

121ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES DICKENS, THE NOTED ENGLISH NOVELIST

Charles Dickens was born February 7th, 1812. The 121st anniversary of his birthday is being celebrated today throughout the English speaking world, in accord with the wish expressed in his last will and testament, "I rest my claim to the remembrance of my country on my published books."

His fame is secure Pickwick never grows old. That is the characteristic of Dickensian style. The real answer to "Victorian primness" of which we hear so much nowadays lies in the Dickens' novels. The author was 21 when his first sketch was done into print. He was 58 when he laid down the golden pen at Gad's Hill. His versatility was astounding. He exercised a sort of mercuric influence upon those who came in contact with him. He hated slovenliness, shoddiness, and selfishness. He loved youth, good humor and bright surroundings.

Of God's Hill Dickens wrote, "I have put five mirrors in the Swiss Chalet where I write. They reflect and refract in all kinds of ways the leaves quivering at the windows, the great fields of waving corn, and the sail-dotted river." Charles Dickens as a realist, did not hesitate to speak his mind, but avoided the "brutality of strong light" and never deemed it necessary to besmirch his pages with material muck-raked from the gutter. As a humorist he chose the melo-dramatic vehicle of novelist expression, but always infused by earnestness, by the tone quality of poetic justice, and if impulsive with the reforming element, bedtime carried to exaggeration still imbued with good motives and if reminiscent of social problems, it is still more suggestive of life's possibilities, of the art which reveals the potentialities in the soul of every man.

Man of Genius

It is not easy in a sentence to sum up the genius of Charles Dickens. He conjured up the spirit of romance from the scrap-heap of humanity. He managed to cost a glow of rare attraction over what others have called the dull-ness of London. He caught and broadcast the humour of the London crowd.

It is no small tribute to the Dickensian tradition that it has survived the fashions of the coach-wheeling era, and though most of his characters lived, moved and had their being amidst the smoky atmosphere of old London Town, the Dickensian novel has pro-

vided for all generations, a realm of enduring and spacious delight. His own words, written in "All the Year Round" may be fittingly quoted as summarizing his career: "I am both a town and country traveller and am always on the road. Figuratively speaking, I travel for the great House of Human interest Brothers, and have rather a large connection in the fancy goods way."

One of the best things ever said about Charles Dickens is that he was quick to encourage, and slow to disparage, and that he became a sort of terrestrial providence for all who came under his immediate sway. He emphasized the value of human companionship feeling as set over against the gradgrind pressure of external fact. The guiding of his life was that whatsoever the hand findeth to do must be done with the heart. The touch of gracious feeling goes all through his pages.

Gift of Sympathy

It is sunshine to the Dickensian landscape. To a literary aspirant Dickens' wrote, "You don't want any sentiment laboriously made out in such a thing. You don't want any maudlin show of it. But you do want a pervading suggestion that it is there." It is this gift of genial sympathy, this gospel of good humor, that Charles Dickens labored to make the common heritage of rich and poor, and a "warm garment for daily use." And his message of good cheer is likely to be kept in mind long after the cleverest animadversions of the expert analyst or the lynx-eyed cynic have passed into silence and oblivion. The Dickens Fellowship befittingly pay tribute to the greatest of English novelists.

Buried in The Abbey

The remains of the brilliant novelist, whose memory will ever continue green in the hearts of his admirers as befitted such a personage, were buried in the Poets' Corner in the ancient and venerated Westminster Abbey, the final resting place of many of the Empire's most distinguished sons, the hallowed spot being visited by thousands of people annually. It can be truthfully said that Charles Dickens, whose name is more revered year after year, left mankind more loving and charitable one with another in consequence of his remarkable works. As a result of his "Pickwick Papers," "David Copperfield" and "Tiny Tim" and other personages in the "Christ-

HON. JAMES MALCOLM APPROVES STAND TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON SO-CALLED SOVIET BARTER

Ottawa, Feb. 4—While Opposition members generally were joining in a drive to urge the Government to accredit a Trade Commissioner to Russia, Hon. James Malcolm, former Minister of Trade and Commerce in the King Government, lifted Parliament above the plane of party politics long enough last night to give his frank endorsement to the course which the Bennett Ministry has pursued upon the so-called Soviet barter deal.

The deal was one which would mean upwards of \$1,000,000 in profits for a private syndicate, he emphasized. He declared that no Government could consider for a moment giving the extraordinary guarantees that the sponsoring group demanded, particularly when they were for the prime purpose of assuring private individuals of personal gain.

Held Significant

Particular interest was centred in Mr. Malcolm's pronouncement because he is the first of the front-bench members of the Opposition to eschew party politics in the present economic crisis, having recently told his Liberal constituents in a public address in North Bruce that their duty was to strengthen the hands of the Government in all possible particulars in the present emergency. His utterance on the Soviet deal issue, accordingly, was looked upon as an impartial and sincere opinion from an acknowledged leader amongst Canadian business men as well as an experienced public administrator.

The whole question of Russian trade resumed prominence and became further clarified during yesterday's sitting in connection with the passing of the estimates for Canada's Trade Commission service. The stand of the Opposition generally was that there should be commerce with Russia and that Canada should have a Trade Commissioner on the ground so that it would not be necessary for proposals to be brought forward by a third-party agency.

Commerce Advocated

With this stand Mr. Malcolm was in general agreement. He believed that eventually Canada would have to follow the lead of Great Britain and the United States and trade with Russia. Certainly the Dominion was not entitled to assume a pose of moral superiority to either country. There should be no suspicion that any deal was being rejected on grounds of religious scruple.

But while this was his general viewpoint, Mr. Malcolm did not contend for a moment that the Government should do business with the Soviet upon the terms which the oil-coal-cattle proposal predicated.

"I am not going to say to the Government," he announced frankly "that they ought to finance Russian deals. Far from it. We did finance a deal with Rumania and we have not been paid

mas Carols" apart from his numerous other literary efforts, the poor and oppressed, the sick and lonely, the windowed mother and orphan children and a comfort, while the people of wealth and refinement are reminded of their obligations to their less fortunate fellow-beings. All these classes of the people can bear testimony to the great value of the labors of Charles Dickens. His efforts to proclaim the love of humanity have not by any means been made in vain, for which reason if for none other, his memory is so universally cherished today.

A Famous Man

Dickens! between his two bright daughters, and he the brightest of the trio—his trim, well made figure in motion, his keen ever-glancing face and laughing eyes; his gay showy dress—velvet collar, red carnation (invariable as Mr. Chamberlain's orchid); his general showy, gleaming air, bringing light and quicksilver wherever he was, his gay, cheerful talk, hearty laugh, everything kept moving by him; good-natured and kindly, in all corners, and bringing genial fun and frolic—what an amazing man this was! And yet all the time one of the most famous men in England!

And his modesty and retirement—never obtruding, always wistful to listen, and not to speak himself, to be second while others were first, to laugh, and not to cause laughs.—Percy Fitzgerald (Life of Charles Dickens).

for it yet. The bonds are still held by this Dominion."

Mr. Malcolm referred to the recent refusal of the Italian Government to do business with the Soviet Government on credit, and continued:

"I have no criticism of the action of the Italian Government in refusing to trade on credit. I believe that any firm trading with Russia has a perfect right to finance its own trade. I do not think that the minister is at all to blame saying that he should not be asked to carry this business of \$8,000,000, especially when the promoters were to make \$1,500,000 in commission. The minister is quite sound in his decision in that regard."

Hon. Mr. Stevens

Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce, made a complete statement of the Government's position upon Russian trade in the light of the representations made by the Opposition. He took occasion to emphasize that there was no unreasoning restriction upon commerce with the Soviet based upon religious or other prejudice. There were only specific embargoes, four in number and each one imposed for the express purpose of protecting a major Canadian industry. "Instead of putting it negatively, let me state the situation in a positive form," he said. "There is nothing in the world, nothing in this country, that prevents anyone who wishes to buy goods from Russia, or sell them to her, from doing so, with certain limited exceptions, those exceptions being coal, pulpwood, furs and lumber. I believe those are the four items, and with the exception of these items anyone in Canada can sell to or buy from Russia or barter anything they wish to. They can do so within the ambit of the law. We say to everyone: There is the statute law of the country; we have no desire to interfere with it, and you can trade so long as you remain within that law."

U.S. FOREST ANIMALS SHOW AN INCREASE FOR '32

Ranger Census Taken of Roosevelt Park Inhabitants

Fort Collins, Colorado, Feb. 6—The animal population of the Roosevelt National Forest is showing an increase.

When the United States forest rangers called the roll, recently 19,734 predatory, game and fur bearing animals answered "present" the forest census report for 1932 shows.

Deer led all the rest in the number of inhabitants roaming the forest. The number of deer, was placed at 6,528 as compared with 1,170 in the forest in 1918, the year the Roosevelt Forest was increased to its present size.

850 Elks

Eight hundred and fifty elk, 145 mountain sheep and 226 black, or brown bear, are regular residents. In 1918 there were 129 elk, 235 mountain sheep and 86 bear.

Predatory animals continued to show an increase despite the efforts of government trappers and hunters. There were 1,175 coyotes, 832 wildcats and 43 mountain lions within the forest limits.

The count of fur-bearing animals showed 4,150 beaver, 540 fox, 1,295 martin, 1,240 mink, 610 badger and 2,100 ermine in the area.

Game Refuge

A game refuge has been established through the center of the forest and this in a large measure was responsible for the increase in game the short hunting season and the rigid animals, forestry officials said. Also enforcement of the game law helped the animal kingdom to thrive.

During 1932, it was estimated hunters killed 31 deer and nine bears in the area outside the game refuge strip. Trappers did away with 217 coyotes, two mountain lions and 69 wildcats.

An overplus of novels never results in a decrease of the crop.

DUMP RESIDENT GETS "FORTUNE"

DUMP RESIDENCE md thirty9oaheq San Diego, Feb. 6—After 30 years literally spent on the dump heaps of life, Mrs. Sena Ryan has inherited a "fortune."

But it is too late. Thirty years of living among rusty and dusty debris have burned deeply into the aging mind one simple fact, and there isn't room for more.

"I haven't got a cent," she says peering suspiciously at her questioner through thick lenses.

The business of the \$5,00 is just some idle talk she doesn't understand and it worries her to try.

"It's my home," she says, gesturing toward the heap of castoff timbers and metals from which her late husband, collector of unwanted things, built their home by the junk heap.

The money was the estate of a son, a banker in Los Angeles, who died in

terstate. Under California law the money goes to the mother.

Assessment Notice

The Board of Assessors of Taxes for the City of Fredericton hereby require all persons liable to be rated for the 1933. Forthwith to furnish to the Assessors true statements of all their personal estate and income, which is assessable under The City of Fredericton Assessment Act 1926, and true statements of wages or salaries paid to employees, and Hereby Give Notice that Blank Forms on which such statements may be furnished may be obtained at the office of the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, and that such statements must be perfected under oath and filed in said office on or before the Fifteenth day of February, 1933.

Dated this Fourteenth day of January, 1933.

PETER FARRELL, Chairman of the Board of Assessors and Taxes

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