

*April - July 1944*

# THE BEACON

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Vol. 3 No. 3

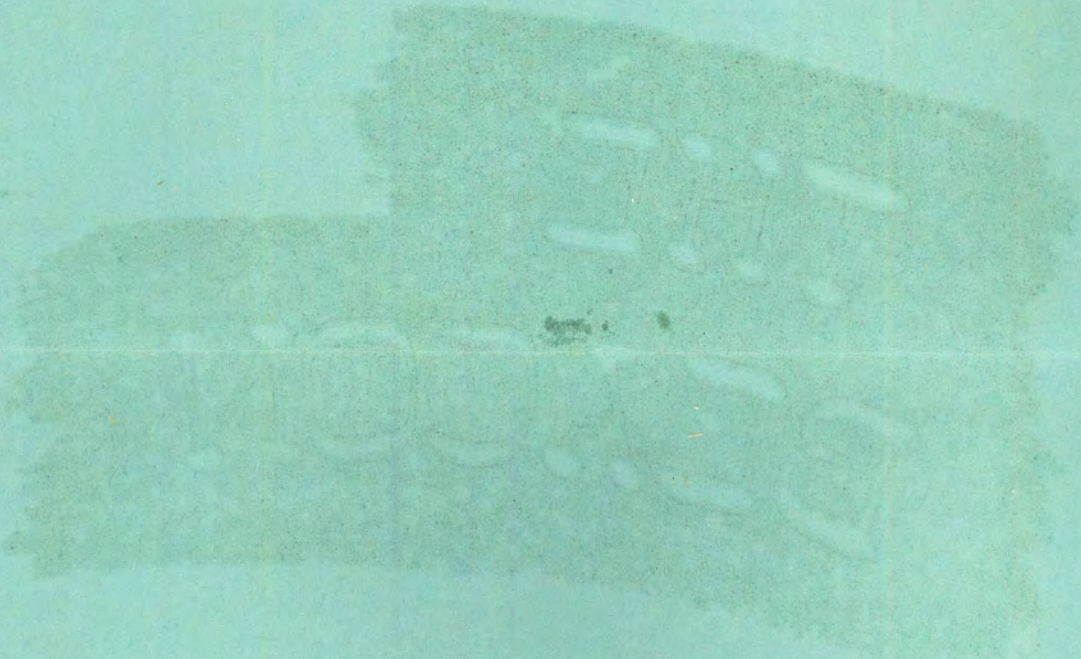
*April - July*

1944



A MONTHLY FOR CANADIAN COS





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## NEW ADDRESS - SEE P. 9

### *New Alternative Service Program*

Since the Alternative Service Work Camps under the British Columbia Forest Service have been closed, the majority of Alternative Service Workers are working in or near their home communities from where they came prior to going to the camps.

Some of these that were in the Forestry Camps have been transferred to other camps operated by the Dominion government at the following five places across Canada. Petawawa Forest Experimental Station, Chalk River, Ontario; Riding Mountain National Park, Wasegaming, Manitoba; Banff National Park, Banff, Alberta; Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station, Seebe, Alberta, and Kootenay National Park, Field, B.C. Others who are in these camps are ASWs who would not come under a restricted wage agreement between the government and ASWs, and were then sent to camp.

Of the ASWs who returned to their home communities, a large number have been placed by Selective Service on farm work where help was very urgently needed. Others are working in factories, offices, hospitals, bakeries, dairies, trucking concerns, feed mills, and various other industries where the labour shortage has made itself an acute problem.

A restricted wage has been set for these workers, and a sum of approximately fifteen dollars a month is paid by the employer to the Canadian Red Cross Society. For those who do not board and lodge with their employer, an allowance is made for that purpose.

## LOST!

.....The names and home addresses of a majority of Alternative Service Workers that were in the British Columbia Forestry Camps until this spring. Just previous to the closing of the camps, we sent a circular letter to each camp asking the Circulation Manager to send us a list of all our subscribers in that camp. Some attended to this promptly before the camp closed, but unfortunately several failed to do this, and we are at a loss to know where these subscribers are located at present. We have the last published issue here waiting for them as soon as we know where they are. If you are one of these, please send us your complete name and home address AT ONCE that we can get your paper to you. If any of you have failed to receive your February-March issue, let us know NOW! We are anxious to get these papers properly distributed, for many of you will be wondering where the paper has lost itself! So let's have that new address IMMEDIATELY PLEASE! This is URGENT!



## Policy - Constitution Altered

With the closing of the camps, and the branching out into new work, the Policy-Constitution of the Paper will be somewhat altered. We will herewith reprint the former one, and in parenthesis, will make the necessary changes to bring it as up-to-date as possible.

"The Paper is owned, operated, and controlled by ASW men in the B.C.F.S. (in Alternative Service Work). It is published as an inter-camp communication (as an inter-CO communication) to further create a respectful understanding and common fellowship amongst us. We will co-operate with the authorities of the B.C.F.S. (the government) so that any dissatisfactions between the ASW men and the Forest Service (the government) may be entirely avoided or minimized.

We want to make our Paper a sort of newsletter, too, for the folks back home, as they are immensely interested in our activities, and why not? We are their sons, (for the folks outside of Alternative Service who are interested in us and our activities). We should also like to show our friends and acquaintances who are not in camp (in Alternative Service) what we COs are doing to live up to our convictions. We want them to learn the nature of Alternative Service Work and come to know the sincerity of our convictions, our universal patriotism as expressed in our work.

Our Paper is an interdenominational publication. Equal voice will be given to the various religious groups. All viewpoints of these groups will be published in such a manner as to strike a balance so that no one viewpoint of any one group becomes the belief of the Paper, and so that no denomination has reason to feel suppressed.

We shall not make the Paper a platform for any political issue or discussion. Such material will not be published.

With these few maxims we hope our Paper will be of value to all, that we may do the most good. Articles of a constructive nature and adhering to our Policy-Constitution are most welcome".

With these few changes we hope we have included all ASWs into our scope of contributors and associates. May we all work together to make our Paper a continued success in upholding our cause and to make it a more progressive communication amongst COs throughout Canada.

## New Feature

Some of our readers have suggested a part of the Paper be devoted to the most up-to-date news regarding Births, Deaths, Engagements, and Marriages amongst Canadian COs. We think this would be an added source of interest and enjoyment to our readers, and we hope you will contribute the latest from your corner of the Dominion to fill this new column in our Paper. YOU can be a correspondent. There's no special knack to it at all, just get that pen and a piece of paper and dash off a few lines to the Beacon. Let's have that little bit of news that you know would interest other COs.



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## Fire Losses Lowest in 25 Years

A report from the Department of Mines and Resources in Ottawa shows that forest fire losses in 1943 were the lowest since statistics were started 25 years ago. This condition may be somewhat attributed to the efficient handling of fire-fighting methods and equipment by conscientious objectors in some of the most acute fire areas of the vast timberlands of British Columbia.

New low records were set in the number of fires, total damage and costs and fire losses were uniformly below the average in all provinces. Fires were started by several causes, the greatest of which was railways. This is no doubt due to the increased travel conditions.

Figures for the 1944 fire season are expected to be much higher than the previous year, and perhaps above the average, some believe. This is due to the extremely dry condition in areas where forests are prominent, and where fires are most readily started.

A late report states that all forest on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the lower mainland have been closed to the public until further notice. This is a result of the worse fire hazard in years, the report says. This report was released from the Forestry Department Officials at Victoria. The worst fire on Vancouver Island at the time of the report, early July, was located on the shores of Buttle Lake. Dense smoke hindered the work of fire-fighters. A number of fighters were flown to the area by plane but were not able to land because of the heavy smoke screen caused by the large area under flame. From fifty to seventy-five soldiers were combating the flames which were spreading rapidly.

Up to the present date, British Columbia forests have had 603 fires, as compared to a number of 346 last year until the same date. Vancouver Island is considered as the most dangerous area of the province's forest stand as the winds from the open Pacific spring up suddenly and with great fury. This condition causes a very small blaze to soon spread and become a disastrous wall of fire which advances rapidly with a wind behind it.

The report also stated that last year conscientious objectors from various parts of the Dominion were on guard and fighting the forest blazes, but are not there this year because of an urgent call to more essential work in the prairies and the eastern provinces, such as farming, essential industries, etc.

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AND  
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THE BEACON, BOX 361, KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Dear Sirs: Please find enclosed: 50¢ for 6 issues \_ \_ \_

\$1.00 for 12 issues \_ \_ \_

This is a NEW subscription; \_ \_ \_ ; a RENEWAL \_ \_ \_

NAME \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

ADDRESS \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

(Please Print)



## "Yank" Mentions COs

Conscientious objectors were mentioned in a recent issue of the United States Army weekly, "YANK", which is published "by the men, for the men in the service". A nine-hundred word story, illustrated with photos, is entitled, "Conchie in Puerto Rico". In a friendly and straightforward manner the life and daily work of these COs is described.

It says that "conscientious objectors are helping to bring medical relief to hundreds of disease-ridden Puerto Ricans, and two of the conchie interned here have died while performing this kind of service. Life at the Castner project is no bed of roses. Still other conchie don't go on leave because they are "busted". By act of congress, no appropriation may be made by the Federal government to pay conscientious objectors. The camps in the States and overseas are maintained with funds provided by the sponsoring religious groups as well as by private contributions. So it is little wonder that the average conchie is broke; he is sweating out the duration at five dollars a month.

## Ex-movie Star, CO, now in Jungle

A recent report from the New Guinea Islands states that Lew Ayres, former movie star, and one time campee at the Civilian Public Service Camp at Wyeth, Oregon (1942), is doing duties as an assistant chaplain. His work is mainly in an evacuation hospital, on the red clay slopes of Pancake Mountain, where the chaps commonly call him "Lew".

A short time after he entered the CO camp in Oregon, Ayres felt it his call to go into non-combatant service with the medical corps. He volunteered for this work at Portland, Oregon, and has since been sent to the New Guineas. For some time he worked with the Medical unit, now he assists one of the chaplains there in easing the problems of the soldiers as they are brought to the hospital.

He says, "I never intend to go back to pictures. I want to continue this work, God willing. It has taken war to give me an understanding of men and to find myself". He plans to enter Theological Seminary after the war, and then take charge of a congregational pulpit.

His appearance has changed considerably since in the jungle. His hair is graying, and his face is lined and yellowed from a synthetic substitute for quinine, called atabrine. He wears a large moustache, closely trimmed. He is considerably thinner, and his weight has been distributed to the muscular areas. He likes his work, however, and looks forward to the time when he can become a minister. "I'm still a conscientious objector to war, you see", he added.

## Thank You

From the majority of the former campees, comes a note of thanks to those who so faithfully donated books, magazines, papers, and regular periodicals to the camp libraries. Other gifts were also appreciated as they were sent from time to time. This action on the part of the home folks showed a great interest in their sons and friends in Alternative Service, and we wish to take this opportunity to show our thanks for these many things that so greatly helped to make our moments valuable.



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## Have You Read?

CORONET Magazine, in its July '44 issue, presents an article entitled, "Plague-fighting Pacifists". Read it! It gives an excellent explanation of the work many of our American CO friends are doing in the present struggle. It deals chiefly with those who have given themselves as "guinea pigs" for experimentation with various diseases and their effects on the human being. It also explains how COs are treated, paid, housed, etc. In July CORONET at your favourite news-stand.

A PASADENA, CALIFORNIA NEWS REPORT recently states that Kenneth Hayes, 25, an internee at a conscientious objector camp at Turbank Flats on the San Dimas Experimental Forest, has been sentenced to a term of six months at least in the local county jail there. He was charged three times of stealing gasoline from the stores of the Forest Service, under which administration the camp enrollees are working in this particular area.

## Forest Fires Cause of Much Concern

Of recent date, forest fires across the Dominion have been a cause of great concern, not only by Forestry officials, but also by officials of the aircraft division. Mr. R.P. Bell, a director of the aircraft production in Canada, said in a recent statement that smoke from these fires constitutes a hazard to flight which must be eliminated as flying in Canada develops.

He said that the prevention of these great fires must enlist the whole-hearted support of the Canadian aircraft industry, air transport organizations, every man and woman who flies, and every intelligent-thinking Canadian who has any pride in Canada or regard for its future.

He also said that Canada's greatest asset, next to her citizens, is her forest resources, and proper protection of this priceless heritage should not be a matter of argument or debate.

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Wouldn't life be lots more happy  
If the good that's in us all,  
Were the only thing about us  
That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy  
If we praised the good we see?  
For there's such a lot of goodness  
In the worst of you and me!

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We think it strange that people  
are so soon forgotten after they die.  
But it is not so strange  
when we consider how many are forgotten  
while they live!



## CO Featured in Novel & Film

A Hollywood, California newspaper lately reviewed one of the Paramount studio current pictures, "The Hour Before the Dawn". The setting is adapted from the novel by W. Somerset Maugham. It deals with a young Englishman, an Oxford graduate, who hates killing, preferring the nickname "coward" to bearing arms for his country.

A "forward" to the film proper shows why he has such a hatred for firearms. As a child, he and his father spent much time in target practice until one day when his pet collie dog ran across his line of aim, and was accidentally shot. This created such a distaste for firearms and killing that he even refused to participate in a hunting trip or anything similar.

Star Franchot Tone plays the role of the conscientious objector who turns from a good position in teaching to take up farm work as a non-combatant way of assisting his country at the outbreak of the present war. He is pictured in love with the household maid, an Austrian refugee who has been in the employ of his wealthy father for some time, and the young CO soon marries her. Later, he changes his thinking when learning that she is a spy and is taking an active part in reporting the locations of vital military objectives in the surrounding countryside. During a particularly heavy raid by German bombers, he finds her dazed from a blow received when a bomb strikes the house in which she found refuge. She thanks him profusely for coming to aid her during the "terrible raid", but he outrightly calls her a spy. She has no alternative, and takes a revolver from her purse, but hasn't the nerve to shoot. He walks toward her, grabs the revolver, and shoots her. His thinking has changed.

The final strip shows him taking his part in the air crew of the RAF.

## Letters Appreciated

We wish to thank our many readers and subscribers for their letters and words of appreciation for the Paper. Many have inquired if the Paper will continue, and we want to inform you that we are endeavouring to carry it on. The men that were in camp are scattered widely now, and it is quite difficult to get any help together to work during spare hours. However, with the help of several good workers here, we are planning to keep the Paper on its feet. Your letters and contributions are always welcome, and we appreciate your encouragement for our work.

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Adam was  
 The first man,  
 The holiest man,  
 The wisest man,  
 The most healthy man,  
 The most beautiful man,  
 The richest man,  
 The greatest ruler,  
 The strongest man,  
 that ever lived, and yet he failed, was defeated and died.



## WANTED: Correspondents

YOU can be a Free Lance News Correspondent NOW! Act at once and make yourself a reporter for The Beacon. Contribute news of general interest to COs, and also articles that our readers will appreciate. Former comrades, their parents, our subscribers and many others anxiously await the next issue to read the latest developments and activities in the CO world. Give us a few moments of your time and send us that interesting bit of news, or that article you've been thinking about writing. Don't worry about the fancy touches, just write it and send it! Your co-operation in this small matter will mean a lot to the life of the Paper!

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Compiled by Conscientious Objectors in the various types of Alternative Service Work in Canada, and published monthly, or if not, as often as possible, with headquarters at BOX 361, KITCHENER, ONTARIO. (Please note the NEW ADDRESS). The work of these Alternative Service Workers is distributed where the labour shortage is most severe, mainly in agriculture, and then in industry, etc.

Written contributions for any particular month's issue must reach our office not later than the 10th of the previous month. If you wish an article published in a certain issue, specify please, and have it mailed in sufficient time to reach us on or before the above mentioned date.

Please be informed that opinions expressed herein do not necessarily concur with those of the Publishers, the ASWs as a whole, or any associated religious organization.

Editor-in-Chief

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John L. Fretz

A permanent Publishing Staff has not yet been organized, since the ASW men are scattered so widely in their work, and considerable difficulty is encountered in getting them together for publication. If and when they are available, they are used, and this may continue until such times as a more permanent arrangement will be made.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE -- 10¢ single copy -- \$1.00 per year -- 50¢ six months

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WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR POLICY-CONSTITUTION



