact, it reminds us of the little villages nestled along the coast of southern France," he said. "We look forward to returning some time—perhaps next year—when we shall do more in 'joint solo' work for the people of Prince Rupert."

FOUR POLICE HERE WEARING SERVICE AWARD

Four members of "D" Division of the provincial police are entitled to wear the "Good Conduct and Long Service" medal recently announced by the force. They are Inspector H. H. Mansell, officer commanding "D" Division, Staff Sergeant G. A. Johnson, Senior Clerk George Mead and Sgt. Potterton, who will arrive this week from Smithers to take charge of the city detachment.

The medal is awarded to those who have served 20 years in the force with good conduct. Some 40 members of the force throughout the province are entitled to wear the medal.

At present, those eligible are wearing long service ribbons, the medal not yet having arrived. It is expected that a presentation ceremony will be held when the medals do get here.

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Poison Treatment Gets Rid of Moles

LONDON (C) — British moles, being blind as moles, still are suckers for the poisoned worm treatment. The agricultural ministry reminds farmers that poison may check moles when trapping is not used. Crystals of strychnine are sprinkled on worms in a jam jar and this bait is dropped into mole tunnels. The trick is in making sure all light from the entrance hole is excluded. The mole apparently is thus encouraged to believe the bait is normal.

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INDUSTRIAL SURVEY HERE

Former Local Soldier Thinks Prince Rupert Should be Active Centre

If Prince Rupert wants stable and permanent prosperity, it should look to the establishment of industries and the development of shipping not only to Alaska but to countries across the Pacific in relation to which it is so strategically located, says Nathan Smarinsky, who served with the Irish Fusiliers here back in 1942 and is revisiting the city for a few days. The advantages of this port should be publicized in every way and in as widespread a manner as possible.

One suggestion offered by Mr. Smarinsky is that the National Research Council and the British Columbia research organization attached to the University of British Columbia should make a survey of this area to determine the industries for the development of which it is most economically suited.

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Frank J. Denney, advertising manager of one large automobile company said: "The history of the automobile could well be written merely by a reproduction of its newspaper advertisements."

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