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Christmas School Concert

A FEATURE of the Christmas season that makes it a particularly happy time of year, yet receives too little recognition for doing so, is the Christmas school concert.

Somewhat in the bustle of all the other activities that characterize the holiday season, preparations for the school show are apt to be overlooked by all except the teachers and children immediately involved. Mother may be called upon to get a costume ready and youngsters may be heard doing some homework on their lines, but otherwise anticipation of the event is confined largely to the premises where it will be acted out.

Then almost unheralded the day arrives, and parents and friends surprise themselves and each other by turning out in such large number that the hall is packed. The curtain goes up and there before them is the result of weeks of rehearsal, excitement, bewilderment, planning, dreaming and—for some—agony. The effect on spectators preoccupied with so many other things is a rush of awareness that this is the first sign of Christmas they were really waiting for. The fun is all there, the eagerness and hopefulness and the affectionate link between grownups and children. There is no other occasion quite like it.

In Prince Rupert during the past week we have had an opportunity to see how much the Christmas school concert or play (and this applies also to the Carol Festival in which several young groups took part) can add to the spirit of the season. Children, teachers and many others have worked to put on performances that have delighted the hundreds attending. They have made Christmas in Prince Rupert that much merrier, and we are sure we speak for all in expressing warm thanks and wishing them the best of the season in return.

Hello Santa

TOMORROW the city welcomes the grand old man of Christmas. Despite his busy rounds, jolly Santa always finds time to come here in advance to see all the children who want to see him. For those in hospital or sick at home he makes special visits so that no one is forgotten if he can possibly help it.

Somewhere on his trips here Santa seems in particularly good spirits. A boy or girl would have to go far to find him in merrier humor or to see him looking so happy. Maybe it's because we are so far north, but we think it's because we know so much about the wonderful things he does and are so truly pleased to see him.

Greetings, Santa. You're great company and a great fellow.

GEMS OF THOUGHT —

Good resolution are a pleasant crop to sow. The seed springs up so readily, and the blossoms open so soon with such a brave spirit, especially at first. But when the time of flowers has passed, what is left? —Faith, Mabel.

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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

Quizzers Confounded

FOR THE second year in a row, nobody has won the Beard of the Prophet for giving the correct answers about forthcoming events.

This year there was not a single entrant of the many hundreds who answered, who was worth less than the American dollar by December 1, 1956.

On the question of wheat stocks just 51 per cent said lower (which was correct) while 49 per cent incorrectly predicted they would be higher.

Readers may be interested in my own score—three wrong, which was none too good. I mistakenly thought Canada would win the hockey, that U.S.A. would win the Olympics, and that Israel would not be engaged in outright war.

HERE are the questions which I posed for the quiz of 1956, with the percentages of the answers, right and wrong:

Question No. 1 was: Will Canada again win the world's hockey championship in 1956?

Only 34 per cent of the answers correctly predicted that Canada would not win.

Question No. 2 was: Will the U.S.A. or Russia win more gold medals for first prizes at the Olympic games? The prophets did better on that question. No less than 61 per cent correctly figured that Russia would beat out the U.S.A.

Question No. 3 was: Will Princess Margaret be either married or engaged to be married in 1956? No fewer than 72 per cent correctly guessed that answer was no.

Question No. 4 was: Will there be a provincial election in B.C. in 1956? Premier Bennett, fooled most of the prophets, of whom 76 per cent incorrectly predicted there would be no election.

Question No. 5 was: Will Mr. St. Laurent still be Prime Minister on December 1, 1956 and 78 per cent correctly forecast that he would still be on the job.

Question No. 6 was: Will President Eisenhower again be chosen to run as Republican candidate in 1956 and 58 per cent accurately said he would.

Question No. 7 was: Will Adlai Stevenson again be chosen to run as Democratic candidate and no less than 39 per cent have the right answer which was yes.

Question No. 8 was: Will the Democratic or Republican candidate be elected president—and the substantial majority gave the wrong answer. No less than 60 per cent of my Canadian readers figured the Democrats would win.

Question No. 9 was: Will Israel be involved in outright war in 1956? A surprisingly high percentage came up with the right answer. No less than 19 per cent said yes; Israel would be engaged in war. Incidentally, this was the highest percentage of predictions of coming war that have come to me in this quiz contest in the past 11 years.

Question No. 10 was: Will Canada officially recognize the Communist government of China in 1956? The great majority said yes, Canada would. The exact figures were, Yes 64 per cent and no 36 per cent.

Question No. 11 made me think that Canadians tend to the pessimistic side in economics. No fewer than 71 per cent incorrectly guessed that our dollar would

Prisoner Swap Slated Today

PORT SAID (Reuters)—The Anglo-French command today released 380 Egyptian prisoners in exchange for 450 interned British Suez Canal technicians. The switch was due to take place at El Cap, 25 miles south of Port Said. The Britons left Cairo by train this morning for Ismailia and then El Cap.

The Britons, brought to Cairo railroad station in large buses, smiled and waved as the train pulled out of the station. They were escorted by Egyptian police. A Swiss legation official travelled with them.

The technicians were in charge of maintenance at the vast British base at Ismailia in the canal zone. They were arrested Oct. 31, the day the British air offensive against Egypt was launched.

If, shall we say, the 200 that were whooping it up, it seemed that Fleming was by far the more popular. Fulton's name was also shouted and cheered, but a good 150 of the 200—and there are, of course, very rough estimates—were "for Fleming."

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VISIT WITH "SALLY ANN"

"Army" Kettles Bring Christmas to Needy

By SENIOR MAJOR CYRIL CLITHEROE

The Salvation Army

Have you ever stood on the corner, for an hour, in the winter weather?

"Absurd," you say. Well, it's different if by so doing you can help other people. And this week, for 64 hours, the Salvation Army personnel are in front of the Post Office, beside a "pot" into which folks drop their donations for the needy.

It isn't until you have stood there at least an hour, that you give of your time, without stint

begin to appreciate the difference or pay, and a Christmas "War Cry" is tucked into each parcel

as a whole. Here comes a rich man—you judge only by his clothing, etc.—and he graciously drops in his gift, as he hurries on to the office, while you call

"Thank you. Merry Christmas."

Then a poor old lady—judged likewise by her clothing—who drops in her gift, very humbly, and shuffles off. Then the housewife, very busy, but having time to notice and share

for the Christmas season. Here comes a young bride, and with a very friendly "Hello" she drops joyfully her contribution,

as though the whole world should share her happiness.

It is surprising how many children pass by. Curious as to the idea of the whole thing, then with a true spirit of self-sacrifice, in goes their contribution, small in our sight, but great in God's sight.

But where does the money go?

In the evening it is carried off to the local headquarters. Here it is counted and recorded. This

for various reasons. For instance, last year the first day netted about \$200—this year \$150. We account for this by the fact that the first day was very bad weather, and brave indeed were the people who stopped at all that day!

Mr. E. Davie Fulton, who ran a low third in the race, has made the claim in a prepared statement that it was a "fact" that "an analysis of the returns establishes" that he ran second to Mr. Diefenbaker "in the rest of Canada outside of Quebec" and second to Mr. Donald Fleming who is generally acknowledged to have won the majority of the Quebec votes. This statement would put Mr. Diefenbaker in third place in Quebec

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