

FOURTH PRIZE ESSAY

The Confederation of Canada.

Miss Irma writes in part as follows: I was very pleased to hear that my essay had won a prize and wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for it.

I was born in Stouffville and have lived here all my life attending the Stouffville Public and Continuation Schools. Last year I tried the High School entrance examinations and succeeded in passing them with honors, and this year, so far, I believe, I have led my classes. Composition has been about my best subject and I believe it is the one subject I really like for I really enjoy writing a composition on an interesting subject though I have by no means any great talent or ability for it.

I am very fond of reading books and have read a great many of them of many different classes and it is very hard indeed to leave my books and attend my school duties. But though I enjoy reading books I am by no means the proverbial "book-worm" because sports of all kind form an important part in my life. In the winter to speed swiftly around the rink on skates, in the exhilarating air which brings the roses to your cheeks, to me is life. Or perhaps it is a long snowshoe tramp to the pond. Just now we are actively engaged in basketball at school and enjoy it greatly, especially as we seem to have the winning team, but we are trying to learn to be good losers as well as good winners for we cannot always win. Then there is an endless list of water sports and land sports too numerous to mention. I am a member of the United Church of Canada League and consequently engaged in the activities of the societies connected with it.

"The Confederation of Canada."

Through more than three centuries of conflict and doubt, the history of Canada has gradually unfolded itself, until to-day we have a nation. The daring of the early pioneers in war and trade; the courage of the Roman Catholic missionaries; the Frenchman's loyalty to creed, race and language; the love of liberty of the United Empire Loyalists; these and many other influences have gone to mould Canadian institutions and Canadian character. The men who drew together all these complicated threads into a united whole and held it true to British loyalty while retaining an independence of its own, are known in Canadian history as "The Fathers of Confederation," a band of men drawn together by a great idea. George Brown, Sir George Cartier, Sir Oliver Mowat, Sir Charles Tupper and others all exercised their influence and used their persuasive powers, seeing the need of unity and working for a great objective, Confederation. All did their best but the man who carried the greater part of the burden and who did more than all to hold the nation together after it was united was Sir John A. Macdonald. They won for Canada Confederation, freedom, independence, unity and still remained loyal to the Motherland; and Confederation—the B.N.A. Act has made Canada a nation, a glorious home for children proud to call themselves Canadians.

The Quebec Act and Constitutional Act had given new forms of government but were not entirely satisfactory. Then Lord Durham was sent out and recommended responsible government and union and was aided by Sydenham, Metcalfe and Lord Elgin. As a result the two provinces were united and responsible government won.

There had been many suggestions of union in the last century. Colonel Morse suggested it in 1777, the independent loyalists in 1791, John B. Robinson in 1822, and Lord Durham had favored it at first but gave it up because of the lack of transportation.

By 1864 there had been in three years, two elections and four ministries and the two parties in Canada were at a deadlock. It was thought that if all British North America were united, new members would come in from the Maritime Provinces and give one party the majority. About this time, although for years they had been bitter enemies, because they were inspired by Confederation and heard the call of Canada, Macdonald and Brown united in her service. Great Britain favored union and the abolition of her Coyn Laws forced Canada to look for new trade. In 1851 the Reciprocity treaty gave her free trade with United States but it was soon abolished. So she thought that if she could not trade north and south, why not east and west? To do this there must be a railway to the Maritime Provinces and for this there must be some kind of union. Also, during the American Civil War, fear of a United States invasion made Canada see that for strength she must have unity.

The French had feared that by becoming not one of two provinces but one of four or five, they would be swamped, but Cartier persuaded them of the opposite.

The Maritime Provinces were suggesting union of themselves and sent delegates to the Charlottetown conference where Upper and Lower Canada sent representatives to ask for larger union. They then adjourned to Quebec and drew up a series of Resolutions which in 1865 were passed by the Canadian Parliament.

Upper Canada favored them but Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island objected. However the objections were overcome by Cartier in Quebec. Tiltle in New Brunswick and Tappin in Nova Scotia.

A LOVER OF SPORT



IRMA S. GRUBIN, Stouffville, Ont. Sportsmanship no Disqualification to a Good Writing.

In 1866 delegates from Upper Canada, Lower Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia met at London where the Quebec Resolutions became a bill. The British Government gave every help but the most prominent figure was Sir John A. Macdonald. At last, the British North America Act was ready and on March 29, 1867, was passed by Great Britain and on July 1, 1867, Canada became a Dominion.

The terms of this Act which made Canada a free Dominion across the sea from her Motherland are:

- (1) Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were formed to be one Dominion under the name of Canada.
- (2) Upper and Lower Canada were to form two separate provinces, Ontario and Quebec.
- (3) The King was to be represented by a Governor-General appointed by the King.
- (4) There was to be a cabinet of thirteen members which was responsible to the people's representatives in Parliament, to advise him.
- (5) The legislature included two bodies; the Senate, appointed for life by the Governor-General, and the House of Commons elected by the people for five years. Quebec was to have sixty five members and the others an equal number in proportion to their population.

Canada is rapidly becoming a great nation. Population has grown more slowly than in the great nation to the south of us, but it does not follow that she will always lag behind. Her people have made for her so honorable a name that men and women, eager to call themselves Canadians will come to fill up the great North-Western plains. Canadians are honored and heard with great respect wherever learned men gather. Every year thousands of strangers seek health or pleasure along the wonderful St. Lawrence, among the towering peaks of the Canadian Rockies or plunge into the forest to camp and fish. Canada is a country of wonderful resources. Her forests cover over a million square miles; she has millions of acres of rich wheat lands, in mineral wealth she ranks with any country and her manufactures are rapidly being developed.

"Oh Canada! our home and native land,
True patriot love in all thy sons command,
With glowing hearts we see thee rise
The true North, strong and free,
And stand on guard, Oh Canada!
We stand on guard o'er thee."



Hubby—"Dear, won't that winter hat do for Elaster?"
Wifey—"I should say not! That is a northeaster hat."

A Chance for Someone.

Toronto, Ontario.—A tract of land 40,000 acres in extent near Bancroft and Peterboro, taken over by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission in 1916, with the central hydro system, is to be sold by tender on July 1st, it is announced. The tract will likely pass into private hands as the Government, it is stated, has no intention of taking it over as a reforestation area or game preserve. The tract is stated to be well wooded and suitable to profitable operation in pulpwood.

Canada Follows Suit.

Ottawa Citizen (Lib.): There is no evidence of any hostile action on the part of Soviet Russia against Canadian interests. But the Canadian Prime Minister is faced with the question whether Canada is to stand with Britain or Russia in the breach of relations. There can obviously be only one answer. When Britain throws down the gauntlet, Canada must follow.

PRESS COMMENTS.

The Flood.

As the flood waters of the lower Mississippi are gradually receding all the way from St. Louis to New Orleans, there is following in their wake a rehabilitation effort that promises the inundated farm lands of fully half a million people a steady return to productive stability, while subsiding and replanting are already in progress in Arkansas and Mississippi. It is believed that the last break has occurred in southern Louisiana.

The consensus of reports both from the scenes of the flood, and from official sources in Washington indicates that prompt relief and a well-ordered plan of restoration will go forward without the need of a special session of Congress. Agricultural credit, the prime requirement of the entire flood area, is being rapidly extended under the supervision of the Federal Farm Board and by private corporations. Government engineers and the Mississippi River Commission will have prepared by the opening of Congress in December a draft plan for the effective prevention of the recurrence of such a disaster.

Cordial Relations

Current news dispatches touching France, Great Britain, and the United States emphasize a growing cordiality of relations between these countries—a cordiality rising above the mists of transient politics. The visit which Gaston Doumergue, President of the French Republic, paid to King George last week gives assurance of Anglo-French harmony, and seals further the entente cordiale which, while occasionally strained, has bound Great Britain and France in friendship for nearly a quarter of a century. Germany, it is reported, is viewing the re-accepting of the entente with suspended judgment, concerned lest the increasing animosity of Downing Street and the Quai d'Orsay might be against its interests. Second thought, it seems likely, will dissipate this suspense, since Germany has not prospered more than when friendship has supplanted friction between London and Paris.

All for Peace

In the United States, the proposal of M. Briand that France and America join in a treaty definitely prohibiting for all time resort to war is winning popular favor. The proposal is unofficial, coming from the people of France to the people of the United States. Clearly, it is crystallizing public thought to a point where it may find expression in more tangible form. While it has not been formally presented to the respective governments, it is perhaps the more fortunate that the people of both countries have the opportunity to express themselves before the plan reaches the customary diplomatic channels. Senator William E. Borah has recently urged that the Briand idea be applied to a five-power peace alliance between Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States. Another sign of the times! The desire for peace is inherent in the peoples of the nations. It is well, when the time is propitious, that these ideals be concreted into the fundamental law of international relations, into the law which is a binding law only when it speaks the will of a peace-loving people and the diplomacy of true statesmen.

Canada's Navy.

Victoria Colonist (Cons.): The Federal Government is calling for tenders for the purchase not only of the cruiser Aurora, but also of the Submarines 14 and 15 which were presented to Canada by the Admiralty after the War and which are now obsolete. The two torpedo destroyers which were included in the gift from the Admiralty will shortly, if they have not already, come within the obsolete category. With their disappearance the last vestige of a Canadian Navy on the sea will have gone and there is not a single murmur of policy from Ottawa of what will be done in the way of naval defence in the future. The Liberal Government appears to be striving by a policy of silence, to induce the people to forget that the fortunes of the country are in any way bound up with sea power. That Government is pursuing a policy of disarmament by the attrition of time. It lacks either the courage or the will to deal with the responsibilities of nationality, although it never wears of talking of the rights which a national status entails.

Sunday School Lesson

John 18. Peter Teaches Good Citizenship, 1 Peter 2: 11-17; 4: 1-5. Golden Text—Love worketh no ill to his neighbor.—Rom. 13: 10.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE CONSECRATION OF LIFE, PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE, 2:11-17.

II. THE IMITATION OF CHRIST, 4:1-5. **INTRODUCTION**—It was particularly important that the early Christians should set their heathen neighbors a good example of high-minded and unselfish public service, as well as of personal and individual probity. The reasons were as obvious as they were manifold. In the first place, the followers of Jesus were exposed to constant criticism on the part of their heathen neighbors. Their conduct was watched, and it was desirable that nothing in their behavior as members of the community should lead color to the accusation that they were disloyal or different to the common good. This was all the more necessary since Christians believed in their hearts that their true citizenship was in heaven, from which they expected the coming of Christ, their true King. It had to be clearly shown that this belief in the kingdom of heaven did not mean any disregard of the obligations of ordinary citizenship in the present world. In the second place, it was important that the Christian ideal of life should be maintained in its full breadth. Christianity has a social as well as a personal function. It requires us not only to love God with all our heart and soul and strength, but to love our neighbor as ourselves. This of itself implies the highest standard of citizenship.

In the epistles of St. Paul, therefore, we find that a high ideal of good citizenship is insisted upon, and the same thing holds true of the First Epistle of Peter. The passages forming our lesson for to-day are noble passages worthy of our most earnest study.

I. THE CONSECRATION OF LIFE, PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE, 2:11-17.

V. 11. Christians are "strangers and pilgrims" on earth. They know that they are here only for a season, and that the kingdom of God, for which they look, takes precedence of the kingdoms of the world. But just for this reason they must live exemplary and noble lives, guarding against "fleshly lusts," that is, against the temptations to a sensual or selfish life, for the sensual life is opposed to, and destructive of the life of the spirit.

V. 12. The conduct or "conversation" of Christians is to be honorable and above reproach, for their Gentile or heathen neighbors are watching them. The current opinion among the Gentiles is that Christians are "evil-doers" or inciters to mischief. Their private gatherings are regarded with undisguised suspicion. Thus Tacitus, the Roman historian, accuses the Christians of "hatred of the human race." The followers of Jesus must disprove these iniquitous accusations by showing a high example of "good works." Only thus will their heathen neighbors be convinced of the sincerity of their profession. The Epistle here seems to quote the words of Jesus in Matt. 5:16.

Vs. 13, 14. Consequently the apostle urges his readers for Jesus' sake to show a proper and becoming respect for law and government, whether embodied directly in the person of the emperor, or indirectly in the person of the consuls who govern the various provinces. The apostle reminds his readers that the function of rulers and of constituted authorities is to promote good and to discourage wrongdoing, an ideal which every Christian is bound to respect.

Vs. 15. It is the will of God that his people should, by the high standard of their own lives, silence and put to shame the foolish and ignorant criticism to which Christianity is so often subjected.

Vs. 16, 17. If any body of people can call themselves "free men," it is the followers of Jesus, who have been redeemed and set free from all other laws and obligations that they may give themselves wholly to Christ. This freedom must not be understood as liberty to do what we please. It must not be taken to excuse a churlish refusal of public and social duties. "Honor all men," says the apostle. "Love your fellow-Christians." Fear God. Honor the emperor."

II. THE IMITATION OF CHRIST, 4:1-5.

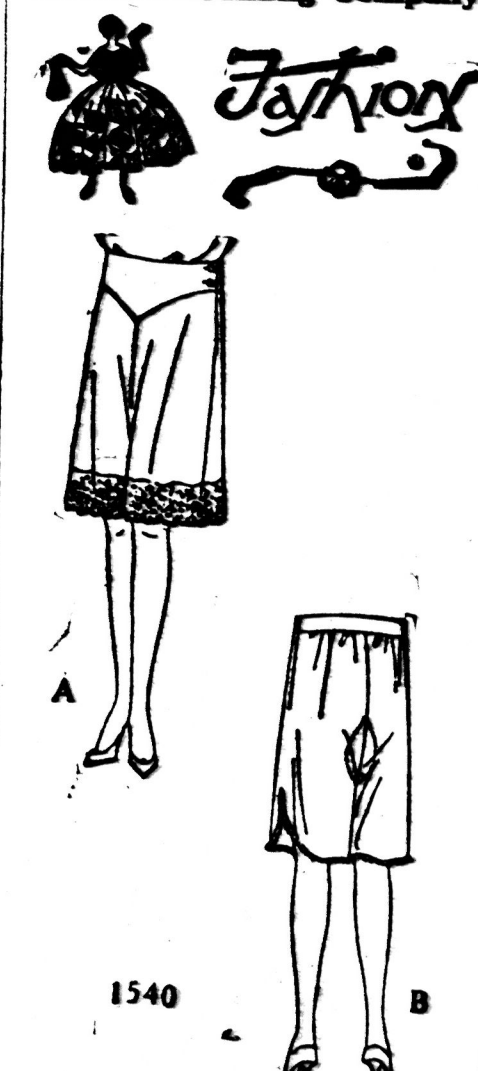
V. 1. Hitherto the apostle has urged the obligations of Christian citizenship for their own sake, and in order to refute the false charges of the

heathen critics of Christianity. Now a new motive comes in. The example of Jesus is put forward. We see Christ suffering for righteousness sake, and we are told that we ought not merely to follow a high ideal of social and civic duty, but also to suffer, if need be, for its sake.

V. 2. The apostle holds up the cross of Christ in its bearing upon our moral lives. Jesus was crucified on the cross, and his followers must crucify the sinful and lax tendencies of their own hearts, that they may live to God. We can only live the spiritual life by repressing and slaying the sensual life.

Vs. 3-5. Many of the apostle's readers were converts from heathenism who in former days had gone to the same lengths of immoral excess as their heathen neighbors still do. The apostle knows how bitterly these converts regret the old sinful days and years, and he asks them to see to it that there be no relapse into the old ways and habits. He describes the sins of the heathen world: "sensuality, immoral passions, intemperance, drinking, revellings, banquetings, and disgraceful idolatries." These things must have no place in the regenerate life. Their heathen neighbors are surprised and annoyed that Christians no longer bear them company at these orgies. But such criticism deserves no notice. It will be mute on the day when Gentile and Christian alike find themselves face to face with Christ, the final judge of men and things.

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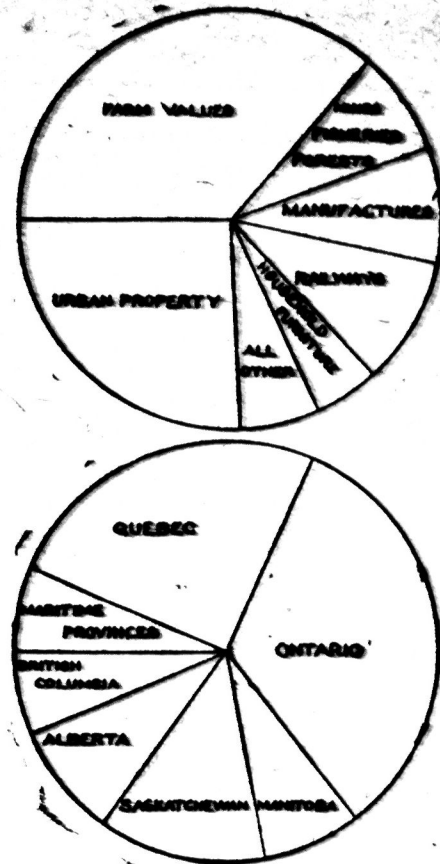
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Nothing annoys a chronic kicker like the refusal of things to go wrong.



Two graphs showing, above: How Canada's assets are distributed. Below: A comparison of our national wealth by provinces.

Science and Empire.

Hamilton Spectator (Ind. Cons.): (At the Colonial Conference, Mr. Amery suggested the possibility of creating "a scientific service for the whole colonial empire.") It is not only in the smaller colonies, but even more so in the larger dominions, that this need for scientific development exists. . . . College graduates pass out from our native institutions of learning to take up their careers outside Canada and the Empire. If such a system as that referred to by the British Colonial Secretary could be inaugurated, it should be possible to make use of these students in the British service in some part of the commonwealth. In that way they could be given a diversity of experience as well as render the most profitable service to their country and the Empire at large.

Boom in Tobacco on the Way.

London, Ontario.—"The American tobacco grower realizes that he must seek a new field where growing and marketing conditions are better," states Robert J. Spence, chief field man for the Ross Tobacco Co. of St. Thomas. "They naturally look to Canada where the industry is in its infancy, where the soil has not been depleted, and where the British preferential tariff makes growing profitable. The migration from Kentucky and the tobacco growing states has only begun."

Commercial Aviation in Canada.

Saint John Times-Globe (Ind.): Commercial aviation is much nearer than most people imagine. Already Ontario has seventeen and Quebec six civil aerodromes and seaplane stations; and beyond a shadow of doubt there will ere long be a development of air routes comparable to that of the railways of the last century. Air ports will be required all over the country, and where these spring up will depend largely on where municipalities have already provided facilities in advance.



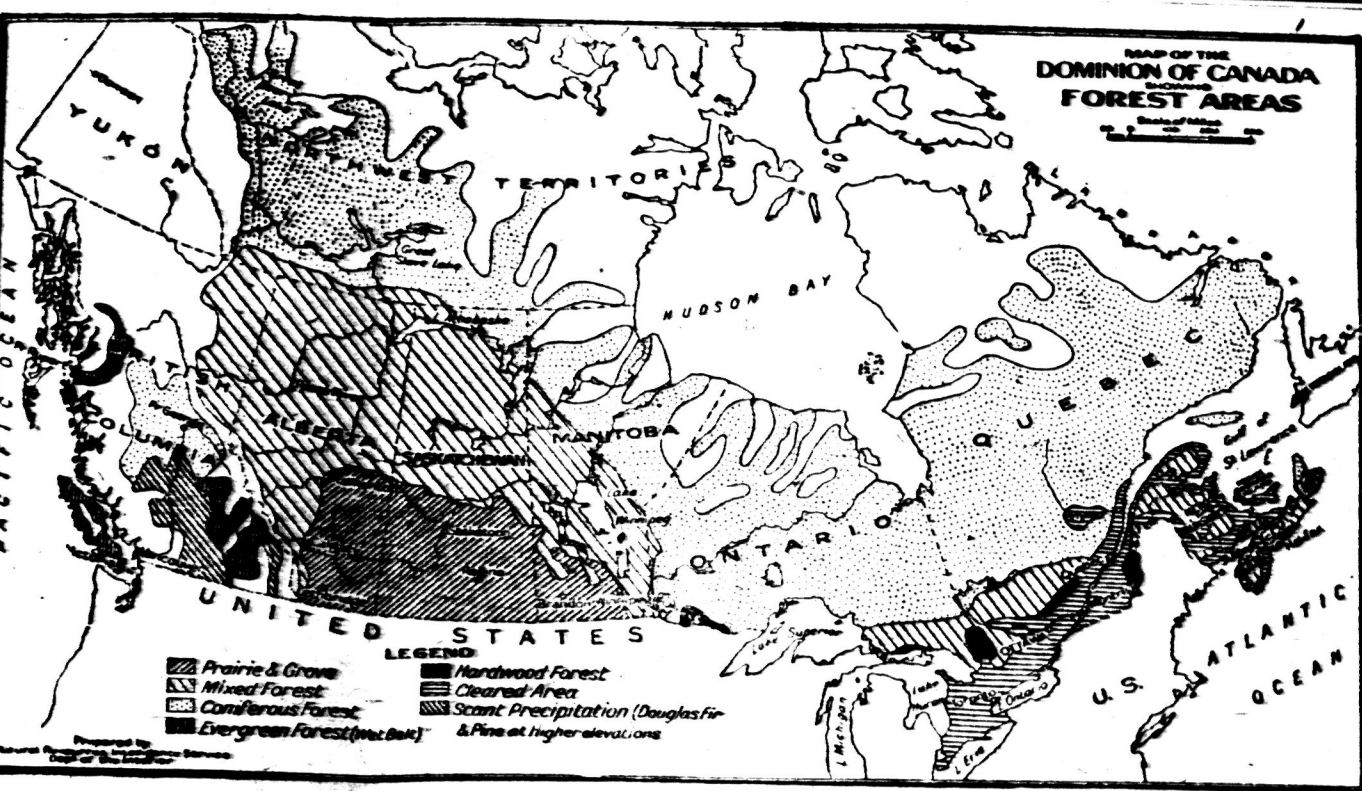
He—"You're the sweetest flower that ever grew."
She—"But don't forget that I've been picked before I ever met you."

Chicago and the Mississippi.

London Free Press (Cons.): Through the Chicago Drainage Canal is flowing daily south into the Mississippi River as much water as pours over the American Falls at Niagara. It does not need an expert to figure out that if this enormous stream of water was left where it belongs, in the Great Lakes, it would relieve the pressure of the flood waters of the Mississippi. The chances are that if the Chicago theft was at an end the Southern States would no longer be menaced by the Mississippi.

An Irish housemaid, boasting of her industrious habits, said she rose at four, made a fire, put on the teakettle, prepared breakfast and made all the beds before anyone in the house was up.

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