

TURNING THE CHURCH INTO A PICTURE THEATRE AND A LUNCH COUNTER

Observer Believes Church Should Keep Its Dignity and Stick to Spiritual Things

Of late years many churches, particularly on this continent, alarmed by falling congregations and lack of interest, have been making strenuous efforts to win back lost ground. These efforts are of various kinds, but one notable method seems to be to counteract the effects of other attractions by conducting similar attractions within the church itself.

Thus we learn of certain churches, worried by the counter attraction of the movie theatre, turning the church into a movie theatre. In other cases, if the attractions of clubs and societies seem to be paramount, the church is made into a glorified club. Where finances permit, some churches have been turned into country clubs. We read of a certain clergyman who advertises that eating is permitted in his church, so the congregation comes and munches peppermints, peanuts, and chews gum. In some churches a movie show has taken the place of the regular Sunday evening service. All such schemes as the above seem to smack of the old adage of effecting a cure by "a hair of the dog that bit you." If people are going to neglect church activities for other attractions, then bring those attractions into the church, and the congregation will follow.

The fallacy in all this is that the church is trying to compete with other institutions who can do the thing in a much better way than the church can. A church can never ex-

pect to be as successful a movie theatre as the regular moving picture house can be. The church cannot be as successful a theatre, club or restaurant as the genuine article. One can go to most any restaurant and get a better meal for the same money or less than he can get at a church supper. One can see a better picture or a better play at the places provided for such entertainment than he can in the church. True, most church functions are free and for that very reason, perhaps, their offerings cannot be as good as those met with outside. The average church hasn't the money to compete on an equal basis with other institutions. If the church is genuinely determined to compete it should go into the thing wholeheartedly and charge admission for its functions.

If we want to judge the church's policy in this regard solely by results, we find that its success is dubious. Some people attend church, entertainments because they are free, as some people would attend anything that is free. But it does not make any appreciable difference. To hold its people the church is forced on from one project to another, until there seems to be no limit to the possibilities. The church should stick to its business, which is, as I see it, to minister to man's spiritual needs. I fail to see how those needs can be satisfied by turning the church into a vaudeville theatre, club, or play house.

Then there is a certain type of clergyman who turns his pulpit into a free show to attract crowds. He will stage short dramatic skits, debates, or what have you, because he has not the ability nor the energy to try to hold his congregation by the excellence of his preaching. This type of minister is too mentally lazy to expend any deep thought on the preparation of a sermon. He will adopt some of the expedients mentioned above, or if he is forced to prepare a sermon he will deal out some superficial stuff based on some moving picture he has seen. These ministers are stunt-pullers, and that is all. They are generally publicity hunters into the bargain, and they seek the spotlight. They defend themselves on the ground that these stunts make good publicity for the church, and attract the people. And even if they were right, and the people did come, what, in Heaven's name, are the people getting to repay them for coming?

Many of the practices mentioned above are extreme instances, and we have not seen their advent locally as yet. But it is clear that there is an ever growing tendency in that direction, and it is, I am certain, a tendency to be deplored. The church should have too much dignity to succumb to such devices. And it is a tacit admission of defeat by the very agencies the church is trying to imitate.

And may it not be true that some, at least, of the practices I have described are familiar to Fredericton church-goers?

—OBSERVER.

Bean Supper

The Devon Women's Institute will hold a Bean Supper in the Hose Station, North Devon, Saturday, April 2nd, beginning at 5 o'clock. Supper 25 cents.

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Social Happenings

Hon. and Mrs. McNair At Home Today

Hon. J. B. McNair, Attorney General for New Brunswick and Mrs. McNair are entertaining at a reception from five to seven o'clock this afternoon at their home on Waterloo Row. The house is bright with spring flowers arranged artistically throughout the rooms and Mrs. A. P. Patterson will pour tea and Mrs. F. C. Squires will pour coffee. Inviting the guests from the drawing-room to the dining-room will be Miss Molly Barry and Miss Martha O'Neill while the tea-room is in charge of Mrs. H. M. Armstrong.

Assisting will be Mrs. H. Ralph Ginter, Mrs. John Parker, Miss Mildred Copp, Miss Mary VanWart, Miss Edith MacRae, Miss Margaret Hall, Miss Constance Montgomery Campbell and Miss Doreen Harper.

Little Miss Nancy and Marian McNair, daughters of the host and hostess will open the door.

At nine o'clock this evening Mr. and Mrs. McNair will again be at home to the members of the Legislature and a few other friends.

Canadian Legion At Home

The members of the Canadian Legion were at home last evening to the members of the Provincial Legislature and other invited guests. The guests were received by President Abner B. Belyea and chairman of the entertainment committee Edward Lowe. Cards and billiards were played and the couple of hours enjoyed in social conversation. The guests pronounced the At Home a most successful one. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and Dr. G. C. VanWart were present and extended their greetings. The Lieutenant Governor is himself a veteran of the Great War where he had a most excellent war record.

F'ton Young Man to be Married

Mr. and Mrs. George Pearson of Toronto, announce the engagement of their daughter, Louise, to James A. Trites of Fredericton, N. B., son of Mrs. W. E. Trites, of Montreal and the late Mr. Trites. The wedding will take place quietly on May 14th at St. Aidan's Church, Toronto.

To Entertain Their Excellencies

The Speaker of the Senate and Mrs. W. E. Foster will entertain at dinner this evening in the Speaker's Chambers, Ottawa, in honor of their Excellencies the Governor-General and Lady Tweedsmuir.

Bridge Hostess

Mrs. E. B. MacLachy entertained at her home last evening at a delightfully arranged three-table bridge. The prizes were won by Mrs. F. H. Copp, Mrs. J. Barbarie and Mrs. Walter Gilbert. The house was bright with spring flowers and the hostess was assisted by Mrs. William Murray and Mrs. Harry Wilson. Little Miss Doris MacLachy admitted the guests.

Married Last Evening

A quiet wedding took place last evening at St. Andrew's Church. Manse when Miss Lillian Emily Tapley, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Tapley of Pinder was united in marriage to John McLenahan. Rev. Dr. George E. Ross performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Tilman Veniot acted as witnesses. At the conclusion of the ceremony the newly wedded couple drove to their home on Needham Street where they will reside in the future. Both the bride and groom have many friends in the city who will extend to them best wishes for their future happiness.

Hospital Aid Tea and Drawing

The Hospital Aid Society are holding a subscription tea this afternoon at the home of Mrs. D. M. Kydd, 736 King Street, which she has graciously thrown open for the occasion. The guests are being received by Mrs. Kydd and Miss Sterling and the contributions will be accepted by Mrs. J. Harold Babbitt, Mrs. T. C. Barker and Mrs. J. Harold McMurray will usher, while Miss Winnifred Everett will be general hostess. Mrs. J. H. Malcom and Mrs. J. J. F. Winslow will preside over the tea and coffee urns and replenishing will be Mrs. C. P. Holden and Mrs. J. Stuart Neil. Members of the Aid will serve. Mrs. E. O. Turner and Mrs. C. W. Argue will be in charge of the drawing.

The dining room table has a centre of yellow and blue flowers in a silver basket and yellow and blue candles in silver candelabra are at each end of the table. Mrs. D. J. Shea is the efficient convenor of the function.

Sir Howard D'Egville Honored Guest

The Empire Parliamentary Association entertained yesterday at luncheon at the Parliamentary Restaurant in honor of Sir Howard D'Egville, K. B.E., of London, England, organizer and secretary of the Association. Sir Howard is spending a couple of days in Ottawa, stopping at the Chateau Laurier, while returning to Canada through Canada from New Zealand and Australia.

Stanley C.W.L. Holds Meeting

A special meeting of the Stanley Sub-division of the C.W.L. was held at the home of Mrs. Leo Hawkes with the president in the chair. The correspondence was read and preparations made for the annual meeting, which is to be held on April first. The nominating committee was as follows: Mrs. James McGuire, Mrs. Warren Malone and Mrs. Harry Campbell. Auditors, Mrs. Fred Hickey and Miss Mary McGowan. Meeting closed with prayer.

Dr. and Mrs. Addy Sail for Europe

Duchess of Richmond (Special to The Daily Mail) MONTREAL, March 30—Sailing for Glasgow and Liverpool Friday the C.P. liner Duchess of Richmond will bid farewell to the port of Saint John for the season. On her return trip the Richmond in command of Capt. H. A. Moore, R.D.R.N.R., will make her initial 1938 trip up the St. Lawrence to Quebec and Montreal. Among those sailing in the Duchess of Richmond Friday are Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Turnbull, C. J. R. Coyle, F. D. Bourcier, A. M. G. Farquhar and Miss B. Share of Montreal. J. Pringle of Three Rivers, Dr. and Mrs. G. B. Addy and Miss A. Parsons of St. John, Major and Mrs. W. L. Laurie, Mrs. Geo. Pope, Lieut. R. L. Houston, Lieut. H. A. Prince, Lieut. D. Menard, W. E. Stewart and F. P. Cosgrove of Ottawa, H. Lawton, C. D. Patterson and Eric Bentley of Toronto, Frederick Norman of London, Ont., Miss Penella Roark of Kenora, Ont., Dr. L. Cherniack, of Winnipeg, Miss M. J. Heinmann, Captain J. McRitchie, Miss Jessie Aenmuir, David Watson and J. M. Perry of Vancouver.

To Speak at Hadassah Luncheon

Her Excellency Lady Tweedsmuir has graciously consented to be the guest speaker at a meeting of Montreal Hadassah which will be held in the ball room of the Windsor Hotel in Montreal on Monday afternoon April 11.

Spring Shower

(From Cycle)

When spring has touched the tops of the alder thicket
With laciness, and velvet softly cloaks
Each pussywillow bud, the sun provokes
The clouds to abdicate; a yawning wicket
Releases captive rain. Foretold by cricket
Heralding, a slant of silver soaks
Forgotten mould beneath the leafless oaks;
Till valiant lily-fronds push up to prick it
Through and through with stars of fragile bloom.
The liquid benediction of the shower
Distills to limpid nectar in each flower;
And safely in a petal-enclosed room
Each chalice keeps a hostage drop of rain
In bondage—till the showers come again.

—Anna Holm Pogue.

Lr. Queensbury

LOWER QUEENSBURY, March 29—The ice in the St. John River is still holding solid here but has opened all the shores.

There has been a heavy run of sap and the sugar makers are kept busy. A pleasant social evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Storm Monday. Bingo and contests were enjoyed by all. Delicious refreshments including cake and ice cream were served by the ladies present. Mr. and Mrs. Storm are expecting to leave on a trip to the States for a couple of months the last of this week.

Mrs. Frank Joslin was calling on Albert Jordan and Mrs. Stairs Sunday afternoon.

Miss Marion Gordon, of Keswick Ridge, is spending a few days visiting Mr. and Mrs. Mellow Pond.

Mrs. Amos Jordan and son Murray spent Monday afternoon with Mrs. Lorne Brown.

Those in Fredericton Saturday included Percy Currie, Hedley Moore, Ruth Moore, Elizabeth Coburn, Frank Joslin, Arville Currie, Leonard Hood and Mr. and Mrs. John Storm.



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CITY COUNCIL

(Continued from Page Eight)
J. A. Reid, president of the board of trustees, and Mayor Forbes, expressed satisfaction to this suggestion. Mr. Reid stating that the new provisions were made with no attempt to obligate the county or the towns. Mr. Reid explained the financial condition of the board, stating that there was no question of the board being unable to back up any proposal which they made. He referred to the increase in business in recent years, stating that the average number of patients per day had increased from 34 in 1934 to 59 in 1937. Replying to Ald. McKnight's question, Mr. Reid stated that the average cost per patient per day was \$3.66.

Ex-Mayor Spoke

G. Willard Kitchen, ex-Mayor of Fredericton, and Dr. A. F. VanWart, also spoke on the proposal. Mr. Kitchen felt that the council should deal with the matter first and then present it to the committee. Dr. VanWart was in favor of the immediate passage of the bill.

Hon. Mr. McNair suggested that if the City Council would express its consent to the passage of the bill, with the sections relating to the city, the committee could proceed with the bill and add a section providing for the four-fifths vote of the council and the plebiscite.

Strenuous Objection

Mr. Reid objected strenuously to the necessity of a four-fifths vote for approval of the council, stating that it was "the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard." He said that the city and municipality might just as well run the hospital themselves as far as he was concerned.

H. A. Porter, M.L.A., Saint John City, pointed out that in Saint John a unanimous vote of the council was required in a matter of this nature. Mr. Reid replied: "Some queer

MARGARET HARRIS

(Continued from Page One)
is of a type used on vessels in engine rooms. Mr. Barbour, a former coal dealer and policeman in Dalhousie, spent some years in tugboat service with the Dalhousie Lumber Co., Hilliard Lumber Co., and more recently the N. B. International Paper Co.

Description of what took place, as related to the police by the young man, included his efforts to render assistance to the injured girl. He had then proceeded to the sheriff's office fully believing his friend dead, police said.

A large crowd soon gathered at the two-storey residence of the Barbour, who are well and favorably known here. Young Barbour was said to be of a quiet nature and a good workman, an employee of the N. B. International Paper Co. He told Chief Theriault he had not been well this winter. He is a good-looking man of average build, weight and height.

Miss Harris, who worked weekends in a chain store here, has been a popular member of the young set and of an agreeable disposition. Her father also is employed at the mill where he is a tender on the rubbering-paper machine. The youth was on construction operations there.

The two families already are linked by marriage. A sister of the injured girl, Bernetta, is Mrs. Richard Barbour, wife of a brother of Robert. The Harris family moved here from Chatham when the new mill was opened.

There were four R. C. M. P. members here at the time. Three, Corporal Boly and Constables Murphy and Desmarais, are attached to the Campbellton detachment. The other is Constable Daigle, located here.

"Things are done in Saint John."

Mr. Porter retorted that this manner of voting on a measure such as this one was "a damn good thing."

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