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Saturday April 18th, 1942

5¢ a copy

# TRAINEES RETAINED FOR DURATION

## BENEFITS TO OUR YOUNG MEN THROUGH CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

John H. Mosemann, Camp Director  
at Grottoes, Va.

As published in 1942 Mennonite Yearbook

Our young men have assumed an important role in our church life. Our church's testimony (as far as nonresistance is concerned) has been taken away from the ministry and is now in the power of young men who are called to give a service alternate to military training. No matter what our testimony is from the pulpit, the life witness of young men in camps is the mould in which much of our present-day testimony is cast. Not what we are declaring today, but the preaching of the past generation is on exhibition and trial today. Perhaps no better test could be applied to our teaching ministry than that which the present cross-section of men in camp reveals. This fact is one of the outstanding benefits of our present camp program.

But the young men in camp are not only the occasion of benefit to the Church; they, too, realize certain helpful experiences all of which serve to enrich the life which is open to such influence.

Our youth today who are of draft age are learning something of sacrifice. Homes, jobs, associations, liberties are sacrificed in this camp service. It is a financial sacrifice, a social sacrifice, but we attempt to prevent it from being a spiritual sacrifice. But even these sacrifices are eclipsed by those undertaken by the soldier boys. They are eclipsed by the sacrifices embraced by our fathers. And, shall we exempt our unworthy selves from any severe cost in maintaining our Spirit-born convictions?

Another blessing of camp life is the fellowship which is possible. There are few things so helpful as fellowship. And, in our circle, young men are brought into closer contact with each other than would normally be possible in their own communities. They work together, eat together, live together, worship together. They cannot get away from each other. Nor would they want to! Associations formed in this experience have already proved of inestimable value to many, and we anticipate many others are due a good share of this distinct benefit.

Cont'd. on Page 3.

## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO BE RECALLED

As trainees of Group 5 were packing their belongings on the evening of April 7th in anticipation of returning home next day, having completed their four months period of alternative service, notice was posted informing them of the latest instructions from Ottawa which read:

April 7th, 1942.

INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED TODAY 5.20 P.M.  
ARE THAT TRAINEES IN ALTERNATIVE SERVICE  
WORK CAMPS ARE TO BE RETAINED FOR THE  
DURATION OF THE WAR

C. E. TENCH,  
CAMP ENGINEER.

Realizing that the news would extremely disappoint campers, the office clerk advised them to stop packing as no order for their release had been received. Some accepted this, but others continued to stuff suit cases in high spirits. When notice was posted at 9:15 P.M. a stunned lot began to return their clothing to hooks and prepare for further work. Many took it hard as they had been looking forward to seeing family and friends once more. The boys now appreciate the kind manner in which "T.J." prepared them for the instructions.

After a week in the doldrums trainees have adjusted themselves to the situation and are now in good spirits. A number of trainees are now looking forward to serving their country in the (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters for Service in the United Kingdom. This privilege of alternative service has been granted them by the Minister of National War Services and will prove to be popular amongst trainees. Those trainees who have already completed their four months period and are now home will be recalled to serve for the duration as soon as arrangements are made to notify them.

Pain is the great teacher of mankind.  
Beneath its breath souls develop.

WHAT PRICE RELIGION  
Editorial

All down thru the ages history records man's religious beliefs. History shows these beliefs to be as many and as varied as we have today. Yet one fact is common to the history of man, no matter what age or what race we choose to study; man must have religion to live, else he is not human. Because of this, man has paid dearly for his beliefs.

The Canadian Indians idolized Hiawatha and tried to do as he did, many of them dying a horrible death in the dense forests. They carried on warfare continually because it was their belief that to die bravely in battle would insure them a place in the Happy Hunting Ground. Natives of Africa still practise many cruelties in the carrying out of their religious beliefs. Ears and nose pierced with rings and needles, faces and bodies tortured with fire, scarred and painted serve to frighten away the evil spirits they believe are near them. Today, the Japanese believe that to die bravely in the thick of mechanized warfare or to commit suicide in the face of defeat is an honourable death and will place their family in favour with their god. Even many of the people of Germany worship Hitler as their god to carry them victory and world domination and they freely give up their lives. What an unestimatable price man pays for his religion!

One may question the necessity of paying any price for one's religion; but do we ever get anything for nothing, anything that is useful to your life, anything that is constructive and helps to justify your existence? Religion is a system of belief and the practise of that belief. If we put our beliefs into practice in a world such as ours today, society will demand a price of us. The man who goes to work and transacts business unfairly for his own profit, yet is in regular attendance at church, loses the respect of his fellow churchman and of the society in which he travels. He is known as the man who goes to business and leaves Christianity at home. This is the price society demands of him; this is the price he pays.

Now then, let us take stock of our own lives. We, as Conscientious Objectors, believe that God's way is not to take life but to love one another as brothers. For this conviction, society demands a price and now we have completed our four months' period of labour as our part of the bargain. However, society has a veto on all bills of religious nature and has now asked a greater price of us; that of being retained for the duration of the war. Are we as pacifists, promoters of world friendship, willing to pay that price or are our religious convictions worth that much? What value do we place on our religion? Have we the strength of mind to wear the crown of thorns that is our labour; the courage of heart to bear the cross that is the duration; the love of God to endure the sword thrusts of public opinion? Have we the faith to sustain further hardships should society ask?

What price religion?

LEAVES FOR TRAINEES

At the present time weekend leaves from Saturday night to Sunday night are afforded trainees. This has been in effect since A.S.W. Camps were opened, but it does not give trainees who live any distance from camp sufficient time to go home. Since instructions were issued that C.O.'s are to be retained for the duration this ruling may be subject to change. It is hoped that leaves similar to those enjoyed by men in military service will be granted trainees, but word has been released from Ottawa pertaining to this matter.

Should such privilege be granted trainees could look forward to visiting family and friends occasionally and have the morale to work more efficiently. It would be unwise to depend on such change, but we are serving our <sup>country</sup> and realize that those who govern us appreciate the need and effectiveness of such leaves and the family relationship they would afford us.

JESUS

By Ruth Sleeper

Why not trust the loving Saviour,  
To supply you all your needs;  
He's promised to supply them,  
If His callings you will heed.

He's always very loving,  
He'll never let you fail;  
He'll always keep you faithful,  
If upon His name you call.

He'll answer all your pleadings,  
If you trust His love divine;  
You'll find each day is sweeter,  
For He's with you all the time.

He is ever, always ready  
To forgive you all your sin;  
And when in death He's calling,  
He'll let His children in.

Gain at the expense of reputation is manifest loss. -- Publius Syrus.

(Gospel Herald)

April 18th, 1942.

THE NORTHERN BEACON

Page 3.

DISAPPOINTMENT

Rev. J. Harold Sherk

Or is it His appointment? As I write this, having just learned of the order which retains boys now in Camp for an indefinite period of service, I am thinking of you who had expected to leave Camp today and who are now trying to adjust yourselves to the new situation.

Disappointments are often bitter pills, but each one that is mastered goes into the making of real manhood. It is only when you let a disappointment get you down and keep you there that its worst bitterness is tasted.

Disappointments so often disguise a loving Divine plan that you may well be looking for the Divine hand in this matter.

My heart's almost too full for me to write much to you who are in Camp now or who may shortly be called up. But if I can remind you, first, of the Christ who was disappointed time and again -- and remain patient and ready to serve every need -- and, second, of the many of our day of whom are being required far greater sacrifices than are asked of us, I shall feel that I have been able to help you a little, and when I can find a way to do it I'll try to make my help more effective.

SUNDAY SERVICES

At ten o'clock Sunday morning we met to study the "Mission of the Seventy" Luke 10: 1-24, with Sheldon Wilson and Harley Wideman teaching.

Bro. Sherk addressed us after Sunday School on the subject "A Well-Balanced Christian Life" taking 2 Peter 1: 5-8 as text. He emphasized the dangers to Christian character and witness of lopsidedness. The Christian who himself, earnestly strives to add virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, kindness and charity, and at the same time humbly seeks them from God shall be fruitful.

In the evening the service was in charge of Bob Iviney who spoke on "The Love of Christ, the Bridegroom for His Bride, the Church." Jesus Christ came, entered into temptation and endured the cross for us, so great was His love, He will come for His Bride, the Church.

BENEFITS TO OUR YOUNG MEN THROUGH CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

Cont'd from Page 1.

Another element in the blessing which we know is that of service. Our country has long provided for our enjoyment of religious privilege. It is under no obligation to do so. Our constitution provides for this liberty--that is true. But constitutions change and are amended. Intolerance frequently supplants good judgement, and what one generation enjoys may be denied the next. But having enjoyed religious liberty and protection in our worship, we are now faced with the opportunity of rendering a free service to our country in a token of gratitude for what we have been able to enjoy freely. Let our service be a cheerful, ungrudging one!

To be sent to a camp also should serve to have young men rethink their whole spiritual philosophy. Why are we Christian? How valid is my attitude toward war and military service? How fundamental to life is my religious belief? Is the C.O. position worth a year or two or more of service? Why are we here? What's wrong with war? What's wrong with defending yourself against aggression? These and many other problems ought to be resolved in the days that a young man spends in a C.P.S. Camp.

Not the least among the assets accruing to young men who are privileged to serve in camp is the regular, routine order of the day which is of great disciplinary value. Many lives are aimless and purposeless. They move in careless, impetuous cycles. But, here in camp, life must move more or less in regular fashion and schedule. Many of us are together which calls for more understandings.

Many folks go through life without ever learning to live together in a congenial way. Strong personalities usually succeed in having others bend their way, and they get along simply because others acquiesce. We are levelled here in camp, the mighty with the meek. Part of our discipline is to learn to live together happily and helpfully. It is not easy to forfeit frequently our own way and desire. But for the good of all, we learn to bear and forbear.

Yes, there are benefits to C.P.S. Camp life. There are always blessings in any way God would choose for us. And, in this experience, we are sure the returns will be worthy of Him who knows the way we take.

THE NORTHERN BEACON

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- PRESS PERSONNEL -

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CHALK RIVER CAMP OPENED

Due to the shortage of labour and the difficulty in obtaining young men, another Alternative Service Work Camp was opened the first week in April to accommodate sixty Conchies. This camp is supervised by the Research Forestry Department of the Dominion Government. The boys carry on research work in forestry from selecting perfect tree specimens, gathering their seed and selecting the best of them for planting to transplanting and felling trees. Because the stands of timber in Canada are now of poor quality, with the exception of the forests of British Columbia, this work is of National Importance. Their work will not show immediate results as it takes many years for trees to mature sufficiently to market, but its value to Canada will be inestimable in years to come. At present only 30 trainees are in camp, but the quota will be filled shortly.

Montreal River Camp wishes you every success in your new enterprise, fellow conchies, and hopes to hear of your progress soon.

INJURED

On Tuesday of this week Bob Iviney suffered serious hand injury when the western team of horses bolted and broke their harness and king line. The king line jerked the stone boat into the air and it struck Bob knocking him down and passing over his hand. Bob lost two fingers in the hospital.

Bill Spencer dislocated his shoulder while lifting a ladder to Bert Grainger and had to be taken to the hospital. His arm was forced around back of his head but now Bill is fine.

An angry man is again angry with himself when he returns to reason.

THE BETTER WAY

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me Than merely show the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;  
And the best of all the preachers are The men who live their creeds,  
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.  
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done.  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run;  
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

--- Author Unknown

"Christ has no hands but our hands  
To do His work today;  
He has no feet but our feet,  
To lead men in His way;  
He has no tongues, but our tongues,  
To tell men how He died;  
He has no help but our help,  
To bring them to His side.

"We are the only Bible  
The careless world will read;  
We are the sinner's Gospel,  
We are the scoffer's creed;  
We are the Lord's last message,  
Given in deed and word;  
What if the type be crooked?  
What if the print be blurred?

"What if our hands are busy  
With other work than His?  
What if our feet are walking  
Where sin's allurement is?  
What if our tongues are speaking  
Of things our lips would spurn?  
How can we hope to help Him  
And hasten His return?"

Annie Johnson Flint.  
From Evangelical Visitor.

He who loses wealth loses much;  
He who loses a friend loses more;  
But he who loses his courage loses all.

--- Cervantes ---

The souls of men of feeble purpose  
are the graveyards of good intentions.

April 18th, 1942.

THE NORTHERN BEACON

Page 5.

# SUPERIOR WAVES

by FRANCIS STARR

**DURATION**--We're here for the duration boys. This is only fair when we consider the sacrifices the men in military service make and the hardships they must endure. Let us make the best of it and cheerfully accept our task.

**FUNSTER**--Bob Iviney sure keeps us laughing with his endless stream of jokes in the bunkhouse. Remember the one about greenspot! We are sorry that Bob has met with serious hand injury and wish him speedy recovery. Thumbs up, Bob.

**APPRECIATION**--We fellows truly appreciate the work and effort of the men of the Conference of Historic Peace Churches on our behalf. We are indeed thankful to our Religious Director, Mr. Sherk for all he has done for us. We pray that God will give you guidance and wisdom in all your life.

**FIREFIGHTERS**--A number of boys have expressed their desire to actively serve Canada overseas in the (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters Corps. They are "Rab" Markwell, Jake Tiessen, Guy Mosher, Ken William, Ray Sider, "Boss" Sider and Peto Dyck. Many others will follow just as soon as family and business matters are cleared up. It is a worthy cause and one that allows for our religious convictions.

**CUT COMPLETE** --Ben Bergen's crew of five men finished a cut of 150 feet, 9 feet deep, and 30 feet wide, in just four weeks. This is the third cut Ben has put thru to bring the rock and gravel to grade level. "Bulldozer" Ben is well named.

**ALTERATION**--The office building has undergone spring cleaning and planning. The office is now in the front of the building much larger too, and the second room is now used entirely for First Aid. If you need First Aid use the side door.

**SNORE REMEDY**--To stop a person snoring apply a little pepper on his nose. It stopped Ken William anyway, and without working him up!

Here is a thought by Sir A. Helps which we would like to pass on to you: Be cheerful do not brood over fond hopes unrealized, until a chain, link after link, is fastened on each thought and wound round the heart. Nature intended you to be the fountain-spring of cheerfulness and social life, and not the travelling monument of despair and melancholy.

The camp portable broadcasting station operating under the call letters of H-I-P-P-O, a 60 inch belt and a remarkably high frequency has been heard lately in the spud peeler's corner, a couple of the gravel pits, No. 2 culvert and the rock gardens. The highway maintenance crew and the surveyor have also had excellent reception on this station recently. Keep up the good work H-I-P-P-O, you may yet reach the teamsters or T.J.

This program is sponsored by all '31 Ford owners.

Don Darley -- "You don't know the first thing about syntax."

Bob Simpson -- "My goodness, is there a tax on that too?"

Harold Doner -- "A chip on the shoulder indicates there's wood higher up."

Wes. Brown's definition of a spinal column. "A chain of bones, extending from the legs to the neck, which serves to keep ones head from sitting on ones lap."

Harold Evans -- "Where there's a will there's a dozen relatives."

## Recipe for Mother-in-law's Sandwich

Lots of beef, hot tongue, and a little cold shoulder.

Scotsman -- "How much are your eggs?"

Grocer -- "Grade A are 35¢ a dozen, and the cracked ones are 20¢ a dozen."

Scotsman -- "Crack me a dozen."

## Sayings around Camp

1. I'm a dead pigeon.
2. You may roar, but you'll pay, and pay, and pay.
3. Youse is killink me.
4. Cheer up boys, we'll soon be dead.
5. I've got nigger-troubles.

He -- "Are you getting compensation for that accident?"

She -- "What accident?"

He -- "Surely you weren't born with that face."

Then there's one about the Scotsman who was invited to a Golden Wedding anniversary. He brought a Gold-fish.

Bob -- "Think of a number."

Rabbi -- "Six."

Bob -- "That's right."

It has been proven that when a fellow kisses a girl millions of germs pass between lips.

O! What a pleasant death.

DRIFTING

By John Andres

What are some of the significant things about drifting? To us they are rather impressive and in most instances the appreciation is very pertinent to drifting in life and in the Church.

Drifting is usually not begun or even continued deliberately. One begins to drift by failing to recognize the danger of the current, or being unaware of its presence and power while fishing from the boat of life. In one instance it may be folly, in another it may be oversight. How often we hear it said, "I did not mean to."

Drifting often is, for a time at least, not noticed by the one who is drifting. Here indeed is a subtle characteristic. One being drawn into a current of worldliness, little by little, may blind the eyes to the seriousness of the sweeping current.

Drifting is noticeable much more readily by those who are not drifting. One right in the midst of a danger often does not recognize it as do those who stand by. Warning must be given by those who notice the drifting, or else the unfortunate one may be lost. It becomes a serious responsibility of those who see to warn of the danger ahead, and to render every possible assistance to effect a rescue.

Prayer sometimes is the only effective agent left in the rescuing task. It may be absolutely impossible because of circumstances at the time to render the necessary assistance; the only agent left is prayer. We dare not fail in this either. God can do what men can not. The one saved from drifting to a tragic end will be truly grateful and happy. There is pleasure for the saved and the friends of the saved also. Heaven, too, rejoices over the rescue.

Drifting may become so pleasurable that the one drifting deliberately rejects all warning and efforts of rescue. That is a sad, sad fact which we wish might be otherwise. But one who is drifting has a responsibility in his own rescue. He cannot escape that.

One never drifts upstream, always downstream. It is really the lazy person that drifts. One drifts because it is easy, not difficult. It is hard work to row upstream.

One drifts because of influence, associations, environment; because he is not busy doing that which is best. One drifts via likes, not dislikes and hates. That is obvious, yet we seldom stop to think of it in just that way. This does not infer that we do not grow by likes as well. We need to love the good and hate the evil. You can't stop the current from going downstream. That is impossible. You may divert the stream or dam it, but it will continue downward nevertheless. God has ordained it so. And you can't stop the world and its drifting influence either!

You can't blame the stream for carrying you with the current when you have placed yourself in its power. That would be a silly thing to do. You can't blame the world for carrying you along in its worldliness if you have placed yourself in the current of its activities. Any worldly drift in the Church cannot be blamed upon the church as God's Church. God's Church moves onward and upward, has done so during the centuries, is doing so, and always will do so. The blame must fall upon some of its members. Is it I? Is it you?

FOR CANADA TOO.

The Bible is our bulwark of defense for freedom. Where the Bible is read and revered, constitutional government, individual liberty, and the rights of the people are respected. Where the Bible is unknown or rejected, despotism, dictatorship or the rule of class hatred prevail. We of America are called to stand for the Bible, for representative government, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, for all these high defenses of the good life we seek to cherish. Let us positively, unitedly, loyally uphold the cause we love--the cause for which our fathers came to these shores. Let us firmly maintain the liberty under God to which they dedicated their lives. Let us pass on to our children, and our children's children, our rich heritage of Scriptural truth.

United States Senator James J. Davis

-- "The Presbyterian" --

April 18th., 1942.

THE NORTHERN BEACON

Page 7

AMERICAN NEWS

Henry, Ill.--When a tornado struck the Middle West on March 16, Henry CPS boys immediately rushed into Lacon city to help clear and repair the half-million dollar damage suffered. Fifty-eight men put saws axes, tractors, bull-dozers, trucks and many other pieces of machinery to work and streets were cleared within 24 hours. In this 24 hour period 144 eight-hour days were put in by the boys clearing debris. A few remained in camp to sharpen and repair tools and others prepared lunches. They have been permitted to work on private property, to rehabilitate dwellings and perform any other service deemed necessary. No charge is made to property owners for their service.

Patapsco--Five Buck Creek men and five from Patapsco have been assigned to certain dairy farms where there is an acute shortage of labour. Paid at prevailing rates they will turn over all but \$2.50 a month to the American Friends Service Committee to be allotted to a charitable organization.

Weeping Water, Neb.--The 24th CPS Camp opened last month at Weeping Water, Neb. It is a Monnonito camp for 150 men working with the Soil Conservation Service.

Merom, Indiana--Two mobile units of 24 men each have been formed at Merom CPS Camp to aid civilian victims of fire, flood, earthquake or tornado. Services of such units have been offered their government for use in Hawaii, on the west coast and in the Mississippi Valley tornado. Eighty-six men have volunteered to act as blood donors. Plans are also underway for them to be given training in fire fighting. These will be sent, with hundreds of others from the nation's 27 CPS Camps, to fight forest fires on the west coast during the dry season.

According to figures recently released by the American National Service Board for Religious Objectors there are men from 123 denominations on record. These figures as of March 1, 1942, list 2057 boys in 26 camps or functioning units with a total of 509 to be assigned during March.

FIRE FIGHTERS CORPS FORMED

The necessity of preventing extensive damage to property and loss of life through fire started by incendiary bombs has caused a (Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters Corps for Service in the United Kingdom to be organized. Its administration is under the direction of the Minister of National War Services. The Corps is being organized by Commanding Officer Huff at Ottawa, Fire Station #4.

Its purpose is to assist the National Fire Service in Great Britain in

1. the extinction of fires, and the protection of life and property in case of fire, in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man;

2. the extinction of fires and the protection of life and property in ships and vessels at sea; and

3. rescue or salvage work for which its appliances are suitable in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Persons between the ages of 21 and 50 may be accepted as members of the Corps whether or not they are members of a paid or volunteer fire department in Canada or other Allied Country. Members are paid on the same basis as the army.

The Corps shall be a civil defence organization, the first of its kind to be formed in Canada for service overseas. Four hundred volunteers are wanted immediately, and as soon as one hundred are accepted they will proceed overseas for training. The first unit is expected to leave for the United Kingdom in about six weeks time. Each fire chief across Canada is a recruiting officer and application is to be made thru your local fire station. Conscientious Objectors are privileged to be able to participate in this organization of high standard and thankful for that privilege.

THE NORTHERN BEACON  
Box 444,  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.