

RACKETS FLOURISH IN LOCAL CHURCHES—TAG DAY A RACKET

Observer Points Out the Absurd Church Supper Racket—Congregations Should Dig Down in Their Pockets

(Observer will from day to day discuss in this column matters of local interest. He has some sound views in regard to things in general. His views are bound to create discussion and perhaps a reply, as every one may not agree with him).

RACKETS

The prevalence of certain kinds of organizations south of the border whose object is the prying of money out of people by fair means or foul has introduced a new word into our language. Or rather it has dressed up an old word with a new meaning. No doubt many of us have congratulated ourselves that we in Canada are singularly free from this kind of evil. Perhaps we are free from the more vicious kind; but a little reflection should convince us that we are by no means free from rackets. In principle we are afflicted with a great many organizations and customs which upon analysis we will have to label as rackets. Let us consider a few.

Among the most flourishing and time-honoured of institutions is the "Church Supper." This is one of the most persistent and one of the oldest of rackets. Its origin is well-nigh lost in the dim mists of antiquity. To-day as at any time in the past, we have only to pick up a newspaper and scan the advertising columns to be literally deluged with notices of suppers, teas, sales and what not, most of them sponsored by the churches. In fact, so many of them are there, that the sponsoring parties now have to reserve their dates for months in advance in order not to conflict with somebody else. Practically every evening in the week and many an afternoon will carol forth its invitation to come and eat, to come and buy, or do both. Now this custom is nothing less than a racket. Why?

First, the whole thing is in principle uneconomic and absurd. These functions are held, primarily, to raise funds to carry on the work of the church. Now consider what preparations have to be made for such a function. The ladies of the church are all solicited to cook, and most of them have enough to do to cook for their own households. If they can't cook then they must buy food and send it. Illegal exaction number one. Then these same ladies are expected to go to the church and slave in the hot kitchen preparing the food, while others exhaust themselves running back and forth serving the tables. Of course, it may be urged, many of them like it. That is true, but it does not make the thing any less absurd. Then the men and any of the women fortunate or skillful enough not to get roped in to do any work come and seat themselves, and proceed to eat enough in one meal to do the average person for a week. That is, they'll eat it if they can get it. The average church supper usually runs

out of food leaving half the people still hungry. The second half make a very frugal meal indeed, owing to the gourmandizing of the first half. The churches should recognize this trait of human nature and prepare accordingly. As for the typical meal served, one can usually get a better meal home at a lower cost. It will be urged that one should not count the cost but think of the object to be served. Precisely, that's why I say the whole thing is economic. If the members of the congregation would dig down and produce the money necessary to carry on the work of their church, it would not cost them nearly as much in the long run as staging a church supper.

When you consider the cost of the food supplied for the supper, added to the cost of admission to eat it up, plus the wear and tear on the people giving their time and energy to its preparation, you have an outlay for which the return is very meagre. Carry on a policy far enough and you reach the point of diminishing returns. Competition between the various organizations sponsoring these affairs has about reached this point. The whole institution of the "church supper" thus becomes a vicious circle and a racket.

The writer has no wish to offend or to criticize any church in itself. He has just never been able to see why the supporters of the church would not rather produce the money they wish to make, rather than submit their womenfolk and the general public to the fearful ordeal known as the "church supper". Especially since to pay out the money in the first place would be cheaper. Everybody is victimized by this racket; those who organize and hold the function, and those who partake.

We are surrounded with other rackets of this nature, but that's another story.

(To be Continued)

U. S. SUFFERS FIRE LOSS OF \$259,000,000 IN 1935

ATLANTIC CITY, July 2.—The fire loss of the nation for 1935 was \$259,000,000 it is revealed in preliminary estimates before the National Fire Protection association here. This is the smallest loss by fire since 1916, and \$16,500,000 less than in 1934.

Since September, 1935, it was indicated, fire losses per month have gradually been increased, bearing out previous predictions that increased business activity would bring fire loss. Encouraging, said the N. F. P. A. report, was the fact that while business activity has reached 80 per cent. of 1927-29 levels, fire losses are at only about 60 per cent.

SPAIN—Plague threatens the Province of Huelva, officials fear. Strikes have stopped the collection of garbage for some time.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

Recital

A joint recital was given by Miss Marcelle Gorham and Miss Miriam Eardley at the home of Miss Gorham on Tuesday afternoon for their piano and violin pupils. The mothers of the pupils and many interested friends were present and were greatly pleased with the programme. Selections at the piano were given by Miss Verna Stafford, Miss Lillian Bailey, Miss Doris Allen, Miss Mary Smith, Miss Joyce Mavor, Misses Louise and Elizabeth Graham, Miss Margaret Partington, Miss Evelyn Jones, and Richard Gorham; violin solos by Miss Helene Gorham, Jean Telford, Douglas Simpson, Frank Little and Philip Mavor, with Carl Little, Miss Helene Gorham and Miss Marcelle Gorham as accompanists. At the conclusion of the recital refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Miss Hazel Crandall entertained at an enjoyable bridge Tuesday evening in honor of Miss Jean Staples who is to be married in the near future. Bridge was played at three tables with Miss Margaret Scott winning the prize. A guest prize was presented to Miss Staples, who expects to leave on Monday for Ottawa where the wedding will take place.

Bridal Shower

A large gathering was present on Tuesday evening last at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sharp, Mouth of Keswick, to honor Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Clark, who were recently married by Rev. W. P. Styles of Jacksonville. The young couple received many useful gifts which testify to their high standing in the community and church. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have many friends who wish them every success during their married life. They will reside at Mouth of Keswick. Both bride and groom are interested in church work. Mr. Clark is superintendent of the United Baptist Sunday school.

Grasse-McKeen

A wedding of interest to many in this vicinity took place on Wednesday evening at seven o'clock at the parsonage, Mouth of Keswick, when Miss Dorothy Anne McKeen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Findley McKeen, Tripp Settlement, was married to Ruel B. Grasse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grasse, of Douglas. Rev. C. S. Young, Mouth of Keswick, officiated, and after the ceremony the happy couple left on a short wedding trip to Saint John. On their return they will reside at Douglas.

Miss Mary Baird of Chipman, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. C. C. Jones at the university, is returning to Chipman tomorrow.

Miss Edith Simms and Miss Isabelle Smith have returned home from Gagetown, where they have been teaching for the past year. Leslie Simms who has been teaching at Southampton, has returned home.

Dr. and Mrs. Kurt Passoth, of New York, and Miss Dorothy Chowen, of this city, have left for a trip to the Gaspe Coast for a few days.

Mrs. D. M. Sinclair and her sons John and Alasdair, of Prince Edward Island, are visiting Mrs. Sinclairs parents, Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Jones, at the University. Mrs. Sinclair expects to remain here throughout the summer.

Mrs. Thomas Butler of Montreal, who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith for the past few weeks, is returning to Montreal this afternoon.

Miss Kathleen Murphy of Sackville, is visiting Miss Marcella Gorham on University Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Little and family left yesterday for Campbellton, where they will reside in future.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Golding have taken Mrs. A. J. Gregory's house at Woodman's Point for the summer.

Mrs. Allan K. Grimmer of Temiskaming, Quebec, is visiting her sister Miss Helen Babbitt.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Terry, of this City, have returned from a two weeks motor trip to Napanee, Ontario.

Miss Gertrude Cremin has arrived home from Saint John, where she has been teaching the past year, to spend the summer vacation with her mother, Mrs. Charels Cremin.

Miss Beatrice McFarlane, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. S. McFarlane, has arrived home to spend the summer vacation with her parents. Miss McFarlane has been teaching at Minto Consolidated School.

David Crowe has arrived in the city from Minto where he has been teaching for the past year. Mr. Crowe will spend the summer with his mother, Mrs. D. Crowe.

Miss Agnes Kitchen of Vancouver, B.C., who has been visiting in Fredericton for the past few weeks, and while here has been the honor guest at many social functions, has returned to her home in Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Babbitt and son Gerald, of Toronto, are visiting friends in the city. Mr. Babbitt is a brother of D. Lee Babbitt of this city and is an annual visitor to this, his old home town.

Miss Marcelle Gorham is leaving tomorrow for Sackville, where she will continue her studies in violin and voice at the summer school at Mount Allison University. Miss Gorham has been teaching music in the city for the past year.

COLLECTIONS OF REVENUE SHOW SHARP INCREASE

Period of April-May-June Showed an Increase of More Than \$25,000 Over Preceding Year.

The total revenue for the period April, May, and June 1936, amounted to \$123,831.08, as compared with \$97,932.44 during the corresponding period in 1935, an increase of \$25,898.64 for the present year. The report was handed out by F. P. Colter, collector of National Revenue here today.

The amount of revenue collected during the month of June, 1935, was \$32,528.13, an increase for the present month of \$8,016.58.

Customs Import Duty	\$19,225.14
Customs Sales Tax	5,004.95
Customs Excise Tax	1,413.17
Excise Tax (Domestic)	4,039.84
Excise Duty	10,845.11
Sundry Collections	16.50
Total	\$40,544.71

CATERPILLARS HALT TRAINS FOR TWO HOURS

PORT ARTHUR, July 2.—An army of caterpillars stretching along the right-of-way for a distance of three miles tied up passenger train schedules for two hours here today. The worms were finally routed with blasts of steam after officials reported progress was impossible.

The first and second sections of the C.P.R. train No. 4, Toronto-Vancouver express, were halted at Navillus, eight miles east of here, for approximately two hours. Progress was futile until a freight engine was coupled to the rear and a steam jet turned on the invading worms.

GERMANY—A statement was made in Copenhagen that Helgoland was being refortified. Forts with big guns were being built on the western face of the island, it was stated.

CANADIANA

VIMY PILGRIMAGE

On Vimy Ridge, amid the breeze, The ancient plain of Artois sees A monument of graven stone Where bright Canadian valor shone; Where still within its tortured ground The tunnel and the trench are found.

For months upon the ghastly heights With rending shells and eerie lights, When glad to share a dripping lair Men lived with death in poisoned air; Till passing swiftly from our life They knew no more the earthly strife.

The skylark sings in rapture now Where thunders shook the lofty brow; Green grass and woods have overgrown The miry slope with carnage strown; And where they rest, all anguish shed, A holy calm enfolds the dead.

To us remains the martyr throng Whose name shall live in deeds and song;

The sacred dust, the hopes that rise On this our Mount of Sacrifice; And pilgrims hither shall repair To mingle grief with pride and prayer.

Capt. Rev. J. W. Whillans, Chaplain, 8th Battalion, Winnipeg Rifles, Mt. Pleasant, Brantford.

N. B. MAPLE PRODUCERS IN SESSION HERE

The third annual meeting of the New Brunswick Maple Sugar Producers' Association was begun at the Experimental Station this afternoon, with the president, Marven L. Dunphy, of Royal Road, in charge of the meeting. A business session was held at 1:30 o'clock. Among those to attend the meetings are Hon. A. C. Taylor, minister of agriculture, R. E. Balch, director of the Dominion Entomological laboratory here, and others. Nine maple producers are expected to give talks of five minutes each, discussing all phases of the maple sugar industry. This year the Association received a grant of \$300 from the provincial government.

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1931 Ford 1½-ton Duals	250.00
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1929 Reo 1½-ton	100.00
1929 Ford 1½-ton stake body	100.00

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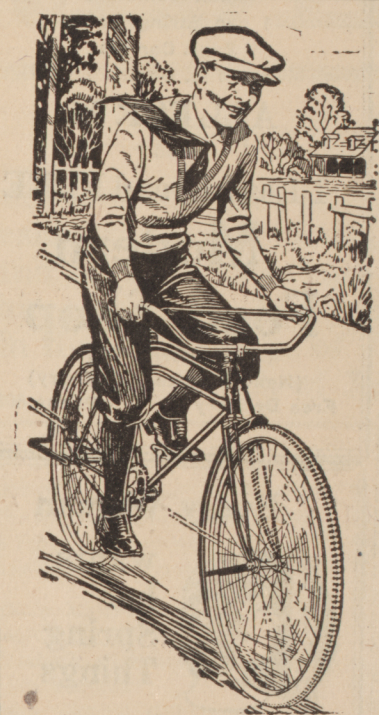
404 Queen Street.

TENDER

Tenders for renovating the rooms at York St. School will be received by the undersigned until NOON JULY 11, 1936.

Specifications of work to be done may be seen at the office of the School Board.

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R. D. HANSON, Secretary.



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