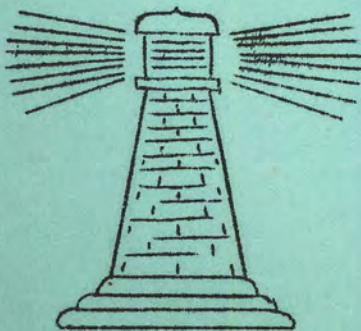


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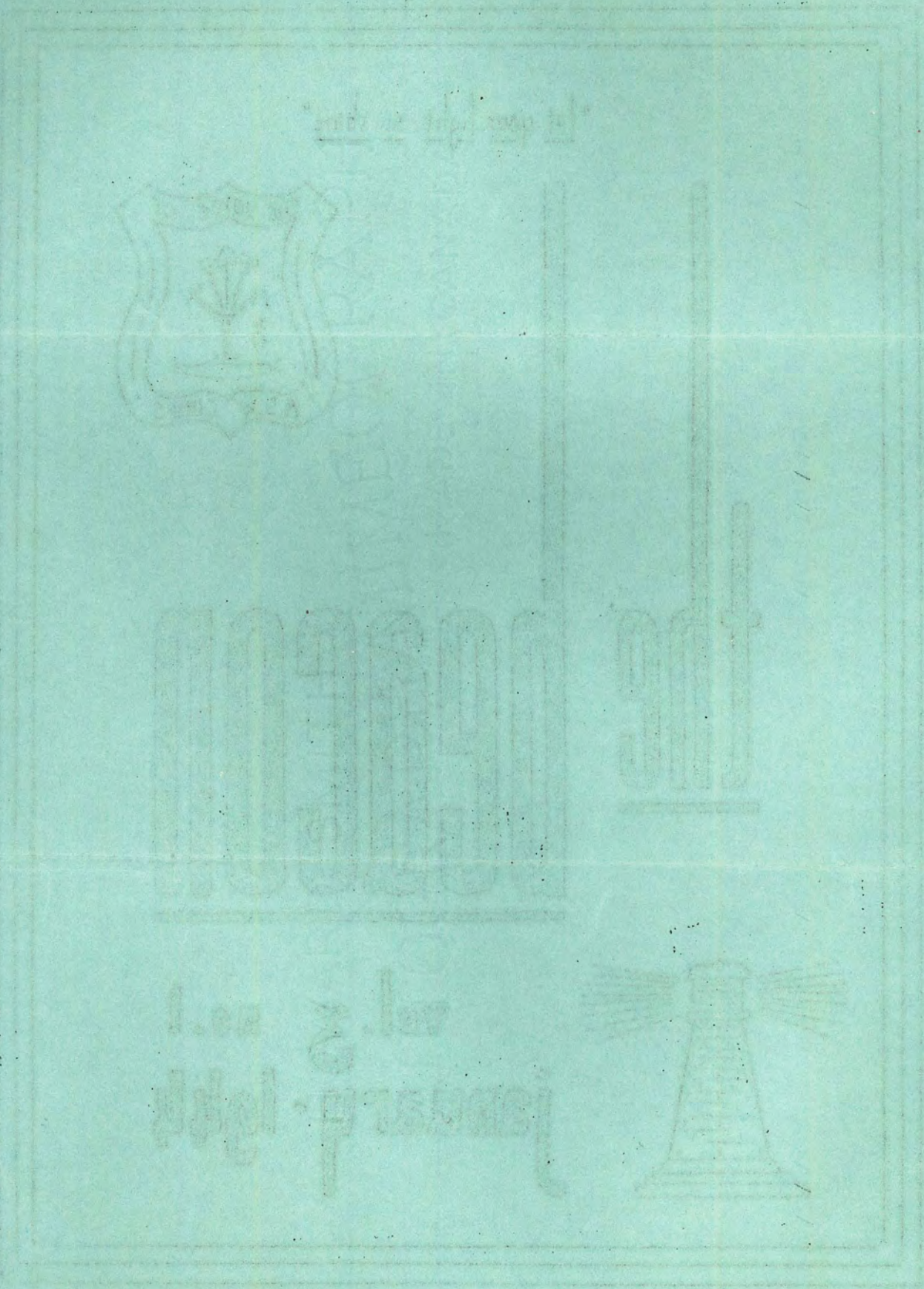
"let your light so shine"



the **beacon**



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New Year...

We are standing on the threshold,
 We are in the opened door,
 We are treading on a borderland,
 We have never trod before.
 Another year is opening
 And another year is gone --
 We have passed the darkness of the night,
 We are in the early morn;
 We have left the fields behind us
 O'er which we scattered seed;
 We pass into the future,
 Which none of us can read.
 The corn amongst the weeds,
 The stones, the surface mould,
 May yield a partial harvest --
 We hope for sixty fold.
 Then hasten to fresh labour;
 So thresh and reap and sow.
 Then bid the New Year welcome
 And let the old year go.
 Then gather all your vigor,
 Press forward in the fight,
 And let this be our motto --
 "For God and for the right".

Selected by Fred Reimer -- C-2.

Christmas Gifts Appreciated

We extend thanks to all the good Christian friends back home who wished us a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year by sending us some very useful presents. Shortly before Christmas we were pleasantly surprised by the arrival of a large number of boxes at Camp Q-2, containing a very generous share of various gifts. These gifts came from two sources mainly: (1) a large group of Ladies Sewing Circles in Manitoba, and (2) the Mennonite Churches in B.C. The Sewing Circles sent us a goodly supply of stationery; a parcel for each man, each parcel containing two writing pads, four packages of envelopes and a handsomely printed greeting card. At the time of this writing these parcels of stationery are being distributed thruout the camps by C. D. Toews, the camp minister. The Mennonite Churches in B.C. sent us a generous helping of cookies and for each man either woolen mitts, socks or scarfs. The former were of course appreciated first and when our appreciation of them dimmed (because the bottom of the bag had been reached) or our appetites flagged, we turned our eyes on the other gifts. The gloves and scarfs will be very useful to us here in camp. Each man also received a greeting card from the Mennonites of B.C.

We thank you dear friends for expressing your feelings towards us in such a practical manner. We would of course like to say a hearty thank you but since that is an impossibility, we must resort to this medium and express our thanks collectively. We assure you our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanks and our thoughts will go out to you thruout the year as we make use of these practical gifts which so ably express your thoughtful care.

- "The Boys in Camp".

Youth Tries for Year to get C.O. Rating

The possibility of a prison sentence as an alternative to serving with the armed forces faced Frank M. Curtis, 19, a Seattle man and student in biology at a Portland, Oregon, college. Curtis stated he is against war because he "believes it to be futile and wrong".

His local draft board ordered him to report for induction into the forces, but instead he reported to a district attorney and said he was surrendering himself for failure to report for induction in the army.

His mother, a well-known teacher in floral arrangements, is said to have posted a one thousand dollar bail for him to await grand jury action. He and his mother have been trying for almost one year to obtain a 4E classification (for COs) in exchange for the 1A classification (for Army).

A doubt whether or not his "religious background" warrants such a classification resulted in the refusal given him by the draft board and appeal board. The youth stated that he belongs to no religious group or pacifist group and that he is taking this stand because of his own convictions. His mother, fully realizing the penalty he faces, declared that he would definitely go to prison rather than to war. She stated that "he was willing to do constructive work for the government so long as it was not in a war industry".

4747 Canadian C.O.'s Deferred

The above number of COs have been released by Ottawa. This means that those who will not serve under the military arm of the government at all. All but 1000 were granted this deferment. In Mennonite circles the greater majority enjoyed this consideration. The following is the report released:

"Mobilization boards received 5737 applications for postponement of military service on grounds of conscientious objection from March 20, 1941 to April 16, 1943, the Labour Department said in a return tabled in the House of Commons.

In the same period 4747 were granted postponement as COs. The number of COs in Alternative Service Work Camps was reported to be 808.

By provinces the applications for postponement, with the number granted in parenthesis: Ontario, 1970 (1872); Quebec, 85 (37); Nova Scotia, 24 (22); New Brunswick, 13 (8); Prince Edward Island, 5 (4); Manitoba, 1574 (1358); British Columbia, 447 (421); Saskatchewan, 941 (483); Alberta, 678 (542)."

It may be of interest to American readers that soon all who can farm, or who are willing to be used there, are being paroled to such duties. The arrangements made by the Labour Department are as follows: The local Compulsory Service Boards, who have to do with placing and replacing all workers, act for the government in assigning the men to their places. However, persons can appeal for any man they desire from the camps. The financial consideration granted is room and board and twenty-five dollars per month. If the CO boards himself he is granted eight dollars weekly extra. The balance of the income goes to the Red Cross. In Ontario alone \$4000 monthly is given to this service. Where a wife and children are supported, additional allowance is made.

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THE BEACON

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The Shepherd of Love

A Shepherd of love is my Saviour to me,
He died on the Cross that I might be free,
From sin and its penalty which all shall receive,
Who refuse to accept Him and only believe.

He guides me along with the tenderest care,
Keeping my feet from the fowler's snare,
Providing green pastures each step of the way,
And water and shade for the heat of the day.

'Tis here we can rest with the sweetest repose,
Leaving our all to the Shepherd who knows
How rough and how steep our pathway may be,
As He whispers in tender love, Follow thou me.

And if I should wander away from my guide,
He gently doth lead me back to His side,
He restoreth my soul for His dear name's sake,
And tells me the path never more to forsake.

In the paths of righteousness He doth lead,
His sheep and His lambs He will tenderly feed,
He shelters me safe when the storms beat wild,
And speaks to me lovingly, Thou art my child.

And if thru death's valley my Shepherd doth lead,
His grace is sufficient to meet all my need,
For He has promised to walk by my side,
And bear me over the swelling tide.

A table is spread by His own loving hand,
And together we feed in an enemies' land,
My cup runneth over, the fruit of His toil,
As He pours on my head the anointing oil.

His goodness and mercy shall crown all my days,
And my soul is filled with gladness and praise,
For I by His grace am destined to share,
The house that my Shepherd has gone to prepare.

Composed by B. Olton, Victoria, B.C.

Ministers Visit Camps

During the past few months we have been encouraged by the visits of various ministers who have spent time with us. Rev. D. P. Reimer from Manitoba made a short visit and renewed acquaintances made while he was in the camps in 1942 and 43. Rev. M. D. Stutzman from Alberta made a tour of the camps, a few of which he visited in the autumn of 1942. Rev. O. Burkholder, Editor of the Church and Mission News of the Ontario Mennonites, made a visit to several of the camps in which he had acquaintances. Rev. C. D. Toews of Manitoba has spent some time with us, and we are still enjoying his visits at the camps. Rev. H. W. Stevanus from Ontario is most recent to come to the west. He is expected to stay for several months, during which he may make numerous circuits amongst the camps.

Mennonites Discuss Relief Matters

At a recent meeting in Ottawa, delegates of the MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) of the United States and members of the Canadian Historic Peace Churches discussed matters pertaining to a greater relief and rehabilitation program. Those present were Mr. O. O. Miller, of the MCC's office in Akron, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Ernest Bennett, also of the MCC. Mr. Bennett has travelled in Europe and has studied the relief situation quite thoroughly. Others were representing the various peace committees in other provinces of Canada.

It was also under discussion whether or not a Canadian MCC office should be established. This has since been organized in Kitchener, Ontario, and will be a central office for gathering clothing and such needs and also giving out information relative to relief. Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Short of Ohio are temporarily in charge of the depot.

Mr. Bennett gave a few of his experiences encountered while crossing the Atlantic, by convoy, and also told of his visits in England, conveying greetings from workers over there to their friends at home. Relief work at present in England includes hostels for evacuee children, which work is granted a small sum from the government. Other centres hand out clothing to those in need. Contributions are made periodically, usually monthly, for Spanish children who have suffered thru the war. A clothing depot has been organized in London by the Mennonites which is under the supervision of Mr. J. E. Coffman, formerly Librarian at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana, from which clothing is distributed to smaller organizations who help in handing it out to those who have been deprived of their homes and possessions. Used clothing, it is said, is in greater demand than new, as it does not require coupons for purchase. An old people's home at Birmingham has been organized and is under the direction of Mr. Peter Dick. The nurse-in-charge at this home is Miss Edna Hunsperger of Kitchener. A boy's convalescent home also operates under Mr. Dick's guidance, with Miss Elfreda Klassen as nurse.

The government in England has plans for postwar relief under the Allied Nations organization, "United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration", (UNRRA). All private groups must come under this in some way. Many of these smaller groups have organized to form the COBSRA (Council of British Society Relief Abroad). It is believed that the MCC may be established with COBSRA as an outlet for European Relief.

The Mennonites have also established contacts and organizations in India, China, the Near East, Paraguay and Porto Rica besides in Europe. The work in India has been organized under four branches of Mennonites serving there, which society is known as "Mennonite Central Relief for India", (MCRI). A relief station is soon to open twenty miles from Calcutta at Bengal. Famine conditions are described as terrible. Workers and trained personnel are being sent as they can be obtained to these various fields of work under the MCC.

Centre for Conchies While on Leave

For the information of the men in camps we wish to advise that the Mennonite churches of Vancouver have established a home for the Alternative Service Workers to which they can go while on leave in Vancouver.

The home is situated at 555 East 49th Street and is operated jointly by the United Mennonite church and the Mennonite Brethren church. Alternative Service Workers are all invited, regardless of denomination or religious affiliation. We welcome you to spend your leisure time here while in the city.

Carnal Christianity

Numbers 32:1-6 presents a clear and vivid picture of carnal or worldly Christianity. After many years of wilderness wandering the children of Israel crossed the Arnon River and conquered the land just east of the Jordan River. They were then prepared to pass thru the Jordan and break their way into the promised land. However, when the Reubenites, Gadites and half tribe of Manassah saw the rich conquered land and realized that a hard struggle lay ahead of them they were unwilling to enter the land which God had promised them and their brethren. Instead of pressing in the struggle they chose to have their inheritance just outside the promised territory and settle down in selfish comfort while their brethren carried the battle on to a victory.

In the same way many Christians nowadays are unwilling to pay the price of Christian warfare and are quite content to live on the so-called borderland where there is less opposition and hardship to encounter. They should have to go all the way and enter into deeper experiences with God lest they should have to forfeit some of their fleshly pleasures. Earthly enjoyments rank first in their lives; yet they do not wish to miss the Eternal Goal and so they seek to hang on to both. In company one will hear such people compromising in speech. Whenever they are among sincere Christians they talk spiritually; yet in the midst of a worldly group their language is of a foul mouth. You see, dear reader, such is quite an easy going life. Little or no opposition is encountered. Through hypocrisy they are friends of God's children and are also in good terms with the world. However, are these hypocrites on intimate terms with God?

The places where these people are generally found are also contradictory even in their ways of living. During the week you will find them in all places where ungodly enjoyments are practiced. Wherever pleasure is afforded for the gratification of the lower nature these folks are present. It is needless to name some of these places of worldly enjoyment because every honest Christian can discern as to what glorifies God and what dishonours His name. However, these professing Christians also wish to appear spiritual and consequently on Sundays attend services in which they even partake in practical ways. The main reason for this is to sooth the conscience which has become restless during the week's activities.

Now one might wonder why these people seek a middle way between the two laid down in Matthew 7:13 and 14. Why don't they take a stand for Christ and bear its consequences? The first answer, I believe, we find in verse 1 of our text. The children of Reuben and Gad saw the good land, and thus were tempted to stay. Love for the things of this world has brought doom to many a professing Christian. The love for the money ended with suicide the life of Judas Iscariot, a disciple of Christ. As we read in I Timothy 4:10, Demas also forsook Paul because he loved the world. Many professing Christians are less tempted with love for the world, yet they also refrain from taking a firm stand for Christ because they wish to escape the Christian warfare which often entails severe testings and persecutions. In II Timothy 3:12 Paul states that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. This is just what these religious cowards wish to escape. Their motive is to enjoy as much as possible. Why bear opposition and persecution when one can avoid it by compromising here and there? However, such a life is dangerous and brings evil consequences. In Galatians 6:7 we read, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap". You may, because of your deceitfulness, remain a friend of God's children, but you certainly are an enemy of God who can see the intentions of your heart. James 4:4 says "whoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God". Paul writes in Romans 8:13, "If ye live after the flesh ye shall die". There is no middle road. You, my friend, are either inside or outside of the fold of God. "You cannot serve God and mammon", Matthew 6:24.

(continued on next page) - -

To those of us in the camps who are living carnal Christian lives I would wish to call out the warning of Rev. 3:15 and 16. Dear readers, if you are a luke warm Christian repent and get right with God. If you wish to be crowned up yonder you must fight the Christian warfare here below. Let's remember that we are saved to serve, and take a firm stand for Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us. Our encouragement is, "If we suffer we shall also reign with Him", 1 Timothy 2:12. If we see a lack of spiritual life in our home churches let us, by God's grace, be a different example. If the Lord tarries we shall be the church of tomorrow. Therefore much responsibility rests upon us, and it behooves us to be girt up and about our Master's business.

- - John Enns, Q-3.

Hill 60 Reports

Many changes have taken place here, since the last time we let ourselves be heard. There has been quite a confusion here in camp during the past month as many have been coming and going, which probably is the case in many of the various camps. In the latter part of November two Ontario boys arrived in exchange for Bill Harvey and Cyril Hobourn; they were Jack Klassen from Windsor, and yours truly from Leamington. Jack is operating the chain saw as he is an experienced chap from the Ford Motor Company, and I am doing a flunkie's job.

It was a great privilege for us to share fellowship here with the dear boys, but it was not for long. We were here only a few days when a large group of boys went home on leave. Among them was Jake Fehr, Jake Giesbrecht, Jake Hiebert, Jake Zacharius, Jake Harder, Ben Fehr and Bill Schlichting. They have all been exchanged, and in another week John Andres received his exchange. He is a dear fellow and we miss him. Then after another week Jake Krahn was exchanged. His absence in camp is greatly felt too, for we had real fellowship with these chaps. We also had the privilege of having some of the Cowichan C-2 fellows with us, but they have returned with the exception of Earl Seaman, who had a sore foot, and has since been released. We also had several others from C-2 while that camp was closed for leave period, but they have all returned or been exchanged, so that our group has diminished rapidly.

Among the new fellows that came in just before Christmas are six men from Manitoba, Jake Funk, dishwasher, Isaac Giesbrecht, our new bull-cook, Frank Nickel, a real big husky farmer, Jake Derksen, John Wiebe and John Klassen, whom we all call 'big John' as he has quite a size. Wilbert Hoffman from Vernon and Kenneth Wark from Northern Ontario also came with them. We are now a happy bunch of newcomers, and we're trying to make the best of it.

For Christmas several of us had the privilege of going to Vancouver for the weekend. There we received great blessings and those that stayed in camp also had quite a good time; at least Archie, our cook, kept them busy with eating turkey, cake and puddings. Last weekend he went to Vancouver, so we tried to get along without him, which we found wasn't much fun. But we managed to get along, and after all, that's the main thing.

Since we have come to this camp we have learned many things and received numerous blessings in our spiritual lives, and have learned that God has a purpose for sending us here. May we all live according to His purpose and thereby glorify our precious Lord and Saviour.

Yours, Jake W. Dick, C-1.

C-2 Joots

Slowly, painfully slow, Camp C-2 returned to normal activity and living after three weeks of sleep and quietness, disturbed only by the footfalls of Clarence Pekrul of B.C., and later by Pete Gossen, our camp comedian. It is generally believed that the effects of Pete's cooking (?), shall we say, was the cause of the decease of Toddles, our cook's pet cat. Perhaps, however, it was just scared to death of the 'melodies', (or otherwise), with which Pete ushered out the old and welcomed in the New Year. It is reported that he tried to make the old gong heard away back in his home town of St. Catharines, Ontario!

Andy Bowman is progressing favourably after an emergency appendectomy on Friday, January 19th, one week after returning from his annual leave. On his release from the hospital, he was happy to learn that an exchange warrant was waiting for him. We wish him good fortune as he wends his way eastward where he will take up employment.

Earl Seaman and Ben Neufeld have been sent home for medical reasons. Earl had a sore foot. He had been in the camps only a short time, as he was a replacement. Ben was suffering from stomach troubles, and is now at home in Ontario.

There have been some comical and weird suggestions made as to what we should do if the lake continues to advance towards the bunkhouses. During the past few weeks it has risen over four feet, and is still coming up.

It is believed by Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes that none of the boys from our camp were induced to launch upon the Sea of Matrimony while on furlough. However, Ed Roberts, our foreman, made it! We extend congratulations for a happily married life.

Most recent arrivals here in view of the tree planting program have been from several camps. Russel Honsberger, John Berg, John Giesbrecht and Pete Wolfe came from Camp C-5. Pete has since been released for farm work. From Green Timbers we welcomed Cleason Eby and Herman Klassen, and from GT-5, Henry Fehr and Jacob Goerzen. Hugo Harms and Peter Klassen were the next to arrive, these having been sent from C-6. And most recently, Henry Funk and Ben Goodkey. These two came from Horne Lake Q-6, and were soon followed by the remainder of the gang who have moved in with us for tree-planting. It is expected that Langford Camp C-4 is to come within another week. The total personnel should reach around eighty for the two-million tree planting project.

- - William Turner.

Campee's Library Well Under Way

Final reports have been received that the Vancouver Truth Seeker's Library is progressing favourably. Instructions and circulars have gone to the camps regarding its operation between the Vancouver office and the camps.

As time permits, and as campees read these books, we welcome any comments on the books, and feel that a Literary Column might be beneficial to prospective readers.

It has been intimated that the VTSL is entirely non-profit and that any financial assistance will be gratefully accepted. No fees are charged for the books, and the organization has grown favourably under these circumstances. All correspondence should be directed to the Librarian-in-Chief, Herman Klassen, 6613 Argyle Street, Vancouver.

New and used books are welcome, and will be returned to the owners as and when requested. Books should be sent to the above address, also instructions as to whether they are loaned or donated.

The Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ

-- Its Redemptive Power

1 Peter 1: 18 and 19, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye are not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot".

Yes, precious indeed is the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to every true, born again Christian. We felt its cleansing power the moment we accepted Him as our personal Saviour and Lord, and we experience its continual cleansing in our Christian life, when we sin and repent and confess. The devil is trying hard today to get Christians to be ashamed of the blood and rule it out of their lives. Such a course is fatal. Nothing can ever take the place of the blood, because it is the only price that was high enough to redeem us from the power of sin, the flesh and the devil, which were pulling us down to a lost eternity, the anguish of which cannot be expressed. Let us take our verse from 1 Peter and look at the redemptive power of the blood.

First of all, human beings must come to realize that without a personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Saviour, they are dead in sin, Ephesians 2:1, not physically, but spiritually, dead. Man died this death when he disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, Genesis 2:17 and 3:6 and 7. Ezekiel 18:4 says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die". This death has since passed upon all men for that all have sinned, Romans 5:12. Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God". So we see that all unregenerated men are dead in sin -- and this death is eternal, Mark 9:43 and 44. They are doomed and condemned to eternal hell and punishment.

Then comes the fact of God's love for the world of doomed and yet unrepentant sinners. God saw that no man could save his brother, Psalms 49:7 and 8, because they were both sinful. But God, because of His great love wherewith He loved us, Ephesians 2:4, provided a wonderful and free way of salvation for all men. This way is the Lord Jesus Christ himself, John 14:6. As God, He is sinless and perfect, 11 Corinthians 5:21. Therefore He was able to substitute Himself for us, and bear our punishment. But He had to become man, and take upon Himself a body, Phillipians 2:5-8, so that He could die in the flesh for us, and shed His blood for us, because this death was our penalty, and His blood the price for our redemption.

There was no other way. Blood had to be shed. "Without shedding of blood is no remission, Hebrews 9:22. God says in Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul". In the Old Testament the blood of bulls, lambs, goats and other animals was shed to make an atonement for the sins of the people of Israel. The blood of these sacrifices could only cover sins, it could not take them away, Hebrews 10:4. The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ purges our sins, Hebrews 9:14. Oh, what a wonderful truth! What a wonderful redemption! What a wonderful Saviour! His blood cleanses the vilest sinner that believes on Him and receives Him into his heart. Jesus' blood purges our conscience from dead works, and makes us pure, and ready to serve the living God. This is the only way to serve a holy and just and eternal God. We must be washed in the blood of the Lamb Christ Jesus, for sin cannot for one moment come into the presence of God.

We see then that blood had to be shed for our redemption from sin. That blood had to be spotless and sinless blood. Our text says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conver-

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sation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot". A lamb without blemish and without spot! Here the apostle Peter refers to the lamb of the Jewish sacrifices for sin. This lamb, which was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, had to be without blemish, Lev. 4:32, as also all other animals that were sacrificed. Peter calls the Lord Jesus a lamb without blemish and without spot. What a glorious truth! Our Lord could not sin, because He was eternal, righteous God. The scriptures have many beautiful passages about the righteousness, sinlessness, and perfect beauty of our Lord Jesus. Song of Solomon 5:16, "He is altogether lovely". Isaiah 53:11, "My righteous servant". Acts 3:14, "The Holy One and Just". John 8:46, "Which of you convinceth me of sin". II Cor. 5:21, "For He (God) hath made Him to be sin for us who know no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him". Our Lord Jesus Christ was sinless, so His blood, when we accept Him as our personal Saviour, cleanses us from all sin, I John 1:7.

In summing up then, we see that all men are sinners, Romans 3:23, and guilty of eternal death, Romans 6:23, that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life, John 3:16. We see also that the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, had to come to earth and take a human body, Philippians 2:5-8 in order to die in our stead, and shed His blood as the price of our redemption. Blood had to be shed to save us, Hebrews 9:22, and it had to be sinless blood. The Lord Jesus Christ was pure and holy; "He knew no sin". It took nothing less than His blood to save us from eternal hell and punishment in the lake of fire, Revelation 20:15. Is it not wonderful that the Lord was willing to pay such a price for us? Friend, if you are not yet washed in the blood of the Lamb Christ Jesus, do not delay, but come to Him and be cleansed from all your sin.

"Nor silver nor gold hath obtained my redemption,
 Nor riches of earth could have saved my poor soul;
 The blood of the Cross is my only foundation,
 The death of my Saviour now maketh me whole.
 I am redeemed, but not with silver;
 I am bought, but not with gold;
 Bought with a price -- the blood of Jesus,
 Precious price of love untold".

-- John Boldt, C-2.

Matrimony Rampant During Leaves

Numerous accounts of couples who have sought marriage as an added source of happiness have come to our office during the past month and more. It seems that the renewed companionship brought on by a two week leave was all that was needed to start the ball rolling.

To name a few of them we start with Steve Biggs, Victorin, formerly of one of the "Q" camps, who after having obtained a release, thought marriage an excellent way to celebrate. We wish him happiness in his new adventure. Others are rumored to be Henry Epp and Irv a Musselman of C-5; Tobias Bowman, Rufus Jutzi, Clayton F. Burkholder, Nyl Shantz, Walter Keffer and Peter Wiens of C-4. Three of the latter, namely Burkholder, Wiens and Shantz have made themselves quite comfortable in a cheery and spacious summer residence on the romantic banks of placid Lake Langford. They are well situated in respect to bus service, and their wives have found employment in Victorin.

To all of these, and others who we may have overlooked, we wish to extend hearty greetings and sincere congratulations, and a wish that Peace may soon bring us back to normal living when we can again enjoy those things that have been temporarily suspended.

Kewthree Krumms

Talk about speed! The Beacon beats everything once it gets started. We were so busy that the Beacon was put off till later, and then, the December issue was out, and your camp editor was still tree-planting in his head, figuratively speaking, of course. However, we shall try to get in step with the latest events again.

Much has happened since the last news roundup under this heading. Of interest to all is the fact that Q-3 has been transferred to Nanaimo, C-5. At this writing the old Q-3 editor is now sitting smugly on his bed in a hut at camp C-5 trying to recollect the order in which the events followed each other.

Many of the old-timers have been exchanged so that it is impossible to keep track of who replaced who and when. However, mention should be made of two of our former comrades, Harold Evans and George Heaman. Both played an important role in making the publishing of the Beacon a reality. Harold, as ex-publisher, was exchanged just before Christmas. George, ex-circulation manager, left shortly after arriving here from Q-3. We not only remember him as circulation manager but also as timekeeper, who during the last few hectic days at Q-3 knew all the answers to, "Where does such and such go?", "I don't know, go and see George". What we can't figure out is why he didn't get back home. However, George will have the answer to that too.

Not wanting to trespass in C-5 territory, which is beyond my jurisdiction, I shall limit myself to recounting a few impressions as regards to C-5, prefabricated huts and top bunks. The camp itself is favourably situated. For various reasons, the morale of the men seems to be somewhat lower than the general average up north. As already mentioned, C-5 boasts prefabricated huts. Having lived under canvas for two years, yes, two whole years, I was rather disappointed in them. Mainly for the reason that they are so constructed as to permit the installation of an extra bed on top of each one already there; an opportunity frequently taken advantage of making an otherwise happy life comparatively miserable. Just four men to a hut are to be preferred to tents in winter at least. I doubt whether the best repelling ability of the roof would measure up in summer to that of a canvas fly over a tent. Top bunks are an invention of.....well, they are an invention, period!! To anyone never having had the privilege of occupying one it is useless trying to describe their inconveniences. Suffice to say that mankind in general is created so as to make it imperative to have something solid (underneath) or (beneath) his feet. When that solidity has to be substituted for a wobbly old apple box, life takes on a series of complexions undreamed of heretofore. When the unfortunate top-bunker finds himself perched thereon trying to make his bed and at the 'lower' fellow's manner, he finds himself confronted with a problem that requires precise timing as well as a supreme trust in old apple boxes. Anyone doubting Newton's theory of gravity ought to try a top bunk for a while.

As the old abode that sheltered our "table", Q-3 has been broken up and as that table has been put into storage we just wanted to give the table cloth the last shake to make sure that all the Krumms are dislodged before we fold and store it too. In the name of the Q-3 boys, the camp editor officially closes the Kewthree Krumms column. If the Krumms have been too numerous, I trust you'll pardon us for this time. We did "eat" heartily and often up there.

- - Peter Wolfe, Q-3.

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RENEWAL? _____

Q-7 News Roundup

Although this is to be a report of the happenings in and about Camp Q-7, it is not being written there, but in the vicinity of the Kettle Valley, somewhere in British Columbia. The reason for this will be obvious if you will but give me time to explain.

Yesterday, on the morning of December 15th, our camp was closed down for the holidays when twenty of the boys left on their long awaited annual leaves. As they travelled to Nanaimo they met fellow camp-mates from Horne Lake and Bowser camps who also looked pleased with the prospect of spending two weeks at home. However, at Vancouver, this company was broken up as some of the boys rushed off to the G. N. Station, and others to the C. P. Station, and there caught the train that would take them to their destination soonest. This certainly is a time that we all have been looking forward to, and we hope that everyone will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, wherever they will spend it.

Although this is a time for rejoicing for most of us, it is also a time of sorrow for some. Gordon Dyck, Didsbury, Alberta, who was expecting his leave together with the rest, received a telegram last Saturday with the sad news that his sister had died. He was granted leave to attend the funeral services. We wish to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt sympathies to Gordon and the other members of the family who have thus been bereaved.

It has already been mentioned that the camp closed down for the holidays, but all the boys were not fortunate enough to get their leaves now. Neil Neufeld stayed on as watchman at the camp, while Abe and Ernis Neufeld, Henry Janzen, Harold Fryday, and Harold and Mervin Wideman were transferred to Camp Q-2. The first three are being sent there only temporarily, but the latter three will remain at that camp. These boys were not able to go home for Christmas, but we hope they will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year nevertheless.

Quite a few months have passed since the last news report was sent in from this camp, so in order to bring our readers up-to-date on the latest developments it will be necessary to go back a few months. On October 20th, we who at that time were Camp GT-3, Vedder Crossing, dismantled that camp and returned to Q-7, the camp which we had left some six months before. Only two boys, Corny and Pete Thiessen stayed on as watchmen at Vedder. The rest of us spent one night at Green Timbers, where we were joined by three boys from the Honey Camp, namely, Russel (Rusty) Simmons, Harold Fryday, and Harold Wideman. We arrived at camp the following day, and it was only a few days later that tree planting was once more under way.

On October 30th Waldemar Hooge, and Henry and Isaac Neufeld were transferred to Camp Q-3, to help with the planting there. They have not come back to our camp, but were transferred to Camp C-5 when Q-3 broke up after having completed the planting.

Walter de Veer, who remained at Q-7 when that was broken up last spring, and who was later sent to Bowser as watchman, is again with us in our old haunt.

Tree planting was rather a slow process with the only one crew, it was found, and to help us out, reinforcements were sent to Q-7 from GT-5 and from Q-2. John Backie, Ben Baerg, Henry and John Fehr, Dave Epp, Louis Dry, Don Moffat and John Peters were the boys from GT-5 who came to our assistance; and those from Q-2 were Walter Wiebe, Frank Peters, Carl Krause, Dave Ratzlaff, Edwin Enns, Peter Enns, Jake Ediger, Andy Klassen and Henry Stobbe. Many enjoyable moments were spent with these boys and we were certainly glad to have been able to make their acquaintance, and have them with

us for almost a month. They all went back to their respective camps on December 2nd.

The past month or so has not passed entirely without illness at this camp. Colds were quite prevalent, and there also were several minor injuries, but we will mention only two cases. Jake Dyck, who sprained his knee, spent a few days in the Campbell River hospital, but we are glad to say that he has recovered to such an extent that he was able to work the last few days before going on leave. Rusty Simmons, who has had considerable trouble with an injured leg has spent the last ten days or so in the Comox Hospital, and at present we have no report of his condition there. However, we hope he will have a speedy recovery.

Pete Loewen had a rather hectic time last month when he received a telegram informing him that his wife had had an appendix operation at Chilliwack, and that her condition was very critical. Pete was granted compassionate leave to go and see her, and after a week was able to return with the good news that she was recovering satisfactorily.

Mervin Wideman was transferred to our camp from Q-3 in order that he and his cousin, Harold Wideman, could be together.

This report would be incomplete without mentioning the social evening that was spent by Camps Q-1, Q-2, Q-3 and Q-7 at Q-1. Some interesting pictures were shown, one being a trip around the world, showing scenes of various countries, and other, in technicolor, showing Vancouver Island, the playground of B.C. We must say that when British Columbian scenes are depicted in such colors that they almost begin to compare with the prairies! When the pictures had been shown we were favoured by several violin solos by Mitch Glecoff of Q-3, which were followed by a short sing-song. After a ping-pong tournament (champion: George Heaman, Q-3) and refreshments, we went back to our camps, satisfied that we had had an enjoyable evening.

The Staff of the Beacon wishes to express its feelings of sympathy for Gordon Dyck in his experience of bereavement. May Peace be yours, and may you feel the Joy that is Comfort in all times of trouble.

Donors Thanked for Gifts at Christmas

The Beacon Staff wishes to extend its thanks to its many friends and subscribers who, over the Christmas season, conveyed their hearty Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year. We thank you for the interest on this behalf.

It would also be appropriate to thank the Mennonite Churches of British Columbia and a host of Sewing Clubs and Young People's Societies in Manitoba for their fine donations to the men in camps through valuable gifts. Among these were stationery, cookies, socks, gloves and scarfs. These donations were gratefully received by the men and will be extremely useful in their duties in this experience. We are happy to hear from our home folks in this way, as it pictures a true and sincere spirit of interest in those of us who are serving their country according to their own convictions.

"No impression without expression; expression intensifies personality"

Courage!

It takes great strength to bring your life up square
 With your accepted thought and hold it there;
 Resisting the inertia that drags back
 From new attempts to the old habit's track.
 It is so easy to drift back, to sink;
 So hard to live abreast of what you think.

It takes great strength to live where you belong
 When other people think that you are wrong;
 People you love, and who love you, and whose
 Approval is a pleasure you would choose.
 To bear this pressure and succeed at length
 In living our belief -- well, it takes strength.

And courage too. But what does courage mean
 Save strength to help you face a pain foreseen?
 Courage to undertake this lifelong strain
 Of setting yours against your grandsire's brain;
 Dangerous risk of walking lone and free
 Out of easy paths that used to be,
 And the fierce pain of trusting those we love
 When love meets truth, and truth must ride above?
 But the best courage man has ever shown,
 Is daring to cut loose and think alone.

Author -- Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Selected by 'A Conchie' - A.S.W.C., Radium, B.C.

To You in Camp....

I wish you much joy and peace and strength in the Lord, that we may all stand steadfast, unmoveable in the days of tribulation, and that we may enter that heavenly kingdom after this tribulation, as the Word of God teaches. When the apostle Paul preached the gospel of peace to the Jews and Greeks, in the region which lies around Lyconia, and that they should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven and earth, then the people drew him out of the city and stoned him. It must have touched their hearts and their conscience must have told them that they did the wrong, and for this reason they did not want to listen longer. Then the disciples came to the apostle, and he rose, and went preaching to the next city, telling them to continue in the faith, having to go through many tribulations, Acts 14:22. This gives a suffering soul confidence, strength and faith in the Lord. It is wonderful that during times of trouble we can look into the future with confidence, trusting the Lord, for our salvation is complete in the Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 5:1. He paid the penalty for us on Calvary, and our part is to yield our lives to Him in faith and then we shall be saved through His grace. God loved this world so dearly that He gave His only begotten Son to redeem it from its sinful state, and now whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but have life eternal, John 3:16. This eternal life is not a life of trouble and sorrow like ours here on earth, but is a life of happiness and glory forever. Blessed are we if we can look forward to His coming with joy in our hearts. It seems to be certain that His coming is drawing nearer. The 'falling away' is so great these days; it is pitiful to see dear souls bound for a Christless eternity in the lake of fire. We should therefore be very jealous and faithful in witnessing the story of salvation to those about us. Mark 13:33. May the Lord richly bless you in your service, and may you be willing to follow His guidance and gain that life everlasting.

- -"Your Loving Minister", Grunthal, Manitoba.

Camp GJ-1 on the Air

Here we are again! A New Year and a New Editor on the job. Many changes have taken place in all the camps since last year but particularly is this true of our camp. Only three of the old crew are with us to start this year, the others being all replaced and returned to better positions? As a result this finds us with a new crew, at least newer than usual for us, but soon we will all feel like veterans, in fact, if you could hear us talking to the day-old recruits you would think we were.

Life has been hectic here for the last few months with the Festive Season rudely interrupting our daily routine and replacements pouring in. The biggest disturbance we had being one night at midnight when 15 Hutterites from Manitoba breezed into camp. It proved to be a double disturbance. We were disturbed by having to turn out of our warm bunks at such an hour, and they were disturbed to learn that their sleeping quarters was the recreation hall, hastily converted. Soon we had them comfortable before a roaring fire and in the morning it was found that all had survived. Another confusing instance was when we wished to speak to Zach Waldner. When we called his name, no less than three came forward with the same name. However, in spite of it all, we managed to get the boys happily settled (so we hope) in their new home at Hope.

Some camps may be able to boast about a little snow, but here we are still enjoying nice gentle showers. The boys are busily engaged in clearing off more land to make more space to plant more seedlings to make more trees to make more brush to make more wood to make more work for all, if a fire doesn't intervene, and the boys are quite satisfied there will be enough work to keep them busy for this year. When this problem is settled, there is nothing left to worry about.

There goes the gong, which means my time is up. However, watch this space for big news next time and in the meantime, keep those axes swinging.

- - Oscar Waterbury, GT-1.

Attention! Everyone!

We have had a number of requests for the names and home addresses of all Alternative Service Workers in the camps under the Forest Service and wherever else they may be employed. It has also been suggested that such a list would be very useful for reference from time to time in regards to the COs and what line of work they had followed previous to coming to the camps. Others have requested a list with the name of each camper's religious denomination noted. So it is our aim to have you or some responsible person in each camp formulate such a list and send it to us at once, or as soon as possible. This would then list the names of campers, their home address, religious denomination and previous occupation, and possibly previous training in any special lines.

This request applies also to other men working in Alternative Service Work wherever or whatever it may be, also to anyone knowing of any ASWs whom you think may not see or hear of this request. We would ask that you kindly contact them and pass this word along, in order that our list may be as complete as possible. It may be of benefit after these names are received to make a grand list of them for anyone interested.

That's all for the present, so let's go and we'll soon see those lists!!

- - The Beacon Staff.

Compiled by Conscientious Objectors in the various Alternative Service Work Camps of the British Columbia Forest Service, and published monthly at A.S.W. Camp C-2, Lake Cowichan, B.C. The work in these camps consists of snag-felling, fire-fighting, road construction, park improvement, tree-planting and supplying fuel for general consumption. The men work 48 hours weekly and receive 50¢ per day, board and medical care.

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(An up-to-date list of the associate editors and circulation managers has been quite a

(Note: Several of the above noted positions) problem since the camps have been shifted are temporary, since the shifting of camps and since so many have been exchanged. and personnel for the spring planting).

(By next issue we hope to have a more definite list and ask that each camp inform us of the latest changes in this line).

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"Critic's Corner"

As an executive staff of this publication, we sincerely ask that you make an investment in our paper by helping its future life through suggestions and criticism. We feel that some may have lost interest in it, and this may be due to various causes. Remember, we don't want you to think that this is a publication expressing only and entirely our own thoughts. According to our policy, and our desires, its purpose is to be a newsletter for those outside of the Alternative Service Work program. We also want it to help in establishing a respectful understanding and more common fellowship amongst us. Denominational differences are no barrier to contributors, and we wish to give all a free voice in articles of interest to our readers.

So, we ask that you take just a few moments of your leisure time to fill out a few of these blank lines with your criticism or suggestions. They are always welcome!!

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