

J. D. O'Connell, Orphan's Friend, Tells of His Work

Former Sussex Man Who Spends Thousands of Dollars Each Year Making the Kiddies Happy—Has Been Giving Picnics for More Than Thirty Years—Spends His Winters in the Southern States and Central America.

(Halifax Chronicle)

Mr. J. D. O'Connell, the orphan's friend, was delighted with the gathering of kiddies at his picnic on the Common on Saturday. He made an address on the occasion as follows:

"Ladies and gentlemen and my dear children I wish to thank you for your presence and co-operation, and I wish particularly to thank those ladies of the V.A.D. who helped me here today, also those gentlemen who generously gave the use of their automobiles to bring the orphans here. I do not know their names, but many of you do, so I hope you will thank them personally in my name and in the names of the orphans. The City Officials have also acted nobly in the matter and have my sincere thanks, and now I wish to apologize to all for rudely brushing you aside and refusing to talk with anybody. My long experience with children on occasions of this kind has taught me that it is absolutely necessary for me to keep moving in order to keep everything else moving. I also wish to explain to you now many questions which I have been asked by several here present and by many more on the phone and otherwise as to who I am, what I am, what church or society is back of me or what trust funds I am using; in

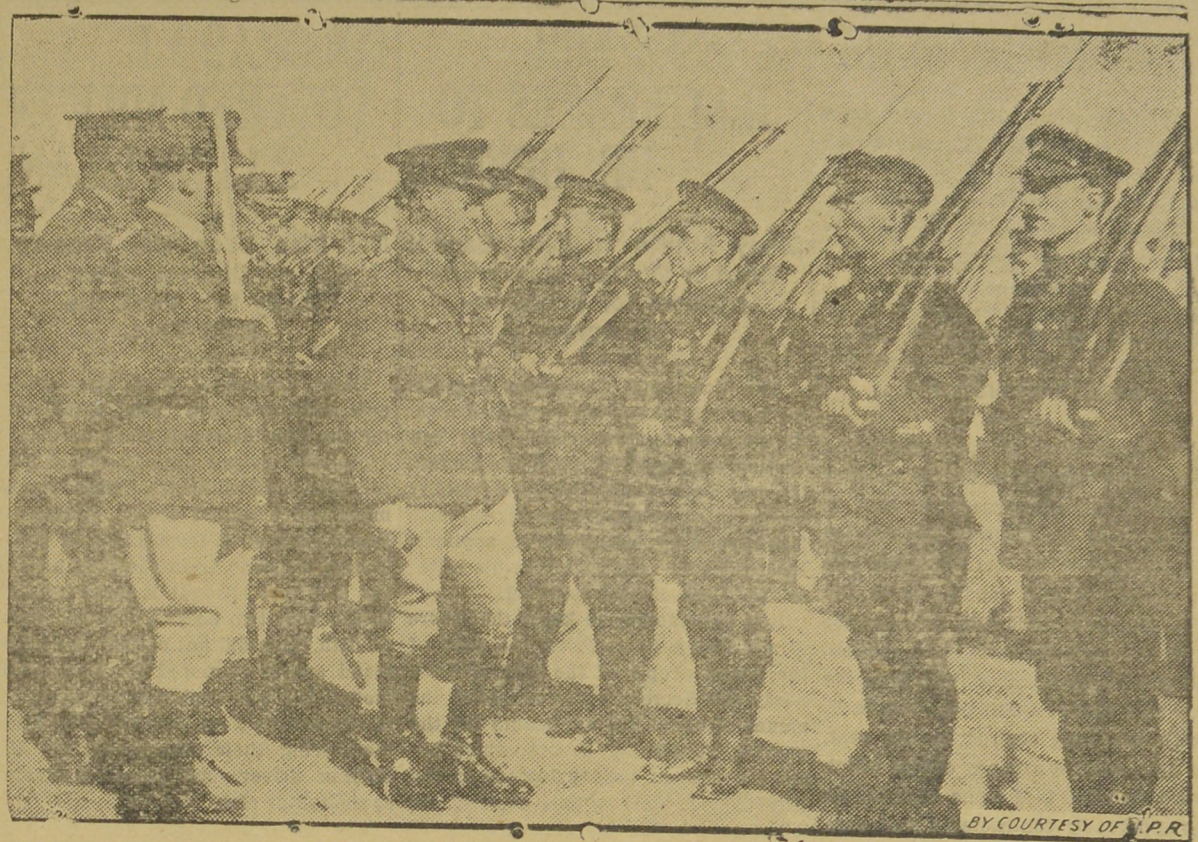
answer I will say that I am a Canadian, born at Havelock, near Sussex, N. B., on a small farm which I still own. There is no church or society or person helping me or that ever did help me in any way, directly or indirectly except the good ladies of the V.A.D. who helped me to deliver to the children more than 20,000 packages of candy, peanuts, ice-cream, cake and fruit, and the good men who gave the use of their autos to bring the orphans to and from the grounds.

"I have been giving children picnics for more than 30 years and give them now in more than 40 different towns and cities in Canada, United States, Central America and Cuba. I give them in all of the places in Central America and Cuba in winter, the weather there being like our summer here, and I send money to the Mayor of each City to give Christmas treats to every orphan in all of these places, and I have left a fund sufficient to perpetuate these picnics and Christmas presents for all time.

"Why do I give them and how do I get my reward are among the questions asked? Well I give them because I love children beyond my power to express and I wish to make them happy every time I can and everywhere I can and I get my reward by

looking into their happy smiling faces and in listening to the words of praise and thanks which I receive from their hearts and lips of sincere and innocent children everywhere I go. That is my reward. That is how I get paid and I also know that I have the heartfelt thanks and gratitude of thousands of good men and women who dearly love children and in trying to make them happy they draw no lines between class, creed or race. That is sufficient reward for all I have ever done for children and then if I should receive further reward in the world beyond the grave I will be that much ahead.

Now ladies and gentlemen, you understand that if I stopped to explain or if I undertook to answer all these questions individually there would be nothing to explain because I would not have time to do anything that would need explanation. That is why I fail to answer these questions, and not because I have anything to conceal. And now I will offer advice to those who are charitably inclined and who would be glad to help the poor people if they were sure that they were worthy. To those I say: Help the orphans, seek out poor children anywhere they may be, whether orphans or not they are always worthy no matter what brought them to poverty, no matter whether their parents were lazy or drunkards or murderers they are not to blame. I am a great believer in the old saying, 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' only I would like to change the word pound to ton or hundred tons, and I know many a child may be saved from a life of shame or a life of crime and dis-



The Prince Inspects Guard of Honor at Fair Ground Calgary.

ALTER HUMAN FORM DIVINE

London, Sept. 26.—Dress designers are trying to alter the feminine figure and some of the prettiest new dresses are bunched upon the hip and at the back of the skirt, like the panniers and bustles of former days.

"The only disturbing element in the new vogue is the possible sequel of corsets and small waists," comments a prominent society woman. "Women, however, are eminently sensible these days and the fear of such fashion abnormalities need worry no one."

FOOL 'EM BALL

New York—Hi Jasper, the Indian twirler, has a new one. Hi says that before pitching he purchases a goodly supply of slippery elm. Just before he goes into the box he "loads up" and gives the ball a liberal application. He has dubbed the result the "fool 'em ball."

GIRLS SWIM STRAITS

London—Swimming is becoming a popular pastime among the school girls. Seven girl pupils from St. Winifred's School recently swam the Menai Straits in excellent time. They started on the Anglesey side and landed on the Carnarvonshire shore.

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grace by a kindly act or encouraging word or friendly advice. Let them know that somebody is interested in them, that somebody cares for them that somebody loves them. Oh! ladies and gentlemen, if you could realize the effect these things have upon the minds of children, if you realized how easily the young mind may be turned to the right or to the left when they come to the 'parting of the ways' you would all agree that the greatest good for humanity can be done with the least effort among the orphans and children of the poor and you would never get tired of helping them.

"And my dear children I wish I could impress these things upon your young minds, then I am sure you would cultivate the spirit of giving; you would be growing big and strong in the love of Humanity while you are still growing in bodily strength. It will pay you well even if it were from a selfish viewpoint. The joy of giving, the joy of helping others is the greatest earthly happiness you can have and comes next to the service of God and your Country. Cultivate it early and it will remain with you through life; you will also be rich and happy, no matter what befalls you, rich in the love of God and humanity, happy in the consciousness of the fact that you always have helped when occasion arose to make others happy. This is the kind of happiness which will remain with you to the end. This is the kind of happiness that no submarine can sink, that no explosion can destroy, the kind that will remain with you to your dying day even though you were living in a house of mud or dying on a pallet of straw. Cultivate this then at an early age is the solemn advice of one who loves you and who now must say good-bye and may God bless and protect you all until we meet again. But remember the scramble is not over. I have 10,000 bright new coppers to throw up yet, so come on children and catch them."

And the children did come on strong

LABOR DISPUTES.

Mr. Herbert N. Casson, of London, England, a well known newspaper man, in his book entitled "Labor Troubles and How to Prevent Them," finds that welfare work, profit sharing or shorter hours do not solve the problem of labor unrest. Nor does a general higher level of wages satisfy; rather it causes more strikes than low wages, he states. The normal turnover is about 30 per cent. a year, but for 57 firms in Detroit the labor turnover averaged more than 252 per cent. To train new workers costs from \$25 to \$200, so that labor turnover is a considerable factor in increasing costs of production. Mr. Casson urges the need for industrial training. Again he says: "In the game of life hearts are trumps—not clubs, as the Germans vainly imagined. Successful business is honeycombed with sentiment. Germany was defeated because she played the body against the soul; the lower nature of man against the higher. This is the most terrific object lesson of modern times. These four great fallacies, that labor creates all wealth, that profits are theft, that capital opposes labor, and that high production is against the interests of the worker, have all got to be exposed and defeated."

GROWING PLANTS TELL THE TIME

Paris, Sept. 26.—A clock composed entirely of growing plants and flowers has been made by a botanist. The dial of the clock is simply a large circular flower bed with twelve divisions, one for each hour of daylight. In each division a certain plant is growing and so precisely has the selection of suitable plants been made that it is possible to tell the time of day by the opening of any one flower. The plants are arranged in the following order: Rose, heliotrope, water lily, hyacinth, convolvulus, geranium, mignonette, carnation, cactus, lilac, pansy and violet.

LOFTUS ABOUT TO RETIRE

New York—There is a report in racing circles that Johnny Loftus, premier jockey of the American turf, is to retire at the end of this season in the East. Loftus is said to be having a great deal of trouble keeping down to weight and as he has stowed away a comfortable stake he has decided to quit the game rather than continue the torture necessary to keep his flesh down.

REAL GOLF BUGS APPEAR

New York—Golf bugs, resembling the beetle in appearance, are being used on a number of links in the East. The bugs are turned loose by the groundkeepers on the edge of the putting greens. They burrow underneath the sod without making the greens rough and kill the worms, which are the bane of the existence of golfers.

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