

THE DAILY MAIL

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Our Canadian Anthem

Alex. Muir, who wrote "The Maple Leaf Forever," was born in Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, on April 5, 1830, the elder of two sons of John Muir and his wife, Catharine McDiarmid. When he was three years old his parents immigrated to Canada, settling at Scarboro, where it was not long before John Muir received an appointment to teach school at Agincourt. Alexander received his early education in his father's school, and when still in his teens was, through great sacrifice by his parents, sent to Queen's College, Kingston. There he manifested remarkable aptitude and in his 21st year graduated as a bachelor of arts. Returning to Toronto, he took a post as teacher in Scarboro. In a few years he was appointed principal of the school at Leslieville, then part of Scarboro but long since annexed by the city. His little school was located at what is now Queen and Curzon streets. From it Mr. Muir radiated an influence for good, which affected the whole community. It was while he was there that in 1866 he wrote his famous patriotic hymn and made himself immortal, at least so far as Canada is concerned.

"From Leslieville Muir was transferred to Newmarket as principal of the school there. His departure from Toronto was marked by a remarkable demonstration of popular esteem, the Yorkville town hall being filled with an enthusiastic audience, who gave loud proof of the gratitude when "The Maple Leaf Forever" was sung for the first time in public, and was at once acclaimed as a great patriotic poem. On that occasion Mr. Muir was presented with a large brass-bound Bible, which is now the treasured possession of his son, George, at Newmarket. After two years at Newmarket, Mr. Muir went to Beaverton, but in 1884, he returned to Toronto as principal of Howard School in old St. Patrick's ward. A few years later he was transferred to Gladstone Avenue school, now known as Alexander Muir school, where he remained to his death.

"The weather is not propitious at this time of year for any demonstration of affection at his grave in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, though it is certain that some wreaths will be laid there. I hope, however, the school teachers will remember the anniversary and, from Muir's life draw the lesson that he 'compelled us to comprehend the nobility of the love of our country,' which he burned into our souls. He left us with 'an unerring instinct of honesty, honor and patriotism and a deep faith in our beloved Canada.'"

"Who knows of Alexander Muir's other poems—"Canada," "The Old Union Jack," "Canada, Land of the Maple Leaf," "Canada Forever?" Today would be a good opportunity to read them to the school children.

"Alexander Muir is worthy of our grateful remembrance today."

The Agricultural Fair

The season of the agricultural fair will soon commence and in many of the towns and villages throughout the Dominion there will be a series of these gatherings which have been so great a factor in the social and economic progress of Canada.

There were conditions peculiarly Canadian. The gregarious instinct of the early settlers, their unswerving resolve to conquer the innumerable difficulties surrounding them, the hazards of travel, and the dense forest preventing the extended contact of the pioneers with their fellow men, all contributed to the moulding of the Canadian character, mainly through the peculiar emphasis devolving on the agricultural fairs of the country.

Before the first Canadian census was taken in 1666, the fun of the fair was relegated mostly to private celebration after the harter had been completed, but later as the result of the establishment of agricultural societies in both Lower and Upper Canada, agricultural fairs blossomed out into full social, economic and political institutions.

The business side was not only nor the most important angle. The enlargement of knowledge through visual and social contact and the increase in the circle of friends were important factors in the early days and remain so at the present time. The agricultural society in Canada was something very necessary to the country and, because of peculiar conditions, became typically Canadian.

Though Canada worked out her own method of enlarging the educational outlook in agriculture, the idea of the agricultural fair is as old as the hills. Thousands of years before Christ there are records of them in Sumeria, Babylon and China.

Sitting on a Diploma

Tree sitting is no longer a fad, But school sitting has always been practised.

Some young people might work. The question: Am I one of those academic tree-sitters who climbs up into the Tree of Knowledge and is content merely to sit there patiently for four years in the hope of getting a degree signifying an endurance test?

But education and intelligence are not the same things. You may have a high degree of intelligence with no education at all and a high degree of education with mighty little intelligence.

You can go to school and still miss an education.

I will tell you a story about a girl whom the boys called "Butter" and an undersized boy who answered to the name of "Shrimp."

Butter was promoted because she outgrew the seats in the grade below. She was a good academic tree sitter in other words.

Shrimp was not promoted because he enjoyed life and liked to bother his teachers too much to be concerned with his studies.

Shrimp was a restless boy with intelligence, who made a poor school seat sitter.

Butter married later and helped increase the number of morons in the community while Shrimp became a Captain of Industry.

Butter was a relatively dull person who got her diploma by patiently sitting four years for it.

Shrimp was a relatively smart boy who didn't get a diploma because he was not adapted to educational tree sitting.

SNAPSHOTS

If the lady would stop reading the magazine articles at every meeting the public who attend would become more interested.

The Mayor of Devon looks well in his new lld. Some of the girls say that he is the best looking Mayor in New Brunswick. We don't know what Agnes McPhail would say about 'Mac.'

Who was the girl who tried to pick up the married man on the river bank back of the hand stand the other night. That is great spooning ground down there.

Alberta's "Prosperity Certificates" are to resemble \$1 bills. But will they 'go as far' as the Government issue?

This is the time when the remains of picnic lunches become one of the most notable features of the landscapes.

Never worry when the people hurrah for a new ism. The more excited they get the quicker they get tired of it.

But deliberately killing yourself isn't called suicide if you do it a little at a time.

What goes up through expenditures must be brought down through taxes.

The horse and buggy had one advantage: dealers couldn't change the design every year to make your old ones look funny.

Another way to hasten progress is to invest heavily in something that progress will make obsolete.

Helping the under-dog is noble. But it's silly to try to help him be something he isn't qualified to be.

When Chinese armies move about no one is quite sure whether they are advancing into one province or retreating from another.

Now that French sailors are to have sheets on their bunks, probably there'll be calls for chambermaids and laundry workers in the French mercantile marine.

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The High School Closing

(Observer who has some very practical ideas on things in general, will discuss conditions in this column from day to day. His ideas are bound to create interest and perhaps discussion).

I attended the High School closing last evening. It was a pleasant change from former occasions when the heat was excessive. Last night was cool by comparison. Another change from former years was the installation of a loud speaker at the back of the hall. Although the acoustic properties of the hall are not of the best, still it is hard to see why, in a hall as small as that, such a contrivance should be necessary. It is only a matter of a speaker using his voice to be heard without any difficulty.

A pleasing feature was the lack of the usual crowd. I understand that this was due to only ticket-holders being allowed in, and that the number of tickets was restricted to the seating capacity of the house. An elementary solution of the overcrowding difficulty that one would think might have been taken long ago.

An account of the exercises will no doubt be given in other columns of this paper. However, I might mention a few reflections of my own, for after all, that is the Observer's business. The prize list was of its usual unnecessary length, but finally wound its way to a close. The young ladies of the graduating class looked very attractive in their white middie blouses and skirts. This is definitely an improvement over the custom of requiring every girl graduate to procure an expensive graduating dress. We hope this innovation may become permanent. The Latin Declamation was undoubtedly well rendered, although, of course, there were not over three people in the hall who would understand a word of it. Curious how this bit of tradition lingers on. It serves no useful purpose that one can see. It is quite an interesting pastime to listen to the speeches of those presenting prizes from year to year. One hopes that there will sometime, somewhere, someone arise and say something original. Rev. Mr. Telford made a witty speech, which took well with the audience.

The address to the graduating class, delivered by Rev. Dr. Ross, contained much good advice. Such addresses are much of a pattern, but Dr. Ross maintained the tradition well. It was a happy thought on his part to refer to the absurd system of examinations that prevails in this province, whereby students writing final examinations to graduate from a high school must still write a second set in order to get matriculation standing. It is only by making such abuses public that any reform can be hoped for.

I enjoyed the Valedictory very much. One could say of valedictories the same as of prize speeches and class addresses, they are bound to be much of a pattern. But Mr. Smith in his valedictory address, branched out on a new path. He actually made some criticisms and offered some suggestions. Perhaps his criticism wasn't very sound, but nevertheless he deserves credit for trying.

And so another High School closing was brought to an end in traditional fashion with the school yell, which was lustily given. Then the young people repaired to the gymnasium where the school dance was to be held. It is too bad that the closing exercises and the graduating dance could not be held upon separate occasions so as to give the students a little more time for their dance. As it is they only have half an evening.

—OBSERVER.

BURDEN NOTES

BURDEN, N. B., June 30—The heavy rain of Wednesday night will give the farmers an extra hay crop. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Jewett and son Clare were calling on friends at Queensbury on Tuesday evening.

George McKnight of Fredericton, claim adjuster of Highway construction work, was in this place yesterday on business connected with straightening of the road.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lawrence of Madison, Maine, who were visiting friends here have returned home.

Jacob E. Kitchen has been very sick during the past week and not much hope is expected for his recovery.

Mrs. Harding Smith of Fredericton, who was called here by the severe illness of her father, J. E. Kitchen, returned home the first of the week.

Mott Kitchen is home from Presque Isle, Maine.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Niles and family, and Mrs. Wilmot Lawrence and family of Long's Creek, were calling on Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tapley on Sunday evening.

Statute labor road work for this district is being completed this week on the kitchen Settlement road.

Art Crowley of Fredericton, was here this week and discharged a number of men who had been working on highway construction work.

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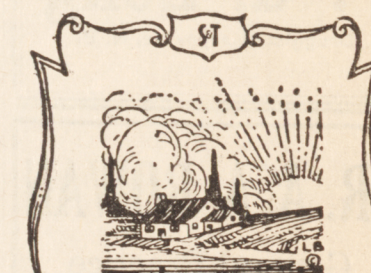
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