



THE BEACON

"Let your light so shine"

Campbell River, B.C.

February 1943.

Vol. 2 No.2

FARMERS EXEMPTED

A.S.W. MEN MAY APPLY

On February 3rd. our government moved to control the shortage of farm labour. The Director of National Selective Service, Mr. Arthur MacNamara, announced an eight-point program designed to fill the holes through which farm workers have been disappearing from agriculture and, soon drafted into the army. Farm workers are to be retained as far as practicable on farms, but encouraged to assist in relieving other labour shortages in off-seasons. Farm workers who apply for postponement are to be granted postponement unless it is established they are not essential workers in agriculture. Persons not employed in agriculture as essential farm help will be considered for postponement. Conscientious objectors and others who receive postponement and who are essential agricultural workers will not be directed to report for alternative service.

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE IS INVITED FROM AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN ALTERNATIVE SERVICE.

This last point is of especial interest to us men in camp. It may grant us a different form of service to Canada, one which is of prime importance and one in which a large number of us are highly skilled. This opportunity of putting our best talent at work in meeting an urgent, national need should not be missed. Application for such leave is addressed to THE REGISTRAR of the MOBILIZATION BOARD in your district.

No legislation, as yet, has been made by the government as to, whether or not, we in camps shall be directed into agriculture. Because of this, Mobilization Boards can only advise us upon application for leave to seek a recommendation from our Camp Superintendent. This should be done now, so that when legislation regarding our position is affected we shall be prepared for service. Informing our Camp Superintendent of application for leave will also serve to let the Forest Service know how many men may be affected by future legislation. The Forest Service has been wonderfully kind to us and it would be only fair to help them in this manner.

If A.S.W. men in camps are diverted to farms, a labour shortage in forest protection work would develop.

STAFF ENLARGED

Subscribers have so advertised our camp paper that new subscriptions continue to come in. We are very grateful for your good word about us. Beginning in October 1942, THE BEACON published 600 editions. Requests came for more of that same issue and we reprinted 125 to meet demands. In December 802 copies of THE BEACON were sold. To anticipate more subscriptions seemed to invite the impossible. But the impossible happened! In January 1,000 Beacons were published. Then a tidal wave of subscriptions swept into our little office. This month 1,250 copies of our camp paper go out from here. So that our staff would not be drowned by the wave, help was called for and our headquarters staff increased.

Don Ewing, a young Bachelor of Arts and Associate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, is assistant editor. Hugo Harms, a junior matriculant from Rosemary, Alta is assistant circulation manager. Hugo now attends to outside subscriptions. Lloyd Smith, carpenter and salesman from Vancouver, assists with our typing. Lloyd's carpentry work has also benefited THE BEACON. Chairs for the editor and typists, a stool for the publishers and numerous shelves and filing boxes now add to convenience. Frank Showler of Toronto and Walter Martens of Yarrow, B.C. are our proof-readers. Their job is to look for typographical errors to prevent mistakes being published. David Dueck came to our rescue for the large publishing job there is to do. Dave is from Rosthern, Sask. Should your copy of THE BEACON not be perfect, stay with him, Reader, until Dave learns all the ins and outs of publishing.

THE BEACON

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Christianity - Postwar

Editorial - John L. Fretz

In an average newspaper or magazine you will find some mention of plans for a new and better postwar world. For instance, a science magazine shows diagrams and plans for a postwar home, the postwar car, the postwar plane, the postwar radio and other commodities designed to make living more enjoyable. Plans are drafted for a postwar peace, wherein all nations will do business with each other in a manner intended to promote international commerce and friendship. How many postwar plans have you seen for the Church, for religious life, for Christianity?

It is well for the world's leaders of today to plan for a postwar system of business and social life. A noted doctor, working with a research council of religious bodies in America writes an article on postwar changes in religion that there will be greater unity between religious leaders, statesmen and economic leaders; greater efforts will be made to combat racial prejudice, and greater unity will exist between religion and mental health. Notice that religion is stressed more than Christianity. Men may make every possible human effort to bring about changes in religion to better the world, but without Christ it is quite impossible. As a solution to postwar religion, the name of Christ was not mentioned once in the article.

Let's ask ourselves if we're doing our share of "postwar planning" to cope with changes that are taking place. It will be a different world. There will be changed methods of commerce. Social life undoubtedly will change. As Christians we will have new temptations about us. As young men of the Christian Church, are we molding our lives to fit into this new world? We'll face new problems. Let's study them now. Let us prepare now, while we have the time and the zeal to strengthen our Christian lives, that we may go forward in an everchanging world of increasing evil. Let us continue to uphold the Cross as the only means of bettering the world. Through Christ all things are possible. Do we believe it? If so, we must make it our motto.

We read of advances in telephone and radio. Have you ever realized that you are privileged to use the world's largest and most wonderful telephone system - the "Telephone to Heaven" - at any time and at no cost? We read articles of abolishing racism that people may be equal, rich and poor, learned and unlearned. Do you realize you are a brother to the wealthiest and most learned man in the universe - Christ? We read about the progress in television. Have you experienced a vision far superior to that? Have you seen the vision of Christ dying on the Cross for you? of the Heavenly Father on His Almighty Throne? of the great home He has prepared for you in the Golden City? The world makes some wonderful advances, but is it anything new? Consider the marvel of life. Is an individual able to reproduce plant, animal or human life? God's great creative power will never be excelled by human endeavour.

As the world moves forward, we must be on duty with Christ. Christ is our solution for new problems. In living closer to Him our testimony as objectors to worldly methods of attaining peace will long echo in the ears of our onlookers.

STATUS QUO AT SEYMOUR MOUNTAIN PARK
by Harold Schmidt.

FLASH!! -- 'Conchies First to Assist in Alleviating Fuel Shortage' - Such was the publicity given us by one of the Vancouver papers. The weather has apparently altered the nature of the work here, and it is all to good, in our opinion. It has produced immediate and positive evidence of our attempt to serve mankind freely. Our hopeful loggers, clearing as they go, reduce the trees into convenient lengths which in turn are hauled by the army trucks to a central point in Vancouver where it is sawed into stove lengths. Then it is allotted to consumers according to their need and purchasing power.

Up until this month our camp's personnel numbered fifty. However, the acute need arising from the fuel shortage mentioned above has caused a condensing of available space into sufficient to house twenty-five more. Twenty have come from G.T.4 at Haney and five from the Manning Depot at Green Timbers. We are informed this is a temporary arrangement. Muscularly, these fellows are little short of super men. Energy is the word. We are informed by medical students that one cannot give out more energy than he consumes in his food. Observation reveals that after a full-course meal, forty-four prune-stones were found at one plate, which verifies the capacity. More power to him!

LEAVES -- were granted simultaneously over the Christmas season with everyone leaving for his home. Camp morale is definitely thirty per cent up, with only one regret. We seemingly lost one member in transit, as no one knows of his whereabouts since. We are sorry.

MEMORIES -- During the course of time we have lost some valued members through medical discharge. Fond memories linger of Dick Falk, Delton Steinman and Kenneth Gingerich. We trust they occasionally think of some fellows at the foot of Seymour Mt.

CHAPEL CLOSED - War calls for quick adjustments. What once served as our church building is now the permanent dwelling of sixteen men. However, we believe formality means little in Christianity, and is overshadowed by sincerity of purpose. Hence we continue in our usual style only with services in the dining hall. We do not consider it an injustice, but continue to rejoice for the freedom of worship in Canada.

PING-PONG: C1 vs. C2

It was the evening of February eleventh. Approximately twenty-five fellows from our neighbouring camp at "Hill 60" came over to match wits with us in ping-pong. An exciting tournament occupied the greater part of the evening, as the sharks on either side battled their opponents. Excitement and cheering accompanied the rounds, particularly the play-off between the last two players. Finally the winner was announced as Ab Watson. Congratulations, "Hill 60!"

The remainder of the evening was spent in singing, visiting, and lunching.

We're sorry that distance makes it difficult for more of us to get together for an occasional social evening, but through the Beacon we're learning of the activities in other camps.

Q-5 REPORTS

Camp Q-5 lost one of its pioneers early this month. Rowland Dean, who, with only a few cents in his pocket, came across on the Princess Elaine in May of 42 and took up his residence near Bowser, has passed on — or rather up to Camp Q-1, where he now holds the sinecure of timekeeper. His loss is mourned by all the boys in camp, to whom he was mouthpiece, straw-boss, and circulation manager of the Beacon. Best of luck in your new job. Roly!

John S. Friesen, who with Gordon Hobbs has been caretaking at Courtenay, Camp Q-4, for several months, has returned to our Bowser camp. Q-4 is now under the capable guardianship of Toby Schmidt and Johann (Bulldog) Friesen. From what we hear the job is a bit monotonous but has its good points: for instance John S. says that he got lots of sleep and plenty of his own cooking! There's even a rumor about ice cream ---. Incidentally John S. Friesen and John W. Peters have been re-boarded and will probably be returning to the prairie country soon.

Snow has prevented snagging for the first part of this month, probably that's why we have no candidates for the "Rubber Axe Society" just now. Nope, no accidents! Our one casualty is Olly, popular felling instructor, who has been in the Comox hospital since the beginning of the month. We all hope to see him out and in good health again soon.

With planting season so close now, we're expecting 25 new recruits any day. Since there will be fewer trips to town once the planting starts, many of the boys have been patronizing the dentist while they have the opportunity. After one such visit, John Berg remarked that whenever he made a funny face his jaw hurt, to which some one unkindly remarked that it must be terrible to be in constant pain! Don't believe it, Johnny.

Last month some of the Victoria officials were in camp to show us some moving pictures, quite attractive ones in technicolor, on the subject of Forest Protection. Preceding the show, Mr. Hodgins clarified the position of the boys in connection with the Forest Branch. He corrected an erroneous impression hitherto widely prevalent on the actual status of the A.S. Worker. "We want you boys to feel", said Mr. Hodgins, "That you are not working for the Forest Branch, but are working with it."

Later, in the pictures, we were treated to an evening of entertainment and instruction. In the reel dealing with the activities of C.O.'s on the Island there were many familiar localities and camp-sites shown. Loud laughter greeted the recognizable faces which appeared from time to time on the screen. Especially mirth-provoking was a shot of the former Albatross boys at work on the road, and in the foreground Jake Reddekopp and John Dyck hard at it! Everyone had a good time.

I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. John 10:9.

THE MASTER

by Virgil Pollock, GT4.

We contact people these days who deny the power of Christ. They consider Him as our example or merely a good man after whom we are to pattern our lives. They refuse to acknowledge Him as the Divine Son of God, possessing power to save from sin. But let us consider two testimonies from the word of God which prove to us the Divinity and power of Christ.

We have two outstanding instances in which the Father testified that Jesus was His Son. The first time was at Jesus' baptism (Matt. 3:13-17). When Jesus came up out of the water and the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove, a voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". Here the Father testified to John that Jesus was His son.

The second instance was at the time of Jesus' transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8), Jesus took three of His disciples up into the mountain, and there was transfigured before them. Again the voice came from Heaven, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him". The Father again testifies to the Divinity of Christ and puts emphasis on it by adding "Hear ye Him".

In Matt. 8:2, we have the account of Jesus healing the leper. This disease, a type of sin, eats away the flesh as sin eats away the morality of man. But when Jesus put forth His hand and touched the leper he was healed immediately. There, was, no hesitation or waiting, just a touch from Jesus and the leper was healed.

Then in Luke 13:11, Jesus healed the crooked woman. She had been bowed together for eighteen years. Yet when Jesus laid His hands upon her, she was made straight and worshipped God.

Jesus also raised the dead. In John 11, we read of Lazarus who had been in the grave four days when Jesus came. Those who stood around did not believe that Jesus could raise him to life again. But Jesus prayed to the Father that they might see, through this miracle, that the Father had sent Him with power. When Jesus spoke to Lazarus he rose from the tomb and came forth. The grave clothes fell away, as the chains of sin will fall from the sinner who will come to Jesus and believe on His name.

Lastly, we see Jesus had power to save. In Acts 9:1-6, we read of Saul who was going about persecuting the Christians to destroy the works of Christ. Yet on the Damascus road Jesus was able to save him. When Saul said, "Who art thou Lord," the Lord said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Jesus here revealed to Saul that His appearing was to save him and make him a witness of the power of Christ.

Thus we see from the testimony of the word of God that Jesus is the Divine Son of God, possessing power to save.. A revelation of this power in our lives will change our hearts and transform our lives to the likeness of Christ. We, like Paul, may go forth to be a witness of His Power and tell others the glad news that Jesus saves.

Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

I Peter 3: 15.

Q-7 ROUNDUP

Pete Xoewen, our bull cook, was married while home on leave. He tells us that the worst thing about it was that the time in which he was able to enjoy married life was much too short. Good luck, Pete.

It has been so cold that Campbell Lake has been frozen over for more than a month, and the ice was so thick that some boys walked all the way across it. But George Rhodes, our sub-foreman, was not quite as lucky when he tried it. Just at the time when he thought a short-cut would come in handy, he found, too late, that he had guessed wrong. George is still trying to figure out why two of the boys got across safely just a little while before, and he broke through. We are willing to bet that he is the first one to have gone swimming this season.

Abe Wiens and Jake Dyck were glancing through an algebra book when Abe suddenly remarked: "t is equal to 4w." "What is coffee equal to?" asked Jake.

Our cook left us during the middle of February. We all hated to see Uncle Ed go, because his meals were really worth going to the dining room for. This report is being made on the new cook's first day in camp, but he has already been here long enough for us to see that he knows his business.

I wonder what it is that makes a person wake up in the middle of the night and holler out: "Hey, what's going on in here?" when he finds the cabin in total darkness. Jake Dyck should know, but he won't tell us. Later, in the night of this event, he was heard to say "All right all right," in his conciliating tone. He claims that he had lost another argument with his snag-falling partner, Abe Weins.

For the third time since this camp opened we have held elections for our spiritual leader and his committee. When Rev. Penner first organized us we agreed to elect our officers for a term of three months, and in accordance with this the elections took place on the third of February.

Our leader is Cornie Thiessen, who served as secretary on the replaced committee. Cornie has attended Bible School at Coal Lake and Three Hills, and is a capable man for this position. The committee is composed of Henry Lepp, Ben Reimer, and Dave Wiens. Ben Reimer was a member of the first committee to be elected, and the fact that he has been re-elected shows that his work was appreciated. The other two are new to this work in this camp, but nevertheless both are capable and willing workers. The work that has already been done by our new leader and the committee goes to show that they are the right men for this job.

We pray that the Lord will bless them as they serve us with His word.

Philip Isaac, who suffered a fractured collar-bone and a fractured rib when a snag struck him on Jan. 28, returned to camp on Feb. 9, but he did not stay there very long. He asked for leave to go home while

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Q-7 ROUNDUP
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he was convalescing, and it was granted to him after a few days. Although Philip was getting quite a bit better, you should have seen his morale perk up when he learned that he could go home the next day. Too bad he has to keep that right arm in a sling. It will be rather cumbersome when he meets his wife and daughter at the station. Well, anyway, we all wish you a speedy recovery, Philip.

Sam Toews, who had received leave to work on a farm near Courtenay, is now back at camp. He suffered an injured back while falling snags, and because of it was unable to do the work.

All the boys at this camp have had their two weeks leave, and all except one have returned. The exception to the rule has apparently joined up.

W.A. Matheson and W. Johnstone were transferred to Powell River on the first of this month. We hated to see them go, but now that they are gone we hope they will do their bit there as well as they did it here.

Remember the dandruff cure suggested in the last "Beacon"? I will repeat it just to freshen your memory. Keep your hair shaved off. This remedy has been tested and found satisfactory by Abe Neufeld. To all interested readers we offer a 24 hour free trial, satisfaction guaranteed, or your money cheerfully refunded.

All the boys that have tried the cure mentioned above, are now reversing tradition, and instead of permitting hair to grow on their scalp, are coaxing those on their faces to make a stand. Various degrees of success are to be seen. Under duress I was forced to promise not to mention names.

Dave Ratzlaff and Edwin Enns are our ace fallers this month. On the fifteenth they cut 240 sq. ft., believed to be a record for February.

Henry Stobbe, 5 foot 3½ of sunshine, is especially radiant because of the new buildings being erected. Carpenter Henry is supervising the work.

Leslie Schmidt, former camp circulation manager for The Beacon, was re-classified by medicos of Vancouver. Les is in category E and expects his release soon. Walter Weibe is replacing Les on the camp paper.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isa. 53:6.

YOUNG MEN'S PROGRAM

If it were possible to take the reader, as a spectator, into one of the A.S.W. camps on the Island, he would be impressed by the similarity of method used by the boys in camp and that of the various congregations back home. Perhaps the visitor would be brought to realize more fully how important it is that young people be given a chance to participate in church activities at home, that when the time comes they are better equipped to stand on their own feet.

As one example of this similarity, we can take the manner in which the boys at Q3 make Sunday evenings more enjoyable and, at the same time, draw more into actual participation in a service. The service is in the form of a young people's meeting with the 23 Psalm chosen as the topic, "The Lord is my shephard, I shall not want."

To begin the evening Ben Raimer read the topic and led in prayer. Helmut Neufeld, in the role of chorister aroused enthusiasm to a hearty pitch in several songs. Henry Giesbrecht gave a recitation, after which the quartet, consisting of Dave Dueck, Helmut Neufeld, Peter Epp and Joan Martens rendered a song. Jake Williams read an interesting article on the topic. Our chorister was again called to lead in singing after which Frank Rempel discussed the topic and applied it to our every day life. Dave Dueck and Helmut Neufeld, able musicians, contributed a number and George Heaman gave a reading. For the last number our chorister called on his male choir for a song.

If there should be a camp on the Island where devotional services are neglected or not properly conducted, could the fault be lack of proper organization and training at home? Will outside readers remember? "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

By Dave Dueck

"We would not listen to the Way of Peace" - from the pen of a clergyman of Bournemouth, England.

We have been a pleasure-loving people, dishonouring God's day. We have preferred motor travel to church-going. Now there is a shortage of motor fuel. We have ignored the ringing of the church bells calling us to worship. Now the bells cannot ring except to warn of invasion. We have left the churches half empty when they should have been filled with worshippers. Now they are in ruins. We would not listen to the way of peace. Now we are forced to listen to the way of war. The money we would not give to the Lord's work is now taken in taxes and higher prices. The food for which we forgot to say thanks now is unobtainable. The service we refused to give God now is conscripted for the country. Lives we refused to live under God's control, now are under the nation's control. Nights we would not spend unto prayer, now are spent in anxious air-raid precautions. The evils of modernism we would not fight. Now we see what Germany, the seat of this teaching, has produced.

"Therefore we ought to give more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Heb. 2: 1.

WHO'S WHO Q5

Johan Friesen - Couldtown, Sask., at 26, his age weighs heavily upon him. The original in our "John Friesen" Club, which at present boasts a membership of four.

Henry Balzer - Dalmery, Sask., A man of abounding energy, Henry finds it hard to slow down when the day's work is through. Recognizable, even in the dark, by certain oft-repeated phrases (Get out of here!)

Harold Richmond - Yorkton, Sask. He spent the last few years on the west coast in lumber mills. Harold stands all of 5 feet 4 inches, but that's no indication of the size of beard he can grow! Nick-named "Big Chief".

John Berg - sugar beet grower near Coaldale, Alta. A good natured and happy-go-lucky person, John helps to keep the camp alive. For further particulars as to his sterling character, etc., we refer you to his pen-pal at College Heights, Alta.

Ben Goodkey - from Gadsby, Alberta, the man with the slow smile, learning to be a stenographer on his big, not-so-new typewriter.

Lloyd Eby - our energetic truck-driver, comes from Watrous via Waskesieu and Port Alberni. For exercise he writes letters.

Henry Peters - feels right at home at the coast, plumber and handy man around camp, - tells a good yarn without cracking a smile.

C - 2

Joe Banyai - Hungarian - formerly a fisherman on Lake Erie - often to be found exploring the far shores of Lake Cowichan - accordionist.

Elias Brubacher - assistant cook - blond - likes to imitate radio commentators.

Jack Boldt - able conductor of our music class - has a trained musical voice - takes his responsibilities seriously.

Fred Reimer - forceful personality cloaked by a fine reserve - a sense of honour all his own - an admirable physique - reads deeply.

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Prayer is a Divine Channel through which God works, so let us be more prayerful

MOBILE PARKS' CREW

We had expected our winter to be quite different from that of camps "up-island" when we moved to John Dean Park in mid-December. The area around Victoria has a reputation for mild weather. But we had it pretty close to zero several times, and we could really feel for campees in the colder, northern camps. We like the spot, 800 feet up Mount Newton. We soon leave it for Little Qualicum Park.

Christmas leave was granted Ed. Giesbrecht, Bill Herbert, Bob Hunt, Dave Morrison, Howard Pottard and Clyde Woollard. Andy Petrie, Bill Young and Ken Williams were here as a skelton crew. The cook and the foreman were away on leave too, but Joe St. Pierre, noted sign carver of the B.C.F.S. was with the little group in camp. Andy Petrie did the cooking. All fared well, judging from appearances.

Congratulations are in order for Ed Giesbrecht, who became a proud father December 1st. Amy Ruth is his daughter's name. Andy Petrie, learnt of Mary Elizabeth's birth on January 20th, and is home on leave.

Work here is cleaning up an old relief camp and fixing up the park. The lake was drained and snags around it felled and cut up. Then Bill helped build a fireplace, Ed and Bob cut a new trail, and Howard and Ken helped build massive picnic tables. Howard is now remodelling a few old tent-frames into cottages, using lumber salvaged from the dismantled tent-frames. Andy is time-keeper and truck-driver, Clyde is flunkey and bull-cook.

DEMOCRACY AT WORK!

"Ab" Watson, Cl.

Recently a Camp Council of five men was elected. The purpose of the new council, as outlined by the chairman, Ernie Best (United Church) is "to represent the men as a whole to the management in order that the greatest harmony and deepest understanding might exist between them and to co-ordinate the various aspects of our camp life." In addition to the chairman, the representative council consists of Jake Krhn, (Mennonite) Secretary-Treasurer, Gerhard Penner, (Mennonite) Religious Convener, Ronald Price, (Undenominational) Benevolent Convener and Mervin York, (Seventh-Day Adventist) Recreation Convener.

One of the activities that was organized by the council, with the assistance of the respective foremen, was an inter-camp Table Tennis Tournament between Lake Cowichan Camp and ourselves. The council, in cooperation with the management also has been able to solve some of the internal problems of the camp.

Thus, in a day when democracy seems to be vanishing from the face of the earth, it is at work in an A.S.W. camp.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1 Timothy 1:15.

HORNE LAKE "HIGH" SPOTS

Henry Fehr had a tonsil operation in the Nanaimo Hospital. Now recuperating, Henry is painstakingly sucking juices, while the saw filing is suffering for want of Henry's skilled hand.

Five sets of fallers are making the woods echo with crashing snags. Until a few weeks ago, snag-falling was little known at Q6. Road construction is still our main project.

A bridge has been completed over the Big Horne River. A road is now under construction to Lost Lake; another commendable enterprise to make a new area accessible for fire protection.

The committee for the arrangement of Sunday evening programmes is now comprised of John Fehr, Henry Martens and Henry Toews.

Nick Thiessen, Henry Martens and John Knelsen are each the proud father of a handsome baby boy. Henry's boy is one year old, Nick's eleven months, and John's eight months. Some times we wonder how these fellows are able to keep so cheerful, realising they are confronted by a financial difficulty greater than our own. We are made to realize that our Heavenly Father looks after His own.

Q6 boasts of several carpenters. In leisure moments Joe Weis constructed a child's kitchen set, medicine cabinet, cupboard and sink. Clarence Wiebert, has made many fine cedar chests which he sells to the boys and visitors. Both Willard Tomson and Henry Fehr constructed arm chairs and John Gesson has turned his hand to making wall mottoes. John Koop's wall cabinet has called for much admiration.

About six miles from camp Q6 there are at least three good-sized caves. The boys have explored a couple of these, one being almost 200 yards deep, with stalactite and stalagmite limestone formations. The caves are long and narrow and intensely dark. The largest is of immense proportions and has not yet been explored by the boys.

SELECTIVE SERVICE POINT 8

Upon learning of point 8 of the new Selective Service program many men in A.S.W. camps became hopeful for leave to go home on their farm where help is badly needed. Such hope is illplaced. Point 8 does NOT grant leave. If A.S.W. men were released, a storm of indignation and protest from the public would sweep Canada. The government realizes this. We should also be aware of this fact and not apply for leave to work on our own farm; but rather, apply for leave to work on a farm in our home province. This would be a national service and not one of self interest. Seeking personal gain will only serve to rouse public disfavour and harm our religious cause. I can not state this too strongly to you. Please keep our cause uppermost. To injure it is to injure yourself.

from THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

On Page 7 of your November-December issue I find a kindred spirit in Jake Dyck. Jake complains that "all they have in this paper is 'turn to page...' and I won't do it. I start reading at the beginning and go right through from there". I, too, "start reading at the beginning and go right through from there". If, by chance, the whole thing makes little sense by the time I am half way through, that is just too bad for the editor.

The only conceivable reason for these jumps is to annoy the reader and Jake and I refuse to be annoyed. If I thought it would do any good, I would ask him to join me in telling such outfits as MacLean's and the Saturday Evening Post what we think of them; or, we might form a Readers' Protest or Protection Association.

In the meantime I suggest that Jake join me in passing up this type of publication for some such journal as the Reader's Digest where, having started an article, you can depend on reading through to the end without getting involved in some pseudo-continued story in four parts. If editors want Jake's money and mine, they will just have to mend their ways.

C.D. Orchard,
Chief Forester.

(The comment by Jake Dyck in our Nov.-Dec. issue has gained many sympathizers for his thought. Numerous "Jake Dycks" have been moved to write us. So they will not pass up our publication we began in our January issue to meet their requests. Where continuing an article does not mar the appearance of our pages, we shall continue to please. Perhaps we shall put the Reader's Digest out of business! The Editor!

Dear Sir:

As a member of THE BEACON staff I would like to express a few views regarding our work.

The Beacon staff is recognized by our friends and subscribers, not merely as OO's, but as a group of sincere Christians endeavouring to carry out what we believe to be the will of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Beacon is published that our subscribers may receive interesting news concerning A.S.W. men throughout Canada, C.P.S. men in the States; also as a means of spiritual encouragement to all its readers. With these facts in mind, I wonder if we are justified in breaking the Sabbath by working on Sunday in order to publish our paper? - a practice that has been followed in the past, although the decision to work is left entirely to the individual.

Harold Evans

THE LIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS

By Abe Bartel

A flash for "The Beacon", from this out-of-the-way place is really a necessity. The camp is known as Q-8, Kelsey Bay. The workers here come from Manitoba. All of us are "Seebe Veterans". Only one has spent his first three months of service in Manitoba's wonderful park, Clear Lake. Edwin Froese is at present hospitalized after an appendix operation. The four boys from Sunny Alberta are on leave, so fourteen remain to hold this lonely outpost of the B.C.F.S.

The camp was opened on October 10, 1942. In our opinion it is quite up-to-date. From the outside the buildings don't look like much, but inside they're up-to-date and have good fixtures, wood-box, drying racks, and a special room for hanging clothes and boots, not needed every day. The greatest thing about the cabins is that there's plenty of room. Lights are very good, and each cabin boasts two mantle lamps and a couple of the common coal-oil lamps plus candles.

The boss says our washhouse is tops--hot and cold running water, built-in washtubs with drains and needless to say, showers. A woodshed at the rear for 3-foot ablution wood completes the job.

We have one great asset, namely, that we can't go to town every weekend to spend our hard-earned cash. The January Beacon had a write up from Q-2 stating the roads were bad which made going to town almost impossible. Cheer up boys, we don't have a road at all! We are quite happy even then. It keeps a fellow more in bounds if one doesn't see the bright lights too often. Our only connection with the outside world is the railway, 2/3 of a mile from camp, or a walk of 15 miles on a trail that's beset with dangers, such as deep waters, railroad trestles, etc. It seems to us that some of you worry too much. A man was asked the reason for his happiness. He replied, "I don't have time for worry, in the daytime I'm too busy and at night too sleepy. Therefore I'm just happy." Worry brings on old age in a hurry and we're getting old fast enough without any effort on our part.

We have two carpenters: Reimor is the surname. They know their business and no mistake. You should see our oilhouse. Imperial Oil has few that are better. The walls and roofs are of tin sheeting. Now they are on contract to build a dining room. According to the foundation, it will be no small affair. You can rest assured we'll eat in state once it is finished.

Spiritual life is being built up, more so than before Christmas. We have meetings twice in the week. Sunday services include church in the forenoon, Sunday School, and in the evening a young men's program. The meetings are well attended. The singing is rather poor because our song leader is gone.

(The poor road into Q2, caused by weather conditions, made the obtaining of supplies difficult. The above article, written by Q8, misleads one to believe the men were, therefore, unable to go to town.

Dominion regulations do not permit men to have weekend leaves or go "to see the bright lights". The Editor)

Q-3 enthusiasts are increasing. A son, Robert Alexander, was given to Mr. and Mrs. Jake Falk on January 6th. Jake is a truck driver at Q-3. (This is the first such announcement to reach The Beacon. Editor)

THINGS THAT ARE BEAUTIFUL
by Allen P. Vinall

I would like you to read the fourth chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. Paul is giving a final exhortation to the Philippian brethren. The apostle Paul, no doubt, had in mind verse 7, "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding", when he asks the brethren to "think on the things that are just, pure, lovely and of good report."

Let us think for a few moments on the things that are lovely. What does lovely mean? It means beautiful and delightful, something in striking contrast to present conditions on earth. Some of the things that are lovely which Paul wants the brethren to dwell upon are the things that they learned, received, heard and saw in him. (verse 9) Some of the beautiful things that they learned had to do with the establishment of the Kingdom of God and the condition of the earth and its inhabitants when Christ should return. We and Paul, are raised from the dead and if found worthy of eternal life, shall see present things changed to a peaceful condition in which even the animals have part. (Isa. 11: 6-9)

Another lovely thing is contained in Isa. 52:7; "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth". Paul refers to this in Romans 10:15 "and how shall they preach unless they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things". Notice that Paul refers to 'them', which shows to us that we will have the honour of preaching the gospel of peace and bringing glad tidings of good things to the nations both now and when his Kingdom is established on earth. Some of the things that God tells us about the return of Christ and things that will take place upon this earth are almost impossible to grasp or to understand. "He shall swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall He take away from off the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it". Isaiah 25:8. When God says that in the Kingdom this will be no more, it is another thing which Paul asks us to think upon.

Another that we cannot fully understand is to be found in Micah 4: 1-5 and Isaiah 2:2-4. These are things that Paul tells us to think upon as they help us on the way to the Kingdom. They are some of the things that are true, just, and pure, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

THE C.O.

On Christmas day, the angel sang
'On earth, Peace, Goodwill to Man'.
In this our day, in this we stand:
On earth, Peace, Goodwill to Man!

Contributed by
Mrs. Ira S. Gamble,
Bergen, Alta.

From Our Mail Bag

Dear Conchies and Beacon Editors:

Must write to say how much The Beacon is appreciated in our home. Not only seeing a familiar name on the pages is pleasant, but the spiritual reports really make us feel kind a' good inside. I thank the Lord for gentlemen with "back bone" enough to print what they confess to be. God bless you all and may you be acres on which good fruit groweth.

Several months ago we heard that some boys had become saved. Praise the Lord for lost sheep that have been brought home. I wonder if they would give us a testimony or a message through THE BEACON? Would there be room for them? Surely their cups must be running over. May God bless them richly.

Wish that some of you could see our faces when we come across a comical section. I go and tell Ma how Mike Waldner fell off his bed, and Ma tells Pa and after a while my little brother takes the paper and says, "Where are the dry jokes?" Here's for more of those every-day funny happenings. Did Mike ever listen to more Gangbusters? Poor Tom McBrine, you should really tell his sweetie that!

Well I shouldn't really be pestering you with a long speech, but here's wishing you good results with The Beacon. We're interested in every word.

I wish you courage to plod on in this our parching desert of life. May Heb. 13:8 be a refreshment to you.

Just a lassie back home and a steady reader of your Beacon.

Miss XYZ

P.S. Am sending you a poem that I composed for all you that get homesick and lonely.

GOD'S TOMORROW

If ever you are lonely,
No one to care for you --
If ever you get homesick
And days are dark and blue,
Remember God's tomorrow.

If ever you do wander
Alone along the road,
And there to dream of days
That have been long ago.
Remember God's tomorrow.

If ever tears do fall
And plans have shattered gone,
And if you dream of hopes
That never seem to come.
Remember God's tomorrow.

God's tomorrow holds for you
A sweeter, cloudless day,
A day where reunited
With loves ones you will stay.
And that is God's tomorrow.

HOME NEWS

A little publication called "Home News", originating in the towns of Greenland, Kleefeld and Steinbach in Manitoba, is interesting reading to men in camps who come from that district. It is published monthly by the Young People to 'bring home a little closer' to us. The news of the community is warm and personal. "Home News" is edited by Frank Wiebe, Associate editors are Herb. H. Barkman, Steinbach; Joseph Isaac, Kleefeld; Aaron R. Wiebe, Ste. Anne. The subscription rate is 50¢ a year.

GLEANINGS

Another home news-sheet is published monthly in Swalwell, Alberta. Its news is compact and varied. Editor of "Gleanings" is Jac D. Toews. Members of the reporting staff are Irene Isaac, Rosella Toews, Lydia Megli, Katie Toews, Anna Hiebert and Abe Barkman.

The Beacon wishes to sincerely thank the Peace Problems Committee of the Mennonite Church of Western Canada for their thoughtfulness in contributing a goodly sum of money for our publication. The letter accompanying their donation reads in part, "May the Lord bless all our young men in all the camps in Canada, and help them to be real soldiers of the Prince of Peace so that His Kingdom may come soon. We greet you with II Thessalonians 3:5".

Twelve trophies were awarded to Beet Growers in Manitoba for heavy yields and large beets. Grand championship is held by Mr. P.G. Toews of Steinbach. Other cups went to Mr. John M. Penner, Ste. Anne, and Mr. H. I. Enns of Steinbach, etc.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I am an interested reader of your paper and wish to compliment you on the excellent reading material it contains. My attention was attracted by an article which appeared on Page 7 of the January edition under the heading "On Jokes" by Mr. Nick Vogt. Although I do not wish to imply that Mr. Vogt's views are incorrect, yet I beg to differ with him. I am a C3 man and enjoy my jokes. I find that many jokes must at first be understood before the fun can be derived from them. I am sure that the great majority of readers took the jokes mentioned by Mr. Vogt in the manner in which the "Beacon" intended. I am of the opinion that it is within the limits of the average reader's intelligence to grasp the intended meaning out of the jokes published in our paper, and the reader certainly knows that nobody in our camps wishes this bloodshed to continue, as was implied by Mr. Vogt's interpretation. Friendly criticism is also welcomed by the staff, but criticism spiced with sarcasm is both disheartening to the staff and detrimental to the interests of the "Beacon". Might I make the suggestion that any future criticism may be complimentary rather than sarcastic, how about it fellows?

Eddie Bearinger.

Religious Life - C3

by Harley Wideman.

Come in and worship with us some Sunday. We would love to have you at our ten o'clock Sunday School, or any service for that matter. After singing two or three hymns, one of the boys leads in prayer, Wilson Hunsberger, our superintendent, announces the teacher for the day. The lesson is read aloud first, then taken up, point by point, with many of the pupils adding their thoughts to the teacher's, sharing our ideas in this way. I'm sure, if you were present, you would feel the Sunday School lesson was indeed worth while, especially last quarter, since they were about home and family life.

If you were to visit us on a Sunday night at 8 o'clock, you would see about twenty-five of us sitting on wooden benches or dynamite boxes ready for a half hours' "Sing," lead by Wilson Hunsberger. I'm sure you would agree that we have a superb bass section. After singing, one of the boys reads a portion of Scripture and speaks, for half an hour, some words of exhortation on it. Dave Frith, Bill Neufeld, Henry Klassen, Wilson Hunsberger and Harley Wideman take turns speaking.

Wednesday night is Bible Study night. We are studying the Book of Romans under the direction of George Warnock, who I'm told can repeat the whole book from memory. George's knowledge of the Bible is amazing. Friday night we hold a Prayer Meeting. We feel that by united prayer we strengthen our own spiritual life, and that we can do more through it than by any other means.

The interest in spiritual things is deepening here. Private Bible study, prayer and devotion are on the increase. Bro. Zecharias, a Mennonite minister presented us with a gift of more than twenty-five books, and the boys are very grateful to him. Charles M. Sheldon's "In His Step" or "What Would Jesus Do?" "Zonya and Rachel" by Agnes Scott Kent, and the other books are eagerly read. We thank all our friends who have helped us in any way.

Many are upholding us in prayer. Some anonymous person sends us The Mennonite, the Mennonite Weekly Review, The Country Guide, and the Family Herald. Thank you very much.

A Closer Walk

by Harley Wideman.

What we seek at camp C-3 as our primary spiritual aim is a closer walk with God, a deepening of our spiritual experience which will enable us to "patiently endure" and prepare us for future service.

Christ's disciple Philip, hungering for God in spite of his three years with the Master, said to Jesus "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us". Philip longed to know what the Father was like. He wanted to put his hand in the Father's.

Jesus, disappointed I think, turned to him and asked, "Have I been so long with you, and yet hast thou not known me Philip?" Then he

Cont'd. on Page 19.

A CLOSER WALK
Cont'd. from Page 18.

plainly stated, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

This is the way we come to know God, by believing on his Son Jesus Christ, through the sacrifice of Christ and a full trust in him, we are sons of God, and can rightly call God Father. That is the basis of our spiritual experience, but that is only the beginning. Peter admonishes us to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

There are two ways of doing so, both essential. The Bible is our text book of God. All of it is his inspired word to us, and to know him we must study it, searching with special diligence through the gospel and the epistles of Paul and John.

In John 14 and 16, just before his crucifixion Christ promised Philip and the other disciples that the Spirit of God Himself was coming to dwell in them and work through them. That's the promise of Jesus to all his disciples. It means us as Romans 8 plainly shows. Are we aware of that? There are infinite depths of the love of God which we have not yet fathomed, but we may. How? By asking God, by banishing unworthy thoughts from our minds and listening for "the still small voice" of the Spirit. He can direct our thoughts and guide our steps. Paul tells us to rid ourselves of the weights that hold us back from God and crowd Him out.

Dr. Laubach, a missionary in the Phillipines, determined literally to "pray without ceasing", as Paul advised. He sought to know the will of God for each moment of his waking life. Some of his fellow missionaries thought he was fanatical. But what happened? At the beginning of his experiment, he began work on a completely unevangelized island, inhabited by 500,000 hostile Mohammedan Moros. His first task was learning the language. So far had God taken control of his work, that in less than seven years, the people loved him as their best friend, and many had been transformed by the power of God. Dr. Laubach reports that while he regretted he had failed the Lord at times, yet his life has been far richer and his ministry many times more effective than before.

We too may walk with God with every day richer than the day before, constantly learning of the height and breadth and depth of His love. As Christians in camp our greatest need is to steer away from the tendency to drift. Instead seek a closer walk with God. He can strengthen our sometimes "low morale" and make of our "wilderness experience" a school for future service.

Approximately 500 man hours a month are required of the headquarters staff to make The Beacon. This includes editing, typing, proof-reading publishing, circulating and bookkeeping.

In addition to this about 40 man hours are freely contributed by Q3 men. Each issue finds many volunteers from Q3, helping to gather the pages together, staple them, fold the completed Beacon, address and stamp each one for mailing. These are the men we would like to thank for their help and interest in our cause. Pete Klassen, Pete Epp, H. Neufeld, J. Willms, P. Buechert, J. Buechert, Bill Boldt, I. Hildebrand, Thos. McBrine, H. Harder, Ben Hotchkiss, Ben Reimer and Frank Rempel. Their service is greatly appreciated and we thought you would like to know of their work.

IN BRIEF AT G. T. 1

Five men from G.T. 1 were transferred to Seymour Mountain on Jan. 22nd to help alleviate the fuel shortage in Vancouver. They are Foster Moore, Donald Moffatt, Manno Rempel, Louis Day and Henry Doerksen. Work hard, boys, but don't cook the saws.

On Jan. 30, we bade farewell to 2 boys who received their medical discharges. Leslie Kaytor who for the past 7 months has served at Bowser and Powell River Camps has returned to his home and wife in Hamilton, Ont. George E. Wall, who has served five months at Green Timbers Manning Depot, returned to his home in Didsbury, Alberta. Best of luck fellows, as you enjoy the home atmosphere once again.

We were favoured to have Rev. Jake Nickel and Rev. J. Penner, well-liked ministers by all the boys, visit camp recently and delivered inspirational messages. Bro. Nickel gathered his thoughts from Psalm 23 and Bro. Penner from Matthew 5. A special invitation is extended to these ministers to return soon.

SPONSOR PROGRAM

February 14 was an eventful day for the men of Green Timbers Manning Depot. No; not only because it was Valentines' Day! No! For several weeks the men had feverishly spent almost every spare minute of the evenings in practising for a program which they sponsored in the Mennonite Brethren Church in Vancouver.

It was our aim, not only to fill the evenings, but to spread the Gospel of the true Light of God.

The theme of the program was the Perfect Love of God and consisted of songs by the group, several readings and a dialogue. A wonderful message was given by Rev. J. W. Nickel. His main emphasis was on the thought that Love should not be put merely in words, but in action. It is Love in action that the world is looking for.

Peter Esau also spoke, having part of the Faith chapter of the first epistle of John as his text.

Flash!! Ben Wiebe, who has been in the Columbia Hospital for several weeks undergoing an operation for a rupture, returned to G.T. 1 yesterday. We are all glad to see Ben back and wish him a speedy recovery.

Tree Lifting Underway February 15th.

The next 6 weeks will be big days at Green Timbers Nursery. There will be approximately 6 million trees lifted, packed and shipped to various camps on the Island and Mainland. This is a new experience for us. Let's see some good and quick action.

The world is not reading the Bible, it is reading us. Let us be Shining Lights and True Witnesses.

TRAIN MEDICINE

Have you ever been sick on the train and wondered what to do about it? Experience recently taught one conchie just what one can do. On his way to Ontario on leave, he developed an infected ear, and as it became painful by the time the train entered Manitoba, he asked the conductor for medical attention. The conductor had him write out a telegram stating his request. After that he tried in vain to catch the conductor's eye for further instructions, and finally got off the train at Winnipeg amid crowds, thinking he had been entirely forgotten. What was his surprise, on descending the station stairs, to find the conductor waiting to take him straight to an ear specialist? The doctor, a CFR medical consultant, was kind, competent and (blissful thought) quick. Moreover, when the doctor learned of a Q6's meagre wage, he reduced the fee from \$5.00 to \$2.00. The wire was "on the company"!

On February 12, 1942 the total number of Conscientious Objectors in Alternative Service Work Camps across Canada was 1238.

Banff and Kootenay National Parks	204
Jasper National Park	22
Prince Albert National Park	17
Kananaskis Forest Experiment Station	64
Petawawa Forest Experiment Station	45
Montreal River (Ont. Dept. of Highways)	200

One hundred and eighteen men are expected from Manitoba who will be sent to Kootenay, Banff and Riding Mountain Parks, bringing their complement up to 122, 150 and 50 respectively.

On the British Columbia Project the total of men reporting to the end of January is 748. Of these 62 have been discharged. Most of these were discharged as medically unfit, but there were 12 discharged following their acceptance by various units of the armed forces.

As advertised in our January edition of THE BEACON, its subscription rate has been raised to 50¢ for 6 issues and \$1.00 for 12 issues. At the old rate THE BEACON was operating at a deficit, and could not begin to meet the obligations for publishing equipment. This change is a matter of necessity rather than choice. We trust that subscribers will understand and continue to show their loyal support to our conchie cause.

The fellows of Q6 are grateful to anonymous donors for periodicals which come regularly to camp. If our benefactors would reveal their identity, we would be glad to personally send our heartfelt appreciation. Good, wholesome reading is always enjoyed and the papers are going their rounds.

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FROM OUR MAIL BAG

Our constant prayer is that this tragedy of war will be succeeded by a peace motivated by Christian ideals. We know, of course, that our vision of a just and durable peace will not arise because of wishful thinking, but only through the unremitting efforts on the part of those who, activated by the spirit of God, have the interests of their fellow-man at heart, regardless of race, creed or colour.

Beatrice Petrie,
Toronto, Ontario

THE BEACON
B. C. Forest Service,
Campbell River, B.C.

*Fred Rightmeyer,
Stouffville, Ontario.
R.R. #3.*

