

IN THE STACKS

By BETTY BREWSTER

It is possible to dislike Robert Frost's poetry; it is difficult to ignore it. As a matter of fact, one might just as well try to ignore a mountain. There is a granite-like massiveness about much of his writing which seems to block its other qualities from sight. It is with something of a shock of surprise that one realizes the delicacy of touch which he shows on occasion, for instance in his poem, "The Sound of Trees". I hate to chop hunks from a poem which is such a well-integrated whole, but I quote a bit, hoping you will look up the rest:

"My feet tug at the floor
And my head sways to my shoulder
Sometimes when I watch trees sway
From the window or the door.
I shall set forth for somewhere,
I shall make the restless choice
Some day when they are in voice
And tossing so as to scare
The white clouds over them on.
I shall have less to say,
But I shall be gone."

This, it seems to me, is a most skilful reproduction of the ripple of trees in wind. Only a man with an ear sensitive to the most subtle of sounds could have written it.

Sound is not, however, Frost's primary interest; he himself declares, "We are back" in poetry as merely one more art of having something to say." And certainly he has something to say, especially in his dramatic poems, such as, to name only a few, "A Hundred Collars", "Home Burial", and "The Housekeeper". There is in these poems something of Browning's ability to bring out character by conversation. I do not mean to say, of course, that Frost imitates Browning. He is not an imitative poet. It does seem to me, though, that Browning influenced him to some degree. A poet uninfluenced by his predecessors would be nothing less than a miracle; and Frost, in spite of his determination to be native American at all costs, is no exception to the general rule.

Admirable as are these longer poems, I personally prefer the briefer ones, such as the little one, "Fire and Ice":

"Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great

And would suffice."

It would be difficult to say more in fewer words.

If any of you are planning to read the book, or have read the poems but skipped the introduction, "The Figure a Poem Makes", I suggest that you read it. Ordinarily, I don't read prefaces, and I consider those who make a habit of it somewhat in the same light as those virtuous people who proudly boast

My Canada - - - Post War

The first thing I would like to see in post-war Canada is a greater unity and the development of a true Canadian nationality. The attitude of many people in placing province before nation could be understood in the years immediately following Confederation but such conduct is inexcusable today. The men who gave their lives at Hong Kong, at Dieppe and in Sicily did not die for Nova Scotia, Quebec or Alberta; they died for Canada and those of us who survive should promote the unity for which these men died. The provinces should work together and follow a policy of cooperation for the social, political and economic betterment of all the provinces. Many of our provincial leaders fail to see that a depression or loss of markets in one province affects directly or indirectly the whole of our Dominion.

At the same time, we must attempt to remove sectional, racial and religious prejudices existing in certain parts of Canada. These prejudices are so closely related that it is impossible to separate them and ascribe them to any one cause. They are due in part, to ignorance and a lack of knowledge about Canada on the part of the people concerned; and in part to the leadership of self-seeking politicians who would sacrifice national unity for personal power. A great American president once said, "No nation can exist, half-bond and half-free." In the same manner, we can not have a strong united Canada if our country is divided into two parts with different interests and different political ideologies. Our people should remember that they are living in the twentieth century and not in the colonial era. This tendency toward provincialism should be met by a system of education which would glorify our Canadian nationality and cause us to think of ourselves as Canadians and not as Englishmen or Scotchmen or Frenchmen. It should also teach us to adopt progressive Canadian ideas. We should not retain customs and ideals which have outgrown their usefulness merely because our ancestors used them.

In the second place, I would like to see a Canada who is willing to take her rightful place among the nations. As one of the largest and richest nations in the world, we must be prepared to take a leading part in the securing of a just peace, and in the preservation of that peace when it is obtained. The past decade has proved that no nation can live by itself and that the acts of any one nation affect the entire family of nations. I would like to see Canada continue as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and at the same time co-operate with the Pan-American Union insofar as it is compatible with her membership in the Commonwealth.

Any plan for a post-war Canada should have the Four Freedoms incorporated in it. These freedoms are the freedom of speech and expression, freedom of every man to

worship God in his own way; freedom from want, and freedom from fear. The freedoms of speech and worship do not imply an absolute freedom on the part of the individual to do anything he pleases. It means that he should exercise these freedoms in a way that is not inconsistent with the rights of others, or does not threaten the existence of a democratic state. Freedom from want means economic understandings which will secure to every nation, and eventually to every individual, a healthy and comfortable peacetime life. Any citizen, who is willing to work, should be enabled to sell his labor for a decent living wage. In this connection, we need to secure a reasonable balance of power between capital and labor.

Following the war, many of the bureaucratic regulations which were imposed during the war years should be removed. These restrictions are a serious infringement on the freedom of the individual. During wartime, they are necessary for the successful prosecution of the war effort. When victory is achieved, these regulations must be removed or they may constitute a threat to our democratic way of life.

After the war, our servicemen should be given a preferred position in Canadian industry. This does not mean that Canada owes them a living, whether they deserve it or not. In cases, where ability is equal, preference should be given to the serviceman. Some of our ex-servicemen are back in industry today with the idea that the country should be eternally grateful to them for their period of service. I do not mean to say that this attitude is common today or that it will be common in the future but we should be on guard against it. If our servicemen show a desire to work and a capacity to do their work well, they will prove themselves worthy of our assistance and support. Adequate provision should be made for servicemen who are wounded on active service and for the dependents of those who die on active service. At the same time, I can not see that any special provision should be made for the "zombies", men who are on home defence and refuse to volunteer for overseas service.

Freedom from fear implies a world-wide reduction of armaments. Canada should disarm insofar as it is consistent with national safety. We should base our disarmament on the relative progress made by other nations in disarming. We should not become as weak, relatively speaking, as we were in 1939. Disarmament should be supervised by some organization such as the League of Nations. The private manufacture of armaments has been an important factor leading up to wars and threats of war. With this view in mind, the private manufacture of armaments should be abolished and it should be operated by the state subject to some control as noted above.

In post-war Canada, we should have an equality of opportunity. Positions should be filled on merit,

and appointments should not be based on "pull" or various kinds of influence as at present. Equality of opportunity implies an equal opportunity on the part of our boys and girls to obtain an education. At present, this is an impossibility. Education is a provincial matter and it is not subject to federal control. Schools vary from province to province and from section to section depending on population, provincial statutes and the section's ability to pay. We should set up a standardized educational system in Canada. This system would be supported by the Federal government and not by the individual school section as at present. This would tend to equalize our schools and the cost would be more evenly distributed. The government should provide a system of scholarships which would enable young people of ability to attend a university and obtain a higher education. Today, and in the past, many of our most intelligent young men and women could not attend a university because they could not raise the required sum of money.

In post-war Canada, we should make some reforms in our political system. The Canadian government has been reasonably efficient in the past but we should attempt to remove defects which appear to be inherent in elective system of government. Too many people vote in accordance with appeals to the emotions and the imagination; or religious and racial prejudice; or with hopes of personal gain; or because their parents' parents supported a certain party. The electorate should analyze the various political platforms and then vote for the one which they believe to be in the best interests of the nation.

Women, who are employed in war work, should return to their homes in a post-war Canada. Their work during wartime has kept up production and supported the war effort. In a post-war world, we will have an adequate supply of manpower to operate our industries. This transition from the factory to the home will be one of our most difficult problems because some women will want to stay in industry. However, their return to the home will be in the best interests of the Canadian people. Their assistance was needed in wartime but when peace is made the need will be at an end.

In conclusion, I would like to thank The Brunswickan for this opportunity to present my opinions in post-war Canada. It should be understood that this article represents the opinions of an individual student. It does not represent the opinions of The Brunswickan or the student body. Parts of this article may be criticized by some people but a citizen in a democracy enjoys freedom of speech. If they disagree with me, that is their privilege. Other sections of this article may be criticized as being too idealistic. It will be difficult, perhaps impossible, to carry out some of these plans but in my opinion, they would aid in the creation of a better Canada.

Let's Get Acquainted



CONSTANCE MURRAY

Another senior comes to our column this week, so let's get acquainted with Connie Murray.

Connie hails from Saint John and having taken Grade 12 there, came to U.N.B. as a freshie-soph in the fall of '41. Her first year "up the hill" saw her busily engaged reporting for The Brunswickan as well as tending to her studies, for she was a joint winner of the Simonds Prize for History given that year. In the junior year she was vice-president of the Delta Rho, president of the junior girls, was assistant feature editor on the college paper and managed to earn another prize—this time in English. In this, her senior year, Connie is acting as the representative for the Arts Society on the S.R.C. and is in charge of the graduate write-ups for the Year Book. For the last two years she has been doing important work in the Archives, and has assisted in the English Department and the Library.

Since coming to our campus Connie has ever displayed a keen enthusiasm for all activities and has always been engaged in some task or other. Always a good worker, mixer and an all-round swell person, Connie will go far in her chosen field after she has graduated. All luck to you, Connie.

Sixty-two Clocks Tell the Time

Montreal, Que., July — Sixty-two clocks, synchronized to a master control, tell the time for the public and staff in the Canadian National Central Station in Montreal, Que. The master clock is regulated from McGill University Observatory in that city the same as are all clocks throughout the Canadian National Railways system, a time signal going out every day from the observatory through a special telegraphic circuit. All employees, of which there are 17,000 throughout the system, having to do with the movement and operation of trains, are required to check their watches daily and twice a month must have them checked by a qualified inspector to see that their timepieces do not vary more than thirty seconds in seven days.

Contest Winners

The Brunswickan announces this week the winners of the Short Story Contest. They are as follows.

FIRST —BETTY BREWSTER

SECOND—THOMAS CROWTHER

THIRD —J. V. CLARK

The feature editor would like to thank these people and to extend congratulations on their successful entries. Their stories will be published in the near future—watch for them.

FOSTER'S

BARBER SHOP

REGENT STREET

MARITIME

BILLIARD ACADEMY

The Finest Recreation Center
in Eastern Canada
135 Carleton St. Phone 1467

Avenue Conservatories

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Bridal Bouquets, Corsages
etc.

that they never skip a word when they read. What a clutter of trash they must have stored up in their brains! Frost's little introduction, however, is a delightful essay which, even if you don't agree with, I'm sure you'll enjoy.

AN IMPORTANT TASK

Maintenance of Way men caring for track and bridge structures on the Canadian National Railways number 21,740, including extra gang laborers. These important workers have charge of 31,300 miles of track in main line, sidings and yards.

"Friends they used to say are the thieves of time."

"Mac's Tobacco Store"

Smoker's Supplies
Magazines and Papers
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FOX'S

BARBER SHOP

Queen Street

E. DAISY SMITH

LADIES READY-TO-WEAR

95 Regent St., Fredericton

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OF THE

DOCTORS

AND

DENTISTS

OF

FREDERICTON