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Canadians Need More Music

DIFFICULTY the Rotary Club chorus is having in attracting singers raises an uneasy question - what is happening to music in this country?

The Rotary group's experience is not an isolated one. Everywhere there is evidence that Canadians are content to get their music through professional delivery. Although the day of amateur bands, glee clubs, quartets and orchestras has not yet gone, it appears to be in its twilight hours.

Music for Canadians is becoming a sedative dispensed by others, not a self-created stimulant.

A country without music is a barren one. Music, like humor, takes the tension out of living and stirs man to further achievement. In its own right it is, moreover, the highest form of artistic endeavor known to humanity. Disciples and practitioners of painting, literature, sculpture, drama and other expressions of art will deny this, but which of their preferences can match music in breadth of appeal and the power to move?

No picture ever painted, or stone hewn into a likeness, can hold an audience in absorbed silence for hours. A painting or a sculptured piece plays on a few quick moods which may, it is true, be revived on sight again and again. But music plays on many moods and with greater effect. It can bring laughter and tears. In hymn it can lead man to stronger faith, and in anthem it can arouse an entire nation.

While great literature offers a real challenge, the writer has not yet lived who can speak to as many as music does in a language they all understand. No matter how gifted, an author can gain attention on only a limited number of intellectual levels. A composer has no such restrictions. Education may help in the appreciation of music, but it is not an essential. The capacity to enjoy music is given at birth.

On behalf of literature, it may be claimed that no musical work has endured through the ages with such a large following as the Bible. That great book, however, is not creative art in the same sense as music. It is, instead, a chronicle of an extraordinary era. The creation lies in the thoughts and events of that era, not in the recording of them.

On the radio last night Harry Adaskin, well-known Canadian violinist, said that in the course of his travels across the country he had discovered the selection most often requested at informal gatherings was "Turkey in the Straw."

It seems that we are not only passive about our music but tasteless as well.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

There is one advantage of being poor. You can always pick your own friends.

Because the Boston steamer Evangeline has a wooden, instead of a steel deck, she will not replace the CP SS Princess Kathleen, lost off Alaska. The sort of possession the CP is better off without, than with.

NEIGHBORS AGAIN! President Eisenhower, taking over in Washington, becomes Canada's most eminent neighbor. But this will not be the first time he has mixed with the Canucks without being in Canada.

Most of the great lovers of history probably would face prosecution these days for having sex relations, contributing to the delinquency of minors or any of the other numerous laws in force. -Dr. A. Kinsey.

A story from Niagara reports

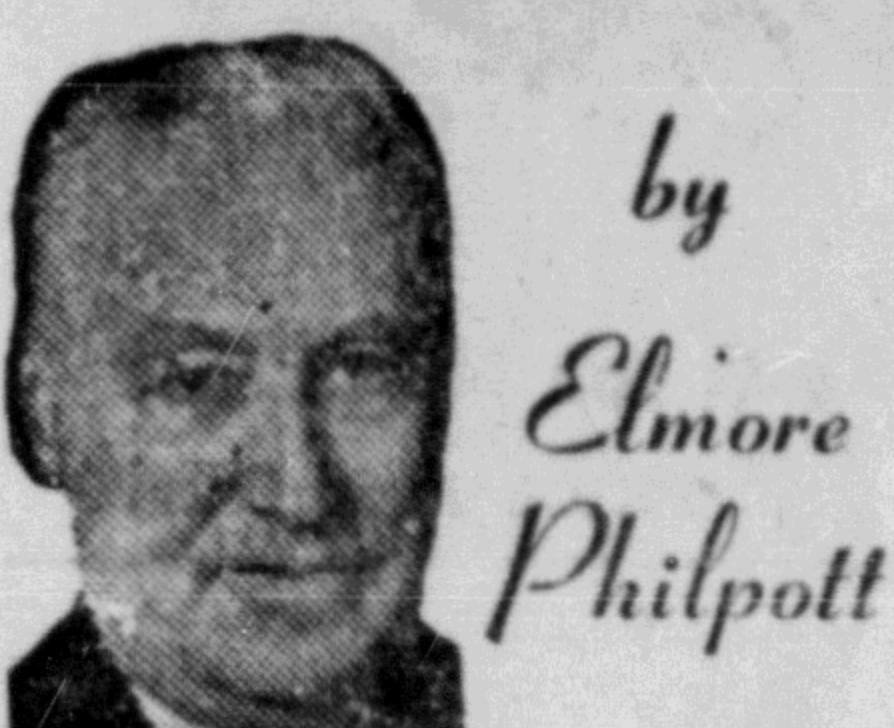
that a butcher stripped his wife with a butcher knife. Some women have all the luck.

An Ottawa judge rules that a honeymoon is not a necessity. While it may be needless worry, this legal development brings up possibilities.

A Texan is reported to have married his cook and then started divorce proceedings. A fireless cooker, however, is what is really needed.

PLAIN TOO MUCH No one can deny receiving an extra helping of "Silent Night" during the Christmas season. And it may as well be said now that even this early in the New Year, it will not be the fault of hundreds of groups if they fail to hear the hymn fewer times. The trouble is misuse and over-use. Music can be holy - yet wearisome.

As I See It



by Elmore Philpott

Horses and Jackasses

THE GREATEST danger I see in the Currie report is that what began with a couple of horses on the payroll of an army camp could, if mishandled, end with a couple of hundred jackasses on the payroll of the next parliament.

The Currie report revealed a bad condition at Petawawa. But there was nothing in the report or outside of it which indicates that local conditions would have been any less bad under any other party or cabinet minister. Indeed, it is greatly to the credit of Mr. Claxton that he himself asked for, and got, such a wide open investigation.

Where the government would go seriously wrong would be in now trying to sit on the lid it itself lifted.

The "horses on the payroll" phase has already caused many a laugh, and inspired Norris to draw one of the funniest cartoons that I have seen since the work of Balmfater in World War One. But there is nothing very substantial, as an election issue, behind that funny phrase. Everybody who was ever in our army, or any other army, knows that petty graft and "wangling" is an old army custom. If all the petty crooks and chisellers who have benefited extra-legally from their army positions, since 1914, were now sent to Canada's jails there would be no room for the really dangerous criminals. What the country needs to know is, was big business or party politics involved?

HERE IS the serious side as contrasted to the merely comical side of the "horses on the payroll." The Currie report says: "A contract was awarded for the clearing of the Camp X area. It covered the clearing of 206 acres, though only 165 acres were cleared and that not satisfactorily. In this, as in the scrap metal cases cited and, indeed, in others, army equipment was used although the contract called for the company to use its own equipment. During the clearing of this area horses were hired by army personnel and placed on the army payroll under the names of non-existent laborers."

It is difficult to imagine a more confused sentence than the above, for it does not explain exactly what happened. Did army men hire horses and help clear the land, and draw extra teamsters' pay over and above their army pay, or what? There are questions which further investigation will have to bring out - and the government should be even more anxious than the other political parties to bring them out - for it has everything to gain from clarifying and debunking this particular joke.

WHAT COULD swing public opinion against Mr. Claxton is the unwise use of the RCMP to investigate how the advance copy of the Currie report came into Mr. Coldwell's hands. Quite frankly, the public does not give a damn. Everybody knows that government documents, like cabinet secrets, are not supposed to "leak." But in this case the public is sure to feel that the "leak" was effective insurance against the doctoring or hushing up of the report. All cabinet ministers swear that they will not reveal doings in cabinet. But as Lloyd George remarked, in his time every cabinet minister, but one, told cabinet happenings to his wife. The exception was Lord Birkenhead, "who told other men's wives." It has happened before, even in Ottawa.

Many times the electors have tried to elect supermen to office, but have never yet succeeded. Our choice always appears to fall on the ordinary type of citizen, the kind of people who comprise the governments of all democracies. Above that we cannot rise and beneath it we cannot fall.

My advice to all citizens is, if you have the time, take in the council meetings, then read the reports the following day in The Daily News. You will then see for yourself what is going on.

LETTERBOX

Put Assessments Back

Editor, The Daily News:

I was much interested in your news item on the front page of January 7 issue under the heading "City Ratepayers Stir Over Assessment Hike." The fact is that last year's assessment on the old buildings in the business section was an outrage.

Frame buildings that originally cost less than \$20,000.00 after 40 years of occupancy were assessed as high as \$26,000.00. The Court of Revision gave a 10-per-cent reduction with a promise of an equitable assessment in 1953.

Not content with the big hike in the assessment of buildings in 1952 the assessment on lots has been about as great an outrage as was the raise in the assessment of buildings last year. In one business block where there has not been a new building erected for 30 years, and where the lots are mostly vacant and owned by the city, the few lots occupied have been boosted 50 per cent. Could anything be more ridiculous?

An assessor is the most important man on a city payroll, but the Prince Rupert administration apparently didn't wish to call in an experienced assessor from outside and instead appointed Mr. Daggett and sent him to Vancouver to get a few tips on the job. I have known Mr. Daggett for many years and believe him to be a good citizen and upright in his dealings, but I have never known that he had the slightest qualification for determining the taxable values of a whole city.

In such jobs as the Civic Centre the businessmen of Prince Rupert have done a wonderful job, but they are conspicuous by their absence from City Hall affairs where inexperience leading to inefficiency has forced this outrageous attempt to place a fictitious value on taxable property.

The City of Prince Rupert passed through a very trying

period in 1933 due entirely to inefficiency at the City Hall. Unpaid wages and accounts amounting to \$60,000.00 and a like amount of past-due interest on bonds caused the city bankers to shut off all credit. Its bonds sold at 35 cents on the dollar in Vancouver. It took all this to arouse the ratepayers to demand from the government a business administration. The city is not in that shape today, for the \$1,735,000.00 of outstanding bonds after a year of effort were refunded at a great saving to the city to a 20-year payment maturity, and will all be paid up in 1954 or 1955. The city is now at the crossroad and will either take a definite and a mighty step forward or will sink back to a secondary place and allow an entirely new city with a business administration to assume the leading role in northern British Columbia.

As a taxpayer I advise the immediate organization of the ratepayers of Prince Rupert to put the assessments back where they rightly belong.

WILLIAM J. ALDER.

MILESTONES

From the Files of The Daily News

40 Years Ago Today

H. Edenshaw, head of the Haida Indians, entertained the citizens this week at an enjoyable banquet at the Central Hotel in honor of his daughter's marriage to Frederick Nash, well known civil engineer and surveyor.

30 Years Ago Today

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Dunean that their son, Cedric, has passed his double course in arts and science with honors at the University of British Columbia.

20 Years Ago Today

At the annual meeting of the Prince Rupert Parent-Teachers Association last evening Mrs. H. B. Eastman was elected president, taking over the duties of Mrs. S. V. Cox.

10 Years Ago Today

Owing to the heavy traffic and other causes, city streets are sinking and tops of survey monuments and manholes are appearing above the streets and are becoming a menace to traffic.

A young logger divested himself of all of his clothes, this morning and took a swim in the chilly harbor and is now in the city lock-up under observation.

The second logging camp in connection with the Masset Timber Company's operation has been opened at Buckley Bay.

Manhattan Island, now a borough of New York City, was discovered by Henry Hudson in 1609.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Governor General Vincent Massey has turned out to be a major disappointment to Ottawa socialites who like to see their daughters "come out" properly. Mr. Massey isn't having any truck or trade with receptions for debutantes in Ottawa or anywhere else.

Before the last war each Governor-General held a "drawing room" reception in the Senate chamber as a highlight of the opening of Parliament. Everybody (debs included) who could afford white-feathered headgear and train-towing gowns, and white tie and tails, bowed and curtsied to Their Excellencies.

This lavish-function was dropped after the outbreak of war for austerity reasons, and has never been revived. However, starting in 1950 Governor-General Alexander held a party at Government House for his daughter, Rose. The season's crop of debs was invited and received by Their Excellencies. The Governor General also started to attend the fashionable St. Andrew's Ball in Montreal and receive debs from all parts of the country.

ANGRY MOTHERS

But Mr. Massey doesn't plan to revive the "drawing room" affairs in the Senate, to hold a party at Government House or to go to the St. Andrew's Ball. Angry mothers of 1952 debs in the capital protested that instead of "coming out" this year their daughters would have to "sneak out" at dances given by parents.

One mother with a deb daughter phoned Government House with her protest. But Mr. Massey remained firm, and the Ottawa debs had to travel to the St. Andrew's Ball in Montreal for their "coming-out" ceremony before Lord Lovat, chief of the Fraser clan.

An Ottawa wag then got into the act. The funster - now identified as a young man in the civil service - wrote letters to an Ottawa newspaper and signed them Alice E. Richardson. The letters complained about the lack of social functions for the well-brought-up people of Ottawa.

BATTLING PRESS

A first class fight then developed in the press between the "patricians" and the "peasants." The "peasants" labelled the "patricians" snobs, while the "patricians" called the "peasants" cheap and common.

But Mr. Massey remained unmoved by the battle of words. A government confidant said the Governor-General had definitely decided that times had changed since before the last war, and that Mr. Massey is just fitting into the new era.

It would seem wise for the debs to change also with the times. For a government spokesman says there will be no more Vice-Regal affairs to mark their "coming out."

Manhattan Island, now a borough of New York City, was discovered by Henry Hudson in 1609.

Vancouver Scientist Plans Five-Year Probe Into Causes, Source of Sclerosis

A scientist in British Columbia is at work on one of the most baffling of medical problems. Dr. Anatole Dekeban of Vancouver plans a five-year investigation into possible causes of the crippling disease, multiple sclerosis.

This research project, the second of its kind in Canada, was made possible by a grant from the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada to the University of British Columbia.

The society was formed four years ago, when it became evident the disease was common in this country and apparently becoming increasingly frequent.

GROUP OF LAYMEN

This society of laymen provides funds for research on the disease, and 1948, the year the society was formed, saw the opening of the first multiple sclerosis research project in this country at the Montreal Neurological Institute.

Dr. Roy L. Swank, scientist in charge of the Montreal research, was a recent visitor to British Columbia. He said progress of research in recent years indicates that a means to control this disease will be discovered, but called attention to the need for greater research effort in the hope that a treatment might be found in the near future.

Multiple sclerosis gets its name from the scar tissue that results from scattered damage to nerve coatings in the nervous system. Common symptoms are dimming of sight, loss of sense of touch, partial paralysis of the limbs. Any part of the body may be affected.

ALWAYS DISABLING

Multiple sclerosis, besides direct cause of death, is always disabling. In the majority of cases it is permanent. (Continued on page 3)

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Memo to all sidewalk superintendents



Next time you watch a construction job, remember - you may have a closer connection with it than you think!

If you own life insurance, that connection could be very close. Some of your premium money might be helping to pay the cost of digging that gaping pit. For, every year, hundreds of millions of dollars are invested for policyholders in ways that provide many kinds of buildings.

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