"The Jarvis Record"

TELEPHONE 37, JARVIS, ONTARIO

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A. L. MILLER, Editor

DRAMA'S OPPORTUNITY—

NO REVIVAL of community activity has been more warmly welcomed than the Little Theatre. Driven off the boards by wartime necessities, the spare-time actor is acting again. He had a sort of counter-part in the semi-professionals of the service shows, but it wasn't the same thing. Now the amateur show is again in the hands of the local club and the local enthusiast.

The impulse to recreate life on the stage is an old one, and amateur acting is far more widespread than is generally known. No one who got his early years of education in a one-room country school is likely to forget the so-called "dialogues" that were always a part of the pre-Christmas school concert. At the other end of the scale are the elaborately-staged plays put on by entrants at the regional and Dominion drama festivals. And in between, the hundreds of church, community and college drama clubs, from which one or two productions occassionally emerge to make news at these formal festivals.

Perhaps the most interesting development in the amateur stage in Canada is the fact that in isolated instances, communities are trying to get away from formalism.

Year after year, the regional festivals have produced the same old plays — the adjudicator often being forced to choose between two or three companies vying in the same lines and characters.

Now, occasionally, you find a group putting on a show that is native in inception and authorship as well as in the personalities of its players. It is in this field, in the re-creation of themes that are native — and at the same time universal, since humanity is universal — that the Canadian Little Theatre has its greatest opportunity to become a really important and living thing.

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WHAT IS CIVIL LIBERTY ?—

LIBERTY has many meanings. In ordinary usage, liberty means the ability to think and act as one chooses without interference, but in living with other people the limitation has to be added "so long as one's actions do not interfere with the equal liberty of others."

Civil liberties include freedom with respect to personal action, the possession and use of property, religious beliefs and worship, and the expression of opinion. The mere fact of living in a democracy does not make certain the maintenance of any group of liberties for the individual. A democratic government must be constantly on the alert to avoid a danger inherent in majority rule — the danger of imposing bondage upon minorities.

There is an important protecting factor: one liberty preserved under the democratic form of government is the right to complain about violation of one's liberty. So long as citizens have the right to make complaints, and the complaints are freely heard and fully considered, and so long as indicated reforms are speedily made, then citizens have the utmost of civil liberty that wise men look for.

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ETHICS IN BUSINESS—

BECAUSE IT GOES to the very heart of human nature, the question of right and wrong is not a simple subject. But since it is so important to the well-being of individuals, social communities, and the nation, it is well worth a little thought.

From the very beginning of things, there have been obligations arising out of social contacts. The fourth chapter of the Bible's first book puts on record a momentous question: "Am I my brother's keeper ?" Today's viewpoint is that every man has a certain responsibility toward others.

When we narrow this down to the morals of business, we find that the spirit finds expression through fair play, honourable dealing, and keeping one's word.

Most business men have a solemn feeling of their obligation to maintain honour in the business world. They are men who recognize the importance of the square deal as part of creative industry.

In recent years a new sense of community obligation has been added to old ideas of personal goodness.

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A BELATED DISCOVERY—

(Pilot Mound Sentinal)

DOES A LIVE WEEKLY newspaper mean anything to the business, sporting, social and other activities of a town ? Does it aid these in any way — or is it just another private business undertaking, the success or failure of which is nobody's concern excepting the publishers ? Some men — including business men — think a weekly newspaper doesn't mean a thing; the town, and its business and other life, would get along just as well without a paper. At least, this appears to be their attitude — since they do not support it in any way with necessary advertising and printing patronage. Perhaps they are right. But the experience in other towns, once served by weekly papers forced to quit because of lack of this necesary support, indicates differently. The latest Manitoba town to make the discovery that a lively weekly is a necessity to any live town, is Miami. Since the Miami "Herald" ceased publication, due to lack of support of the business men and citizens, Miami has been without a newspaper for several years; numerous attempts were made to revive the paper — all without success. Now the Board of Trade and other business interests of Miami, more than convinced of the value of a weekly medium for circulating news and advertising messages throughout its district, have combined to re-establish the Miami "Herald." They realize that a weekly paper cannot survive without the patronage of all business interests in a town — and they have learned that a town and district cannot be welded into a live, thriving and go-ahead community without the services of a live weekly newspaper.

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PITY THE NEW POOR—

(By Joseph Lister Rutledge)

THE OTHER DAY the newspapers reported, with varying degrees of envy, prejudice and anger, that the president of a certain company had earned a salary of $60,000. a year.

That is a tidy little nest egg and it isn't wholly surprising that we 2,545,225 taxpayers who earned less and, mainly, so much less, found the figure one to get mad about but not to understand. But the catch in the statement is that there is a relatively distant association between what you earn, and what an all-wise government permit you to keep.

In all Canada there are only some 584 fortunate persons who earn, in this governmental sense, upward of $50,000. In the group of 475 persons who earn all the way from $50,000 to $100,000 the average salary, or whatever it may be called is $65,000. That is what the Finance Department calls their earnings. But when that same department has got through with the matter and assessed an average tax of $38,380, the spending money remaining is reduced to $26,620. But of course there are churches and hospitals and innumerable causes to be supported, and naturally, the bulk of the supporting is done by this group. After all when it is advertised that you earn $60,000 a year you become a marked man for all dealers in good works, and causes and developments. So really what you are dealing with is the new poor, because it isn't easy to cut your scale of living by a good deal more than half. Where, for instance, are you going to sell your big house or how relieve yourself of business, social or charitable obligations?

But, let us forget any sympathy for these folk, who still have considerably more to spend than the average of us. Suppose they weren't there, or got incomes like the rest of us, who would look after these obligations, or who would pay the taxes that they now provide ? Or suppose that by some modern magic we could dispossess these 475 and divide their total income among the rest of us, each of us would average a benefit of almost a dollar a month. That wouldn't be so bad if it weren't that to secure it we would have to dig up an extra $18 million in taxes and look after all the good works for ourselves. Personally these reflections make us more satisfied with our modest lot.

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ISN'T IT A LOVELY DAY ?—

WE HAVE JUST READ in a canned editorial from Toronto a rather crabbed criticism of the true Mohammedan. Why ? Because he dogmatically refuses to complain about the weather — an arrangement of Allah.

The editorial in question protested there is nothing necessarily impious in complaints on the weather. This view is not unreasonable, though there is no more thoroughly fruitless pursuit, as Mark Twain drily pointed out.

But to pillory the Moslem for not wasting his breath seems a bit extreme.

Granted it is of Toronto's essence to moan, even at the absence of something to moan about. But this criticism of the uncritical seems to us much like lecturing a deaf man or courting a beautiful girl in a magazine ad — a practice satisfying only to the abnormal.

It strikes us as regrettable that two such noble ingredients as the weather (it's a lovely day, isn't it ?) and Allah should be ground into pulp to make grist for a prefabricated-philosophy mill on the shores of Lake Ontario.

Even the deepest sympathy with the sometimes sound sentiments of the big town at Bay and King can't make us masticate this sad sackful of printed words.

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CHILDREN WITHOUT CHILDHOOD—

IT IS WITH PLEASURE we recall the fun we had in our childhood.....of those things which were not important then but which are now treasures in our memory book. That is the way childhood should be.....carefree and secure, no worries, no wants.

But how different it is for those boys and girls in Europe whose lives have been sliced by the ravages of war ? Truly, they are old before they are young. They are half-fed and cold. Many, made orphans, will never know the love within their mother's heart. Thousands know no other home than a pile of rubble. Garbage dumps is where they eke out food to help stretch the skin over their dwarfed bodies. Their lives are miserable.

Childhood for these boys and girls has passed them by. Living and survival has been earnest business—a 24-hours-a-day job and it started at the cradle. It is to these poor unfortunates that we are asked to extend our help with donations to the Canadian Appeal for Children. Money collected in this appeal will be used to purchase food and clothing. Money will be spent for books and pencils. It's a fresh start for millions, and it must succeed.

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QUOTE FROM YESTERDAY—

A noble soul is like a ship at sea,
That sleeps at anchor when the ocean's calm;
But when she rages, and the wind blows high,
He cuts his way with skill and majesty.

—Beaumont and Fletcher

Pen, Scissors and Pastepot

The reason M.P.'s have big ears is not from keeping them to the ground to get the trend of public opinion but from the constant practice of cupping them with their hands in a strained effort to hear what is going on in the House of Commons. We sat in the members gallery — a good vantage point — for an hour the other day and were highly intrigued by what we saw directly below. Members of Parliament were jumping to their feet along the front benches of the government and the opposition, but what they were saying could be anybody's guess. The only voice we could hear and understand was that of George Cruikshank, M.P. for Fraser Valley, B.C. He enquired of the speaker when something was going to be done about installing a loud speaker system in the House of Commons so the members would know what was going on. Cruickshank is a back bencher on the Government side.

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Mrs. Gladys Strauss, C.C.F. member for a remote Saskatchewan Constituency made the headlines when she came to the House of Commons at the beginning of this Parliament. The newspapers pictured Mrs. Strauss as a typical backwoods woman and we imagine that is the impression generally held concerning her. Until we had studied the House seating plan we thought the glamorous creature sitting to the left of Mr. Coldwell was a Hollywood celebrity enjoying a special privilege by being seated on the floor of the house. She was sporting a hair do that was simply out of this world and her dress was decidedly new-lookish the color of a fresh Florida orange. Mrs. Strauss brightens the atmosphere of the Commons chamber.

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Charlie Butts and Reeve Geo. Walker will hardly agree with us but we think his community can be thankful that we are not among those communities who this week are adding up extensive damage from flood conditions. In view of the comparatively light snowfall this past winter the record flood levels were not anticipated. Damage is already running in the millions of dollars and it is not over yet. A faulty drain at the main intersection of the Village made a Venice canal of the four corners on Friday but it lasted only a few hours and could hardly be considered serious at any time. The water found its outlet between Charlie Butt's and Geo. Walker's residences and left a goodly share in their respective cellars.

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The big business to hand in the Jarvis district is the Jarvis District Community Chest Appeal which opens next week. This agency relieves all of us of a great deal of responsibility. It considers and decides relative amounts that should be forthcoming from our community for the recognized Charitable appeals which take place annually. It conducts one canvass in place of several appeals which would otherwise be made. It efficiently deals with this phase of our responsibility to our fellow human beings. All we have to do is figure out in our budget what we can spare in this way and turn it over to the canvasser when he or she calls. In return for this the least we can do is have our contribution ready to make the task of those who make the actual collections just a little bit easier.

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It has just been brought to our attention that the photographer that held the camera that reproduced the picture of District Governor Bill Phipps presenting the Lions Club Charter to the Club President, which was published in the Record a couple of weeks ago must have been a close relative of Karsh. The reason for the suggestion seems to be that no less a personage could reproduce such a good picture from the material to hand — Governor Bill excepted, of course. All that notwithstanding, it reminds us that we gave no credit to the photographer who was none other than Jack Horne, news Editor of the Delhi News Record. Maybe we thought Jack was still on our own staff and therefore needed no credit line. Despite the oversight we extend to him a belated "thank you". Come to think of it we are just even anyway. We have a vague remembrance of clicking the shutter a few times on Jack when he took his marriage vows. If he checks back by looking through his album we might remind him it was bad weather for picture taking that day.

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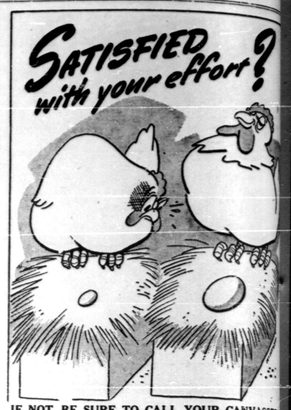
SHRINKING DOLLARS

Facing the shrinking dollar, the average citizen quickly comes to the decision that somebody is taking an unholy advantage of him. Usually, following a customary way of thought, he assumes that it is the person who pays the salary. The next step is usually a demand that the salary or wage should increase. After all, if the Big Fellows can drive around in their Cadillac cars they ought to be able to pay higher wages.

The other day one of the Big Fellows varied the monotony by stating his own case. Walter S. Carpenter, Jr., who heads the American E. I. duPont de Nemours Company, is quite a Big Fellow. Last year his salary was $175,000. Looking back twenty-five years Mr. Carpenter can remember when he wasn't quite so big. His salary at that time was $78,000. Of that amount Mr. Carpenter retained after taxes and for his own private use $60,000. Last year, after taxes, Mr. Carpenter's spendable income was $48,000. Still not bad, we'll admit, but still also $12,000 less than he had earned and kept twenty-five years previously. We have a feeling that most of us, if we were to discover that we were actually retaining of our pay 20% less than the total we earned twenty-five years ago, would feel that we



IF NOT, BE SURE TO CALL YOUR CANVASSER THE JARVIS DISTRICT COMMUNITY CHEST APPEAL — HE WILL GLADLY CALL BACK

Keeping Down The Cost!

The Government's special Parliamentary Committee on Prices decided the other day that, appropriately to its mission of probing and reducing the high cost of living, it should keep its own costs down. So it hired just a part-time secretary. He will work only four days per week. It is expected that he will be able to do full justice to the work of the Committee in that time.

And because he will work but four days per week, the part-time secretary will draw down a pay envelope of only $160 per week. Of course, he will receive in addition $15. per day living expenses. But, all told, that will bring his total compensation up to only $205 per week of four days.

If the happy thought of putting the Committee secretary on short time hadn't occurred to the government members of the Committee, he would have received a $280 weekly fee plus $105 living expenses, or a total per week of $385. (It should be understood that, unless otherwise stipulated, all fees of this nature are paid on the basis of a seven-days week). So, as things stand, the public is pocketing $180 weekly by the arrangement that the government members of the Committee have made. Obviously, such a sum isn't to be treated lightly. It is almost as much as much as the Secretary is being paid for his four days of labour (?) and living expenses.

Of course, if you want to press the point, the public might have saved more. But for that to happen the government members of the Committee would have had to accept the proposition put forward by the Opposition M.P.'s. That proposition was simply that it wasn't at all necessary to the Committee's real purpose for it to create fat temporary jobs to be parcelled out to persons enjoying the government's favour.

If the view of the Opposition M.P.'s had been accepted, it would have saved most of the money now being spent on an elaborate secretariat. It also would have economized the expenditures of $125 per day, plus $15. per day living expenses, which the Committee is making to two legal counsel and a chartered accountant. But these things were just not to be.

The idea that a government named Committee should fail to provide fat patronage jobs was too heretical for the Liberal M.P.'s to countenance.

So the jobs were created. And despite the magnificent flourish of placing one of them on a four-days per week basis, total weekly pay envelopes will be issued to just four of the Committee's employees totalling, with living allowances, of $3,145. At that rate, if the Committee should last a year, its cost for executive secretarial, legal and auditing employees alone would be in excess of $160,000. Of course, the committee won't last a year. It probably won't last more than six months.

For these substantial employees on high-priced salaries the results is the committee will be the price-harrassed housewife, the heavily burdened taxpayer.

Well, so far the Committee has been hot on the trail of a combine among the baking houses to hold up the price of bread. It has found that, in fact, a loaf of bread sure or common price action practised in the baking industry. But it also has found that the price of the common action half of whose key officials was instrumental in suggesting price to the bakeries that they should concert in raising the price of bread from ten to thirteen cents.

Then, after the Committee had spent some days in probing the subsequent rise in bread prices from ten to fourteen cents, it returned once more to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to find what had been the attitude of the body to the increase. WPTB man Kenneth Taylor gave the answer. The WPTB, he said, had considered the increase to be two cents per loaf, which the Board by that time had spent some days in probing, worth investigating.

That reply did little to add to the authority to the Committee's existence. But it made the board witnesses before it much more confident, and even militant! They straightway came up with facts and figures to show that the loaf now being sold by the chain stores is the "leader" which should be the grounds of business ethics and stability that, as a result of the investigation, the price of this product to the public may be raised by means inconceivable.

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CAMPAIGN OPENS— MONDAY, MARCH 29th

CLOSES— SATURDAY APRIL 10th

These children are citizens of the same world but their worlds are more than poles apart. One is a happy Canadian boy.....well fed, happy, his cheeks radiant and being schooled today for living tomorrow. The other is a European child, not well fed, his cheeks sallow and living in a world of unrest. The Canadian Appeal for Children seeks to help 400 million boys and girls in Europe and Asia.....help them to know what it is like not to be hungry, to know the happiness of health and be taught the ways of peace and understanding. Help the Canadian Appeal for Children bring happiness to these boys and girls.

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