

January 2nd, 1934.

No 3

A periodical paroxysm of, for and by the people of the Arts & Letters Club.

WISHING YOU THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

We begin this inspirational message with the concluding phrase from several thousand campaign addresses delivered in Toronto during the past week by candidates for municipal office. This is just to show that we are good enough to begin where candidates for municipal office leave off.

PALESTINE - HAIL AND FAREWELL!

Miss Ruth Silver is winner of a return trip ticket to Palestine, having been placed first in a recent beauty competition. Of course we hope she has a lovely time but what interests us is that J. E. Sampson and two assistants, also known to members of the Club, were the judges in this contest. Our secret service operator, A-73, reports that the judging was carried out in decorous fashion but that all that Sampson got out of it was several offers of assault and battery from fathers, brothers, cousins and sweethearts of disappointed entrants. We seem to remember that some years ago Sampson, Henry Button and Frank Carmichael judged a beauty contest at Sunnyside. The Executive at its next meeting will consider the establishment of an official Beauty Judging Contest Board to represent the Club. Vote for Sampson as chairman. He has experience.

CHRISTMAS * DINNER

This major event in the Club's year took place on December 28th. There was the usual large attendance, the usual distinctive decorations and the usual enjoyable show. The choir, under Harvey Robb, and the orchestra, under Ernest MacMillan, contributed notably to the event. The entry of the Boar's Head was featured by the robust singing of George Lambert. The Reverend Dr. Roberts sang Grace and carols were heard from time to time as the dinner proceeded. Three notable guests called unexpectedly. Premier Maschado (George Young) of Cuba was first introduced and his brief remarks were ended by a good shot from a revolutionary who had trailed him to the dinner. Herr Hitler (Jack McLaren) delivered an impassioned oration on behalf of short noses. Prof. Schwartzentruber introduced his famous trained flea "Adolf" only Adolf wasn't Adolf and became enamoured of Freddie Manning. The musical programme had to be revised at the last moment because of the illness of Harry Adaskin. Accordingly, instead of the Brahms Sextet in B Flat Major, there was played the Brahms Trio in C Major by Boris and Clement Hambourg and John Langley. There followed a prologue sung by J. Campbell McInnes in his distinguished fashion and then a Christmas * mystery play entitled, "The Landlord of the Inn." The cast consisted principally of heroes for illness and sudden calls out of town disrupted the original cast which had been in rehearsal for some time. With only forty-eight hours notice, Ivor Lewis, Walter Bowles, Napier Moore, Geoff. Hatton and others stepped into the breach and gave a fine performance. This play was written by J. E. McDougall and directed by Dixon Wagner with Healey Willan in charge of the music. "Noel" sung by the choir ended a fine evening. Credit for the affair goes to the hard-working President and Vice-President, to J. E. Sampson, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, to Cecil King, Chairman of the House Committee, and to Herbert E. Moore, who was manager of the programme for this dinner.

SPECIAL NOTE RE CHRISTMAS* DINNER

Gus Bridle arose at the head table amidst a great hush, lighted his cigar at the candelabra and sat down amidst great applause. Subsequently Gus mislaid the cigar but with the assistance of Barry Cleveland and the President of St. George's Society, who was an honoured guest, it was finally discovered between the seat of Gus' chair and the seat of his pants. This was indeed a pleasant surprise.

*Old English for Xmas.

PAST EVENTS

Nov. 28 - Carl J. Ketchum, late special correspondent in Russia for the London Daily Express, spoke at luncheon about present conditions in the U.S.S.R. Nov. 29 - Dr. Barbeau chatted to us about the West Coast Indians and their peculiar music and rhythms. Dr. Barbeau was assisted by Ernest MacMillan who helped him during his studies of this subject in British Columbia some six years ago. Dec. 2 - Portions of the November dinner programme were served up for a successful ladies' day. Dec. 5 - Prof. Goggio spoke on "The Corporate State in Italy." Dec. 6 - Chuck Matthews and Arthur Goss had an evening showing of the moving pictures recently made of Club members. Leslie Mardall, Miss Jean McLaughlin and Harvey Robb provided the musical programme. Dec. 7 - Alan Jones, well-remembered for his performance of "Hugh the Rover", was welcomed at luncheon. Dec. 12 - Billy Alexander gave an evening's talk on Lithography and Engraving. Ted Dinsmore assisted him by making a drawing on a zinc plate which Billy then printed. These prints go into the Club record book. Dec. 14 - Vittoria Podrecca of the "Piccoli" spoke about marionettes and gave a fascinating and entertaining history of the puppet show in Europe. Dec. 16 & 17 - The Chester Mysteries directed by Dixon Wagner with Healey Willan in charge of the music. An entirely new set prepared by Arthur Lismer added to the delight of the presentation which was remarkable for its beauty of colour and music and noble interpretation. The audiences were larger than ever and the money collected at the door was given to St. George's Society for distribution among the poor at Christmas. Dec. 19 - Elie Spivak played at luncheon. Reg. Stewart accompanied him. Dec. 30 - Ladies' Day - Part of the Christmas dinner programme was repeated and greatly enjoyed.

COMING EVENTS

Whenever possible, members are advised in advance of any special features at the Club. But in many cases it isn't possible to give warning and the surest way to miss nothing is to be a regular attendant at luncheon. Among coming events are the following:- Monday, Jan. 8, Maurice Colbourne and Barry Jones will be at luncheon. Thursday, Jan. 11, Peter Haworth will speak informally on stained glass at 8.30 p.m. and will demonstrate processes and materials employed. Tuesday, Jan. 16, Mr. Bickersteth, Warden of Hart House, will speak at 8.30 p.m. on Canterbury Cathedral, its architecture and its place in English history. Mr. Bickersteth has a remarkable collection of lantern slides to illustrate the subject. Saturday, Jan. 27, the regular monthly dinner will take a new form in that it won't be a dinner, if you get what we mean. The proceedings will begin with a play produced by Ivor Lewis and after the play a light supper will be served. Members wishing to make amends to wives, sisters, cousins or sweethearts for holiday-season indiscretions will be allowed to bring a lady as guest. This privilege, it is expected, will restore happiness in many homes. During the month further luncheon attractions will be presented. Rene Cera will speak on the art of merchandise display. Prof. Lange of 'Varsity will speak on present day conditions in Germany. Early in the New Year, the Christmas decorations arranged by Ed. Burns will be removed and Alfred Chapman will provide an exhibition of Italian posters loaned by F. Ney, and of Swiss posters loaned by the Swiss Consul through the good offices of Paul Hahn.

THE ADVERTISING SECTION

Owing to a surfeit of news, the advertising department which we had hoped to inaugurate in this issue of THE BULLETIN won't appear until the next issue. This department will be entirely a Lost Article Department. All the lost articles are various articles of Costume and theatrical equipment such as properties, etc., which from time to time disappear when our Thesbians, exalted by the plaudits of the crowd, rush home to tell their folk about the success of the show and in doing so forget to take off Russian boots or Santa Claus whiskers, etc. Murray Brown, costume mistress, is now preparing a list of missing articles. It's quite a long one.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PROPERTIES BELONGING TO THE CLUB, PLEASE RETURN THEM NOW. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

REWARD

A reward is offered for the return of all the vocal parts of the Choral March (20 copies). The reward will be paid by the Treasurer on presentation of all parts together with vouchers in triplicate approved by all the past presidents.

Arts & Letters Club.

THE BULLETIN

Published every awful once-in-a-while

February 6, 1934.

VERY EXTRA SPECIAL NOTICE!

N^o 4

On several occasions this year men who have spoken to the Club on various topics have expressed keen appreciation of the fact that they can talk freely and without restraint, knowing it is one of our unwritten laws that nothing must ever be published in the Press about what is said or done in the Club. It is hoped that all new members realize that this is our custom and that all old members will remember it, so that everybody will refrain from any mention, direct or indirect, of our doings in the public press, no matter how great the temptation may be.

THE MAN ABOUT TOWN NOTES THAT:

There was a delightful New Year's Eve party at the Club. This was held on December 31st so as to be on New Year's Eve. Mr. Crosbie, of the Robinson Crusoe Company and formerly with the Philadelphia Opera, gave a robust programme of sea songs and spirituals at luncheon on January 4th. Maurice Colbourne and Barry Jones were luncheon guests on January 8th. On January 11th, Christopher Morley strolled in for lunch. He has a hearty appetite and a hearty sense of humour. He addressed a few informal words to the members and revealed that civilization still marches on in New York where a debt collector is now known as an arrears adjuster. Peter Haworth's talk on stained glass on the evening of January 11th was heard with great interest by a number of members. Warden Bickersteth's illustrated lecture on Canterbury Cathedral was delivered on Tuesday evening, January 16th. On January 18th the distinguished Italian visitors were entertained at tea. A programme of French-Canadian and west coast Indian songs were sung by Freddy Manning accompanied by Ettore Mazzoline. January 24th René Cera talked at luncheon on problems which the artist is called upon to solve in connection with merchandise display. January 27th - The first bi-sexual monthly dinner - Noel Coward's "The Marquise" was capably performed before a large audience and the ladies particularly enjoyed the risqué parts. The few members who were shocked were reassured by their wives. Supper was served in the Library after the performance. Ivor Lewis and Edgar Stone directed the show. The scenery, which was ingeniously designed to permit the cast to move about a rather restricted stage, was created by S. H. Maw. Dora McMillan was a delightful marquise. Percy Schutte was convincing both as a reformed and re-incarnated man of the world and Ivor Lewis was just what we thought a Duke of that period would be. Margot Clarkson proved a charming Adrienne. J. E. Sampson was the kind of priest who keeps the Orange Order enthusiastic. Other members of the cast were Robert Christie, Joe McDougall and S. B. Watson who all maintained the Club's tradition for good performances. On January 29th George Lambert sang several songs from Housman's "Shropshire Lad" to new settings by Roland Leich. Alan Sly was at the piano. January 30th - Victor Lange spoke at luncheon on "Germany of the Present Day." In the evening there was a second performance of "The Marquise" with a capacity house. February 1st - Percy Hollinshead lunched and sang. February 4th the Bach Choir broadcast direct from the Club over the Canadian Radio Commission's coast to coast network. Victor Ross impersonated David Ross. February 5th - Rockwell Kent came to lunch and was introduced by A. H. Robson.

OUR OWN CLUB PROPHET PREDICTS THAT:

Raymond Massey will be in for lunch on February 9th. Raymond has been getting on in the drama. His sure foundation is his experience directing Eugene O'Neill's "In the Zone" at the Club in 1922. February 24th - the monthly dinner - men only this time. The programme will consist of a performance of "The Persian Garden Suite" by Lisa Lehman. It will be staged in an oriental setting. Harvey Robb is in charge of the music.

ROUND THE CORNER

What's round the corner? Round the corner! That is to say, that the fifth Spring Revue - to be known as "Round the Corner" - will be presented nightly for five nights commencing March 20th. It'll be as good a show as any of its predecessors. Could we say more? Napier Moore again in charge in his inimitable style (we think this is the phrase).

For the fourth time in four weeks Murray Brown has advised us that he has not yet compiled a list of all the props that have disappeared in the course of the Club's recent dramatic activities. (Whazzamatter, Murray? Don't you think it's proper?-apologies to Rotary Clubs - Heh! Heh!! Heh!!!)

W. F. P.

March 14, 1934.

MISSING!

One morning coat, one red Cossack robe and sash, 13 pairs of gymnasium pants, one opera cloak, one lady's coat, one pair of goloshes, one Union Jack, one red and blue pennant, one small saw, one saxophone, one teapot, one box of false faces and one halo - has anybody seen any of these? They are all missing from dressing rooms of the Arts & Letters Club and most of them are needed for the Spring Revue. For instance, we need the 13 pairs of gymnasium pants so that our 13-count 'em--13 chorus boys can hoist the Union Jack while Ben Gould plays "God Save the King" on the saxophone as Freddie Manning, wearing the opera cloak and the lady's coat, pours tea from the teapot for a second chorus of members disguised with the false faces and led by Prof. DeLury wearing the missing goloshes under the direction of Harvey Robb, gorgeous in the morning coat and Ernest MacMillan, flaming in the Cossack robe and sash. The small saw will be necessary for off-stage effects (snores) and Chuck Matthews in his cherubic role needs the halo. As far as the red and blue pennant goes, if you carried that away you may keep it, if your conscience doesn't bother you. We're not fussy about red and blue pennants but we do want the other things back and particularly the false faces. They are so much better than our own. No questions will be asked. Just bring the loot back to Murray Brown and he won't say a word. He's used to dealing with contractors.

PAST EVENTS:

GREGOR PIATAGORSKY was in for lunch on Feb. 6th. RAYMOND MASSEY and KEITH WINTER of "The Shining Hour" shone at luncheon on Feb. 9th. Raymond told us about some plans that are near to his heart and which he hopes to develop in the near future. He intends to import a few leading actors and actresses from London and to stage a number of plays in Canada, completing his cast with Canadian talent. ST. ELMO DE CHAMPS spoke graphically on Feb. 15th about the recent troubles in France--of which there appear to have been quite a few. B. K. SANDWELL on Feb. 22nd had something to say about book reviewers and their woes which are many. You have probably heard about the monthly dinner on Feb. 24th and "Orientale". ELIZABETH MITCHELL contributed a solo dance and GIORDMAIN demonstrated legerdemain. Oriental costumes designed by BRYANT FRYER gave plenty of colour. IVOR LEWIS spoke the prologue to the Persian Garden and Harvey Robb bossed the music. The singers were ALICE STRONG, JEAN McLACHLAN, LESLIE MARDALL and GEORGE LAMBERT. A full house witnessed the second performance on Feb. 27th. STUART THOMPSON spoke on "The Music of Canadian Birds" at luncheon on Feb. 28th and CARLTON DYER dropped in from London on March 7th. The same evening "JAY" showed us some slides and photos made in the British West Indies.

ROUND THE CORNER

"ROUND THE CORNER" is progressing rapidly in rehearsal--in fact to such an unprecedented extent that we have gone so far as to arrange to have an audience for the dress rehearsal. This audience will be composed of men from the Toronto Men's Hostel.

As we go to press, we understand that it is Premier Henry's intention to allow clubs to serve beer. Send your protest now to the treasurer--not the Provincial Treasurer, to Bob Defries.

W. F. P.