

Gerald Waring Reporting

OTTAWA—The story of the Count de Bernoville reads like a drama of international intrigue, larded with elements of Greek tragedy and corny Hollywood thriller.

Plot: Mother (France) and daughter (Quebec) fight over the same man (de Bernoville). Mother wants to kill him to avenge wrongs he has committed against her. Daughter seeks to save him from mother's vengeance, but from her husband (Ottawa) seizes him and delivers him to mother.

And how like a husband doing something against his wife's wishes was Ottawa's reassurance to Quebec that de Bernoville wouldn't be shot out of hand by the French authorities. Instead, Ottawa said, he would be entitled to a new trial when he returned to France.

Actually, Ottawa was far more sympathetic to de Bernoville—de entirely to Quebec's interest in the case—than it should have been; ordinarily would have been. There's no doubt that Immigration Minister Walter Harris deliberately waited nearly a year before rejecting de Bernoville's appeal against deportation, until the French government had abolished the court which had sentenced the French count to death.

De Bernoville's Crimes On Oct. 8, 1947, when de Bernoville was already illegally in Canada, the courts of justice of Toulouse convicted him in absentia for treason against France. He was condemned to death for having betrayed French resistance fighters to the Gestapo, and for having tried to organize a North African "alliance" to fight against the Allies.

Illustrative of the case against Bernoville is the testimony of a Maquis leader, a man decorated by the British government after the war. He swore that de Bernoville personally directed his torture in a vain attempt to make him betray his Maquis comrades. Wires were affixed to his wrists and plugged in an electric socket, and at de Bernoville's direction a rheostat was turned higher and higher, sending more current into his body. He is now a helpless cripple.

As of Feb. 1, these French courts of justice—which were exceptional courts set up to try treason cases—were abolished. On Feb. 8 Harris announced that de Bernoville would be deported. De Bernoville's supporters in Quebec—and they are many and powerful—now have less cause to protest. He isn't being sent back to a firing squad ordered by a court which they contend was instituted by post-war revenge hysteria and run by Communists.

But this Vichy governor of Lyons isn't even being forced to return to France. That fact isn't generally appreciated. The immigration authorities merely intend to deport him to France if, after 60 days, he is still in Canada. During that time he may seek asylum in any country which will accept him.

No Mere Refugee In view of his persistence in fighting deportation, the authorities expect he will make no move to leave voluntarily. Instead, they believe, he will wait out the period of grace. Then when arrested for deportation, he may ask the Quebec courts for a writ of habeas corpus, alleging illegal arrest—as he did successfully once before.

The Federal Government opinion on de Bernoville is that he isn't a mere political refugee, as his Quebec friends would have us believe. He was one of the top Vichy officials collaborating with the Nazis, and as a convicted traitor is automatically barred from Canada. Some of de Bernoville's friends recently went directly to a Cabinet Minister with the argument that Canada should admit him as a political refugee. The Minister asked them if, on the strength of the precedent which would be set, Canada should give refuge to the 10 convicted American Communist leaders should they escape from prison.

"No, of course not," they replied in shocked tones. "Those Communists committed their offences in peacetime!"

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Lenten Meditations THE EMPTY HOUSE

The note of confession, of penitence, is given exceptional emphasis in the season of Lent, and it is doubtless well that the Christian should have special times in which self-examination—never a process, if it is honest, which can lead to any feeling of complacency—may provide a new starting-point for further spiritual advance.

In the treatment of physical ailments the physician seeks to build up the patient's resistance and to restore him to a condition of positive health in which the disease can find no congenial lodging-place. It is not enough merely to drive out the offending germ, the condition in which it can thrive must be changed, or a relapse may occur.

Similarly, the confession of one's sins is not an end in itself, neither indeed is the forgiveness which follows; for the soul's health there must be an accompanying decision to take a new and better way.

This is the lesson, inculcated in the parable of the empty house, which occurs in the Gospel for the third Sunday in Lent, in which the house is described as "swept and garnished." The version in St. Matthew adds the significant word "empty," which is the key word of the parable, and as in any case implied in St. Luke.

That the house of the soul should undergo the periodic self-discipline suggested by the words "swept and garnished" is clearly both wholesome and essential to spiritual well-being; that it should remain in this negative condition is to open the door to the invasion of that which is hostile to the life of the spirit.

One of the subtlest temptations associated with concentration on penitence is to think that to get rid of the sense of guilt is an end in itself, a new beginning; that to have dealt with sins and shortcomings is any more than the preparation of the pilgrim for the next stage of his spiritual journey, the stripping of the runner for the race.

The Christian life demands not only abstention from evil, as physical health implies more than the mere absence of disease; it is positive virtue, active goodness, that enriches the lives of men. It is the full life which is the happy and balanced life.

Such a life escapes many an attack that would be fatal to the life that is unoccupied. Men are apt bitterly to complain of the burdens which fill their lives, but they owe much of their immunity from the evils "which may assault and hurt the soul" to those burdens. The health of the mind is determined not by what is not allowed to occupy it, but by what actually does occupy it.

Hence, Lent is best thought of as a season of spiritual renewal. The backward and the inward look may be an important element in spiritual adjustment, but all this if it is to do its perfect work in the soul, must also have a future reference—just as repentance and forgiveness look forward to new decision and achievement.

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a new way may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

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SPECIAL GOSPEL SERVICES continuing in the Gospel Hall, Upper Prince Street, nightly at 8 P.M. The old fashioned Gospel is being preached by R. MacCracken and A. Ramsay. All are welcome. There is no collection.

COMPLETES COURSE — Official word has been received at the local Naval barracks of the successful completion of an R.C.N. course in Anti-Submarine Detection at "Stadacona" by Ordinary Seaman John E. MacKenzie, R.C.N.(R.) of Upper Queen Street.

NAVAL TRANSFER — Sub-Lieutenant M. R. Hennessey of Charlottetown has received acceptance from Naval Headquarters on his application for a transfer to a three-year short term service appointment in the Royal Canadian Navy. Sub-Lieutenant Hennessey was formerly on Reserve strength, and with his new appointment reported yesterday from H.M.C.S. "Stadacona" to the frigate "La Hulouise."

CITY POLICE COURT — At the Slightly Magistrate's Court yesterday, two men charged with being drunk and incapable were each fined \$10 and costs or 10 days in jail. A man charged with false pretences pleaded guilty to the charge and was remanded until today for sentence. A man charged with vagrancy was remanded until today and a summary ejection case was adjourned until today. The case of false pretences is in connection with the issuing of a worthless cheque of some \$40 in payment of a bill at a local clothing establishment.

C. W. L. CARD PARTY—A very successful card party was sponsored by Miss Lillian Murphy at the home of Mr. Emmett Murphy, Emerald, on Thursday night Feb. 1st. Despite the inclement weather a large number attended. The Ladies first prize was won by Mrs. John Cash. The gentlemen's first prize was won by Mr. Joseph Hughes, Shamrock. The consolation prize went to Mrs. Patrick McCarville and Mr. Alfred Kelly. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess, Assisting in serving were, Mrs. A. Grennan and Miss Mary Murphy.

CARD PARTY—On Friday evening, January 26th a very successful card party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Clow, Emerald, with thirteen tables of auction forty-fives in play. The Ladies' high score for the evening was a tie between Mrs. Harry Ford and Mrs. G. C. Green. They cut the cards and Mrs. Green was the winner of the first prize. The high score for the gents first prize went to Mr. Pius Croken. The consolation prizes went to Mrs. Madge Clow and Mr. Austin Hogan. A delicious lunch was served Reginald Smith, Mrs. Louis Clow, Mrs. Madge Clow and Mrs. Percy Murphy.

RETURN FROM HOLIDAY. — Mr. and Mrs. Nelson MacDonald returned home on Friday night after having spent three weeks visiting relatives and friends in St. John and Moncton. While in St. John they visited their daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stevenson. They visited Rothsay and spent a few days with Mr. MacDonald's sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barwise. They also spent a few days in Martinon with Rev. and Mrs. Quigley and several other Islanders. They left St. John Tuesday noon and spent the remainder of their visit with Mr. MacDonald's cousin in Moncton.

ART SOCIETY MEETING. — The P. E. I. Art Society held its February meeting on Tuesday of this week. Two groups of members, gathered at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Harris, Greenfield Avenue and Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Creelman, McGill Avenue, participated in a special Valentine Day program. In both cases, members worked on a project of designing and creating original Valentines for those at work in the corresponding group. Later in the evening, the Valentines were placed on display at the home of the President, Mrs. P. A. Creelman, where the groups convened for a brief business period. Min-

Memories Of My School Days

By F. H. MacArthur

Well do I recall the look of the old Cornwall school, the dust-laden floor, the big pot-bellied stove that stood in the center of the room, the knife-scarred desks and seats, the huge blackboard and the raised desk, where ruled Lemuel Seller, my first teacher.

My very first day at school was during the forenoon recess, I had managed to land a fair sized stone on the dome of an eighth grader—a girl at that. Horror of horrors! Then I took French leave, as fast as my legs could carry me. The master sent a couple of the older boys to bring me in. When we approached the door, Mr. Seller stood framed in it, a ghost of a smile playing across his face. "You'll beat me," I said. "No, I won't," he promised. "Not if you promise to throw no more stones."

Quivering with fright, I took my seat—the one next to the rear wall where the big boys had set up a noise-making gadget between the walls. To this gadget was attached a string and every time one of them came in or went out the string was given a yank that sent off a clanking of irons and bells, much to Master Seller's annoyance but greatly to the delight of the pupils. Mr. Seller had difficult time with the older pupils, especially with the big boys who went to school only during the winter months, when work on the farms had slowed down.

Today they are scattered far and wide like the graves of a household, and some sleep in soldier's graves far, far from their homes and loved ones; yet in fancy I still can see them playing their impish pranks right under the nose of the teacher. When one of their number was dragged from his seat by the burly master and made to stand in a corner with his face toward the wall, the others would bring out their bean-slingers and pepper the culprit with such a shower of dried beans that the whole school resounded to the rat-tat-tat of bouncing pellets, the sound of which was very much like the machine-gun in action.

Mr. Seller had a faculty for contriving punishments, suitable to the nature of the offense. For example, when Neil Walker let loose a flock of sheep-ticks gleaned from his father's flock, and shook them on the back of the girls who sat in front of him, Mr. Seller retaliated with ten strokes of the cat o' nine tails—five strokes to each of Neil's hands. Scholars who told lies had to recite a long poem on Friday.

He also had other ways of persuading us to shun evil and take the straight and narrow path. Those whose deportment measured up to his standard were permitted to go home half an hour earlier on Friday, while those who fell under the spell of the tempter had to remain in school one hour later doing difficult problems in math. The primer was a small book, 5" by 4", with paper covers and cheap binding. Besides containing a number of pictures the primer had "spelling words," little folks' poems, "Lessons and maxims" for Children, and so forth.

It was always a marked event when the school inspector arrived. If King George and Queen Elizabeth were to walk into the room where I am writing, they would not seem half so important to me as did the inspector who visited our school once or twice each year. He arrived in a wagon, his coming announced by some pupil who peeked through a crack.

The awful news was passed from one to another in throaty whispers. The teacher, too, glanced around uneasily. Then a heavy silence descended on the old school. This was broken by footsteps and a knock on the weather-beaten door. When the great man stepped across the threshold the stillness of death filled the room. How could anything we might do seem proper in sight of this august person?

In a matter of moments he got down to business. Lessons were heard, our longhand was looked over, and so on. For a few days I remember my first inspector, a man filled me with fear. I also recall what he once said to the teacher about some new equipment.

"Get a new map of the world, and destroy those filthy slate rags. Why I declare some of them are putrifying." Then he walked out, puffing like a steam engine. When the door had closed behind him the spell was broken, and we resumed our mischievous making. The teacher having gained his natural ease, began to take up where he had left off, and the older boys played rat-tat-tat on the blackboard with their bean shooters. Although it was cold, dirty and weather-beaten, the old school, this scribe remembers it, prepared for the duties of life a fine group of Islanders.

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Scout News and Notices The First Charlottetown, Saint Dunstan's Basilica Troop Investitures At a well conducted and impressive investiture ceremony of "THE FIRST" Troop on January 12 the following boys were made members of the "Great Brotherhood of Scouting" and welcomed into the Saint Dunstan's Basilica group: James Smith, Donnie Kelly, Louis Curley, and Phillip Doyle. Congratulations are extended to the Scouts and all good wishes for their continued progress in Scouting go out to them. Following the investiture ceremony a photograph of the entire Troop was taken by Troop Leader Leo Dolron, the Troop Photographer.

IN MEMORIAM In loving memory of my dear daughter Winnifred Jean MacLeod who passed away February 15, 1944. The midnight stars are shining Upon the silent grave; Beneath it sleeps the one I loved The one we could not save. We are thinking of you today, Thinking of the past; Picturing you in memory, Just as I saw you last. You left behind a broken heart That loved you so sincere; I never did or never will Forget you Winnie dear. Fondly remembered and sadly missed by father, Herbert MacLeod.

IN MEMORIAM In loving memory of John A. Collings, Sturgeon, who passed away February 15th, 1950. Loving and kind in all his ways, Upright and just to the end of his days. Sincere and kind in heart and mind, What a beautiful memory he left behind. Lovingly Remembered by His Family.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOSPITAL ANNUAL MEETING Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the Act of Incorporation a public meeting of all contributors to the Prince Edward Island Hospital will be held in the classroom, new nurses' residence, Charlottetown, on Thursday, February 22, 1951, at 8 P.M. for the purpose of electing trustees for the government of the institution in accordance with the by-laws and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it. J. ANDREW LIKELY, Secretary, Board of Trustees.

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