

DOMESTIC ARTS IN QUEBEC PROVINCE WERE DISCUSSED BY O. BERIAU

Instructor at Dominion Experimental Station Speaks On Weaving, Carding and Dyeing As Taught In The Province Of Quebec

The following address on domestic arts was delivered before the Catholic Women's League on Sunday evening by Oscar Beriau of the section of domestic arts of the Quebec department of Agriculture. The address dealt with the weaving, carding, dyeing and its revival in Quebec Province. He said:

"To speak of revival infers that there must have been a previous line; it is true: When Quebec was New France, when there was land to be cleared, when there was no smoking factories, no trains, no motor cars, then there was no such thing as unemployment. The simple, hard working peasants, who had come to the new land to live, were happy in their small homes. Food was plentiful and the land was populated by a contented, carefree people.

Then came the building of cities and an age of big business and rapid growth. Young habitants left their quiet peaceful homes and came to larger centres; times were booming and wages were high. Only in the remote parts of the province did the people still live as their fathers had lived, and the old pioneer spirit and the pioneer arts began to die out.

Peasants who remained on their farms sold their crops and their stocks at high prices and came into the cities to buy their clothes and their furnishings. Throughout the country side, now farmhouses, brightly painted barns and even shiny corrugated garages housing latest model automobiles, all paid tribute to the new religion "Prosperity."

The rush to the cities grew stronger and stronger until these became overcrowded. Machinery acquired more power and speed and soon began to throw out into the street the surplus of its workers, causing unemployment, social disintegration and misery. So much of these hardships could have been avoided if the peasants had remained on their land and if they had retained their tireless industries.

Mass production had replaced the homecrafts as it was considered bad taste to wear homespuns or to furnish the home with craft furniture. The very finest products of our peasant art were sold or bartered, in exchange for machine made goods of the cheaper class. The result was the loss of an activity which, in the past, had been so pleasant and remunerative and the joy of possession replaced that of creation.

Our Eastern Townships sections were the first ones to be lured by new conditions, they were closely followed by the District of Montreal and the upper St. Lawrence.

The looms and the spinning wheels were stored away in the attics; there were no more shoemakers bench. There were no more cabinet makers nor tinsmiths. The local tanneries and the small carding mills were gradually closed, as wool was sold in the raw at ridiculous prices and the hides given away almost for nothing. Everything was turned into cash to purchase city goods. The rural homes and villages were losing their true character.

Some years ago, when called upon by Hon. Mr. Perron, then Minister of Agriculture and a man of great vision I realized the extent of the loss of our arts and crafts. There were very few artisans left. Almost every thing had been disposed of, in exchange for articles on which the serial number of the factory had replaced the seal of the craftsman.

The afflux of American tourists in our province, in search for habitation furniture and material to decorate their camps of their colonial residences, a vogue for home made articles awakened the peasants to reality. They realized how foolish they had been in exchanging treasurers of handicrafts for cheap factory goods. But it was too late. With the loss of rural tradition and of creative ability, they had paid the ransom to modernism.

The friends of popular arts were wondering if there was any hope of recovery and nothing could be attempted to bring back to life the arts of our ancestors?

The answer came from our Provincial Government, who in 1929, created in the Department of Agriculture a special section of domestic arts.

Women Taught

Women were to be taught again the minor arts, those of weaving and of spinning, of rug making, quilting, vegetable dyeing, that their grandmothers had made of pure necessity, not that they might be able to live, but that the charm and simplicity of old Quebec might never die.

The Government devoted its efforts to develop a back to the land movement, as a definite solution to a problem which had baffled the leading economic minds of the world. Although in operation for a comparatively short time, the effectiveness of this movement may be judged by the fact that there are now 52,000 looms and 81,000 spinning active in the province of Quebec.

You may be interested to learn in

what manner the organization was made.

An investigation was made as to existing conditions, we found that the women of Quebec still possessed the skill that they had inherited from their ancestors, but that the old techniques were almost lost. We also found that the rural communities were eager to learn and to be led. We also studied conditions of other countries and then decided to make a collection of foreign handicrafts.

This collection was made in various countries of the world and I am proud to say that it is one of the most complete collections ever made.

It comprises:

These collections were gathered with great care, and were representative of the great work of the world's best artisans:

Wedgehead Pottery from England, Harris Tweeds from Scotland, knotted carpets from Turkey and India; serapes from Mexico, Embroidered linen from the Peasants of Imperial Russia, Kelims from Poland, Asaklades from Norway, Laces from Switzerland and Glona Rugs from Spain; from Italy Perugian runners, Florentine tooled leather, earthenware from Faenza, lace curtains from Belgium, batiks from Java; Tapestries from the Royal manufacture of the Gobelins, Porcelain from Sevres, wood carvings from the Swiss mountain. Navajo blankets from the Arizona Indians, colonial kivers from the southern Highlanders of Kentucky; appliques from Egypt, quilts from North Carolina, hooked rugs from Acadia, and Murray Bay blankets from Murray Bay; Coverlets from Iles aux Coudres, and the old ceinture fleecée from l'Assomption.

Tapestries from Beauvais, Arras, Aubusson, Gobelins.

This collection was first exhibited in the Parliament buildings of Quebec, where more than 10,000 visitors had the opportunity of admiring it. It was then circulated throughout the community centres of the province.

It was the beginning of a wide campaign for the revival of our handicrafts. These exhibitions brought us thousands of letters from our farmerettes expressing their interest and their desire to learn the technique of these crafts.

We then decided to open a school of handicrafts and this was authorized by a special act of the Parliament. This provincial school of handicrafts the first foundation of its kind in Canada, was formally opened on the 10th of July, 1930.

The initial staff was composed of trained teachers coming from the best educational centres of Europe and America and of three old French Canadian weavers who had retained the arts of their grandmothers.

At the first session fifty nine students comprising many teachers of our schools of domestic science registered and on the closing day there was fifty nine students, not one of them had missed a single course.

During the first year three hundred and fifty seven students attended the school and six of them qualified as teachers. Since the first year more than one thousand students have followed leadership courses.

Besides the courses given at the school, practical demonstrations are given to the Women's Clubs and the Cercle des Femmes in community centres.

Since 1930 the total attendance to these demonstrations has exceeded sixty thousand.

A studio under the direction of a graduate of the School of Fine Arts has been opened to help the weavers in the choice of their colors and the making of their designs.

The dyeing of wool, cotton and linen yarn by means of native dyestuffs has been carefully studied and a manual comprising more than two hundred recipes has been published by the Department.

These home-made dyes are a fascinating study, drawing one back to nature and leading him into the secrets of her laboratory. Their colors are soft, mellow and lasting. Our women, although they are not students of botany, know how to gather from plant and tree dyestuffs more precious than those coming from the city store.

If they want yellow, they use willow leaves, rhubarb roots or poplar barks; for red, bloodroot; for black sumac leaves and stems; for the blue buckweed and the bark of birch and of maple will yield a complete series of drabs, greys, pinks and mauves according to the mordant used.

A laboratory for the bleaching and testing of textile fibres has been equipped and is at the disposal of the students.

The old loom has not been discarded; it has been remodelled to meet the requirements of modern weaving. To those who do not actually own a loom, the school supplies complete drawings and specifications for the building on the frame of an up to date one.

The old models and designs have been carefully catalogued; they are

ROYAL CHRISTMAS CARDS



THE QUEEN'S



THE KING'S

being reproduced according to new technique, with native material and we preserve their primitive character. They also serve as an inspiration for the creation of new models.

Three and a half million pounds of wool are used annually by the home weavers to make homespuns and other materials to clothe the family and decorate the home. The surplus material is then offered for sale and is easily disposed of.

Our activities are not restricted to textiles. Rustic pottery, craft furniture, fram tanning have been added to the programs of the school.

Local and central exhibitions serve to promote interest in every section and these comprise exhibits of domestic and foreign rural arts, but the workers are warned against the copying of foreign designs, these being exhibited as examples of technique to show that every country has a distinctive peasant art. It is impressed upon artisans that Canadian Peasant art must be truly Canadian in expression, material and execution; that it must harmonize with the architecture of our typical habitation homes, that it is a means of artistic development; that this creative work

of beauty and comfort is a rest from the monotonous duties of the farm and a pleasant and remunerative occupation during the long winter months.

The year 1737 stands out in the history of France; in that year, for the first time since the early years of Colbert's ministry, the budget of France was balanced, and this was due to the hand looms. They were equal to their tasks as life was in them and there was love of the day's work. In rural Quebec the hand looms have balanced many a family budget, and our women were equal to their tasks.

An editorial writer in the London Nation says: "In certain primitive and necessary things there lies an irresistible appeal. We perceive in a windmill, a wine press, a cottage loom, a spinning wheel or a baking oven. These were the eternal necessities of mankind in their ancient and most natural form, and whether by their long association with the satisfaction of some need, or simply by their fitness for utility, they have acquired a peculiar quality of beauty. This peculiar quality of beauty and its appeal will always keep the hand

loom and the spinning wheel from passing into the musty realm of the obsolete.

The search for the first distaff and the first loom might be a long and successful one, but it will never be sad; it will never lead to the deserts for it never leaves the paths of civilization.

The generations of mankind pass with their cries of battle and of joy, in all tongues, the music of the shuttle does not change. Dire is the disaster which can halt the loom once it has begun its homely song.

"When I see a weaver at his loom," says Miss Calvert Hall, "I think of an organist seated before a great organ and the treads of a musical instrument. I look at the threads, the loom seems a stringed instrument too huge for the hands of man but made to be played on by every wind of heaven. The same wonder and admiration I would feel in the presence of Chamade or Paderewski comes to me when I stand in presence of a weaver. Her dress may be unfashionable, her language plain and ungrammatical, but she is the mistress of an art so old that history cannot tell us of its (Continued on Page Seven)

WILLIAM VAUGHAN ASKS COUNCIL FOR PERMIT TO BUILD AIRPLANE SUPPLY BASE PRESENT CAPITAL GARAGE SITE

Meeting In Regular Monthly Committee Session, City Fathers Accept Resignation Tendered By Ex-Alderman T. Earle Doohan

The possibility that a combination airplane supply base, garage and service station, the first of its kind in this city, may be erected by the Capital Garage on Campbell street between Phoenix Square and Westmorland street, was brought up at last night's regular monthly committee meeting of the Fredericton City Council. The matter was raised in a letter from William Vaughan, proprietor and manager of the garage, asking for permission to build, in spite of the fact that the proposed Town Planning by-law prohibits the erection of a structure for such a purpose. It was decided to leave the matter in abeyance for the present, since a change in the proposed by-law is necessary before the request can be granted.

Routine business, for the most part, occupied the attention of the Council. His Worship Mayor G. Willard Kitchen read a communication from T. Earle Doohan, in which the latter resigned his position as alderman for Queen's Ward. The Council, in accepting the resignation, decided to return to Mr. Doohan the check for \$25 he had enclosed. (By city by-law an alderman retiring before his term is expired is automatically fined \$25. Mr. Doohan ceased to be an alderman when he removed his residence to Boston, Mass.)

The Police Commission has no power to prevent anyone from parking a car on Carleton street between Queen and King, providing such parking does not exceed one hour, stated His Worship, in referring to a communication from the S. M. T. Co., Ltd., requesting that "no parking" signs be erected in front of their bus station. A letter to this effect will be sent to the company.

Consider Appeal

An appeal by the General Dairies, Ltd., from the decision of the Town Planning Commission refusing the request of the company to erect a galvanized iron wagon shed on its premises was read.

By city by-law, stated Alderman W. Raymond Crewdson, chairman of the Commission, neither that body nor the Council has the right to grant the request, because that proposed structure is, technically speaking, not fireproof. He suggested that the company go ahead and build, and that since the building was no real hazard, the city not prosecute. That being the general consensus of opinion, the application was received and placed on file.

The request of the Valley Motors, Ltd., to erect a Neon sign in front of their premises was granted.

Accept Resignation

The resignation of T. Earle Doohan as alderman for Queen's Ward was accepted, and the enclosed check for \$25 was returned to the sender. Both motions were moved by Ald. Crewdson, seconded by Ald. Murray Hagerman.

A letter was then read from Wm. Vaughan, proprietor and manager of

the Capital Garage, asking permission to establish a garage, airplane supply base and service station on Campbell street between York and Westmorland, in spite of the apparent denial of the request by the terms of the proposed town planning by-law.

It is the intention of the Town Planning Commission to beautify the riverfront, but nevertheless the river bank in the rear of the City Hall is registered with the Department of Marine as a seaplane base, and at present there is a public wharf there, stated Ald. Crewdson, in urging that the Council seriously consider the request. The matter was left in abeyance for the present.

A special committee was appointed by His Worship to investigate and report to the Council tonight concerning the application of Clarence H. Wade for a grant from the city to allow children to use the rink this year.

A communication from the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities was read, in which the city was levied \$13.50 as its share towards the support of the organization. The money was granted.

Appears Before Council

Stirling Brennan appeared before the Council with an album depicting the outstanding features of this province. The books, of which there are 15 copies, he said, are placed at vantage points in Eastern Canada and the United States where tourists can readily inspect them. He asked the Council for a grant of \$75 for the insertion of a full page advertisement of this city in the book. The books are on display for at least 10 months every year, he added.

In view of our policy of getting the most out of the money we spend, I think the \$75 could be used to better advantage, said Deputy Mayor Ray T. Forbes. If we had proper tourist accommodation it would be a different matter, he added.

In view of the fact that the Board of Trade had paid for the ad in 1936, the matter was referred to the Industrial Committee to report back to the Council.

HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE BY Dale Carnegie

1. What are the six ways of making people like you? See pages 83 to 145.
2. What are the twelve ways of winning people to your way of thinking? See pages 149 to 241.
3. What are the nine ways to change people without giving offense or arousing resentment? See pages 245 to 283.

BECOME GENUINELY INTERESTED IN PEOPLE

"If you would make friends, be friendly. Forget your own interests. Think of other people's interests. You can make more friends in two months by showing that you are interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to force other people to become interested in you."

"Ask yourself this question:— 'Why should people be interested in me unless I am first interested in them?' 'If you merely try to impress people and get people interested in you, you will never have many true, sincere friends. Friends, real friends, are not made that way.'"

"People are not interested in you—or in me. They are interested in themselves—first, last and all the time. 'When you see a group photograph that you are in, whose face do you look for first?'"

"But you can win the attention and time and cooperation of even the busiest, most sought after people by becoming genuinely interested in them. 'So if you want to make friends, put yourself out to do things for other people.'"

HAVE YOU SMOKED A TURRET LATELY?

ONE way to show interest in other people is to introduce them to the satisfying goodness of Turret cigarettes. They'll quickly appreciate Turret's original and unique blend of choice Virginia tobaccos, which makes Turret just that much different—just that much better. Show them, too, that the Turret package has a handy calendar on the back!

Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada, Limited

Quality and Mildness

Turret

CIGARETTES

PLAIN OR CORK TIP