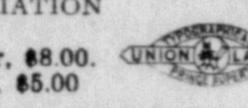
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## Personality or English?

OES it really matter, inquired the superintendent of public schools of Saskatoon (according to a newspaper interview published in that city) "whether a child knows when to use an apostrophe?" He was discussing the appalling revelations resulting from the dictation of a short passage of English dialogue to "an unselected group of 94 first-year students at the University of Saskatchewan who were enrolled in an English class." Of this group 40 per cent could not distinguish between "its" and "it's," 47 per cent misplaced the apostrophe in the phrase "friends' faces," 58 per cent did not distinguish between "who's" and "whose," and 62 per cent began 'Forty-ninth Street" without a capital letter. Only two students turned in a paper without some error in the use of the apostrophe.

"Does it really matter?" asks the superintendent Hamper Fund. of public schools of Saskatoon. And he adds: "When you speak the word 'hasn't' nobody will know whether the apostrophe is in the right place." He holds that the primary function of English is "a spoken function," and that, while it is desirable to correct such errors as "ain't" and "he done it," still "the relative importance of such errors to the personality building of the child" can be greatly overestimated.

Let us pass over the question whether the firstyear students of the University of Saskatchewan are properly to be classified as children (a classification which we think would probably annoy them very greatly), and go on to ask ourselves whether it is possible for anybody, child or adult, well-built by a university education without knowing the difference between "whose" and "who's", without being able to spell "fault" or "acquaintance" two other very common sources of error in this test). and without knowing anything of the principles of punetnation in quoted sentences. Our own opinion is that no matter how beautifully their personalities are built, such persons can gain nothing from university instruction which will justify them in taking up the time of competent university instructors, that they have no business in a university and that they ought to be putting their beautiful personalities to a more suitable use in plowing up good Saskatchewan soil or chopping down good Saskatchewan trees.

The university has been compelled by this situation (which means by the kind of teaching encouraged in Saskatchewan schools by superintendents who think that punctuation is secondary to personality) to establish "compulsory remedial English classes for freshmen," and thus to assume a task which is entirely outside of the proper range of a university's work. The unfortunate "children" who have to take these classes are seventeen to nineteen years old, and ought to be mature enough to study the kind of subjects which it is the business of a university to teach; but they have been kept so busy developing their personalities that they have not learned a host of absolutely elementary facts about the English language-including the fact that it has a visual form which is of some importance as well as its audible form. Owing however to their ability to pass the matriculation examination they are able to enter not only the university but also the provincial normal schools, whence they will go forth after ten months' instruction (mainly devoted, we fear, to teaching them how to build personalities) to teach other "children" that apostrophes do not matter. And thus the march towards illiteracy (combined of course with well-built personality) goes on and gains momentum every year. -Saturday Night.

#### TIME WILL TELL

V/HEN the war started and Japanese on Canada's Pacific coast were required to leave the country, opinion was frequently heard that the last of the Nipponese had not been seen. It was felt their presence had long been a source of more or less difficulty and that war had at last settled a somewhat vexed question. There were differences and arguments. The years, since then, did not disclose anything unexpected or presenting any problems that could be ascribed to the fact of the Japanese not being here. From the standpoint of industry, affairs proceeded smoothly. It was, in short, business as usual. Announcement is now made that the Japanese are returning, a policy, the wisdom of which time can only reveal.

# Legion Plans

Last night's monthly meeting of the local branch of the Canadian Legion was well attended with the younger veterans in the

Besides routine business transacted, donations were voted to the Women's Co-ordinating Council towards their annua dinner to the "Over Seventies which is being held during the coming week .as well as to the sale of T.B. Seals, sponsored by the Soroptimist Club.

A donation of \$250 was voted to the Ladies Auxiliary of the local branch towards the expenses of the Christmas Tree which is being held at th Navy Drill Hall on remember where it went un-Sunday afternoon when hund- til Miller Bay solved the probreds of children of local veterans !em. will receive a gift from Santa

Arrangements were also dis- Girl Guides cussed in regard to the "Bring Girl Guides Your Missus Night" which will be held on Friday evening next, at Are Hostesses which time lucky patrons will be able to take home a Christmas

annual installation will probably lin Farmer. take place in January with the tive officiating.

have their annual party for children club's own Christmas luncheon the week following.

#### WELL-SANTA IS RETURNED

The big worry is off Rowlie Miles' mind and the suit for Santa Claus' helper has been found so everything was set for the annual kiddies' Christmas Tree Wednesday afternoon everything except countless details that Don Forward and Miles have to organize for this great event in the lives of Prince Rupert small fry.

The suit, after a frantic and heavily publicized appeal at the first of the week, was returned from Miller Bay Hospital where it had been in use a pattern. For a time its problem, nobody seeming

Tuesday afternoon, the Guides turkey or a chicken which will and Brownies of St. Andrew's be raffled for the Christmas Cathedral were afternoon tea hostesses to their parents and friends. The program opened with a formal ceremony of welcome to the Commissioner. Then Commissioner Honora L. Silversides enrolled seven new Brownies-Kay Cristy, Eugene Cristy, Pat Wong, Gail Berg, Anne La nomina- Sette, Camille Lindseth and tions, the Prince Rupert Gyro Gladys Green-Wilson and pre-Club, at yesterday's regular sented collector's badges to business luncheon, Suzanne Kergin, Cathie Finlayelected A. J. Dominato as presid- son, Elizabeth Pierce and Maryent for the year 1950 with Mar- in Farmer and a golden hand tin Van Cooten as secretary and badge to Elizabeth Pierce. Next Grant Stewart, treasurer. Mark came the presentation of "Wings" Gormely and Joseph Chell were and the "Flying Up" to Guides of elected new directors, joining Dr. four Golden Hand Brownies-A.W. Large and J. S. Lindsay who Suzanne Kergin, Cathie Finlaycontinue for another year. The son, Elizabeth Pierce and Mary-

After all awards had been district governor or a representa- made the Brownies and Guides served afternoon tea to their Next Wednesday the Gyros will parents and friends before en-v Christmas joying a few games and a Christwith the mas party of their own.

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## Jaycees Want Airport Here

When the Junior Chamber Commerce held its monthly meeting at the Civic Centre last night with Vice President Harold Helgerson in the chair, one of the main topics of discussion was necessity for an airport in Prince Rupert. It was pointed out that, if there was an airport here, many hundreds of American visitors would be able to fly to Prince Rupert each year. Also it was pointed out that two hours would be saved on the trip to iency. Vancouver and, consequently .a saving of some ten dollars on the fare would be realized.

Ed Williams was appointed with the local airport committee and offer the J. C.'s support.

Mr. Tomlinson, entertainment chairman, announced that plans had been completed for the annual Christmas dinner this Friday night and he urged all mem bers to attend this dinner.

#### Rotarians Enjoy Pre-Xmas Party

Eighty persons, consisting of members and guests, attended an enjoyable pre-Christmas dancing party of the Prince Rupert Rotary Club last night in the Moose Temple. Dancing to the piano and rheumatism. Thousands of victims music of Andy McNaughton featured the evening's enjoyment Buffet refreshments were served M. F. Stuart was committee chairman and master of ceremonies, other members of the committee being William Scuby and William Terry.

Frince George for Vancouver and Fernie where they will visit during the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

## Newspaper Advertising Best Value

NEW YORK-Theme of retailers attending the recent fall meeting of the National Dry Goods Association Small Stores Division at the Hotel Statler here was "How to Cut Expenses." Although the general tone of the meeting was optimistic

oncerning future business, no one minced words concerning the necessity of curtailing costs and getting the utmost effic-

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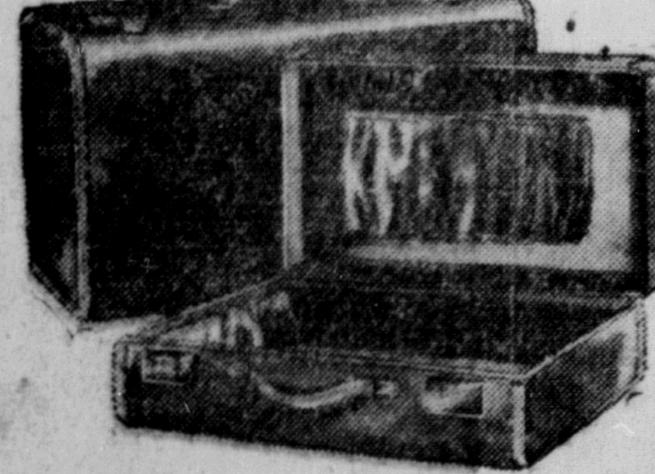
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