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Exit Tony Blount

by Sydney Parkman

CHAPTER XV

Continued

Later on in the evening, however, the conversation took a turn which had a direct bearing upon the main problem which had been occupying his thoughts so much in the past few days. It was Strang himself who initiated it, and thinking about it afterwards Thurlow decided that it had been done on set purpose.

Shortly after nine o'clock one of the house-boys came out to ask if he should extinguish the lamp in the living-room, seeing that they were sitting outside. Strang told him to leave it alight, and when he had gone back into the house again the trader turned to his companion.

"That's the type of brain we've got to deal with here," he observed with a silent laugh. "Moloko's asked that same question and got the same answer every time I've sat out here after dinner for the last seven years — and he's gone on asking it. Yet he's supposed to be the bright educational star here, as I dare say you know."

"I didn't," Thurlow told him. "Where's the brightness supposed to come in?"

"Oh, I thought you'd have spotted it by now," Strang said banteringly. "Haven't you gone through the school reports yet?"

"The school reports?" Thurlow echoed mystified. "Why, yes; but —" He stopped short, for at that moment he remembered that he had seen the man's name. The returns in question had stated that between 40 and 50 children attended a native school, and he now recollected that the teacher's name had been given as Moloko.

As he had seen no evidence of the existence of the school at all, he had concluded that the teacher was as fictitious as the establishment itself; and he had not even troubled to ask M'fani about it. It had seemed to him to be yet another piece of fake, and certainly he would never have connected the name with that of the house-boy.

"Yes, I do remember to have seen it now you mention it," he said slowly. "But I understand that it was the name of a native teacher."

Strang nodded. "That's right," he said calmly. "Moloko's officially in charge, though actually his woman runs the school. It's that big shack below the copra sheds."

Thurlow knew the place he meant, and had actually seen a number of children working inside it, but it had borne the appearance of a factory rather than a school-house. The children had



Cpl. W. H. McCoy, Charlottetown, left, and Tpr. P. A. LeClair, North Rustico, P. E. I., of Canada's Army Coronation Contingent, have sailed from Quebec City aboard the S. S. Atlantic for England. They will join other groups at Pirbright Camp, near London, to commence final training for the colourful ceremonies on June 2nd. The final draft, consisting of 11 officers and 79 men were scheduled to arrive in Liverpool on Thursday, May 14th.

seemed to be engaged in rope and mat making as far as his observations had gone.

"Oh, is that it?" he said, cautiously. "I haven't noticed it particularly. But are Moloko and his wife qualified teachers?"

"Certainly — for the job," the trader told him. "Porson decided a long time ago that it was a waste of time to teach these Kanaka kids anything but what was going to be useful to them, so they concentrate on the native arts — sentit making and tapa weaving, and all that sort of thing. Moloko's woman is about the best tapa weaver on the island, and it means that they're actually producing something useful — and saleable — while they're learning."

"I see," Thurlow said slowly — and he did. It meant that even the children were being exploited, and their education consisted in the production of marketable goods for the traders' benefit. It added one more count to the long list, but he was wondering why Strang had thought fit to call his attention to this obvious piece of chicanery.

It appeared, however, that the trader considered the time was ripe to come into the open. "I needn't tell you, I suppose, that you can't believe all you read in those reports you're sweating over," he went on, with a great air of frankness. "Official returns never tell the truth, anyway. They've always got to be cooked up a bit to avoid unnecessary

trouble. It pleases the folks back in Auckland, and doesn't do any harm here, so everyone's happy. It's irregular, I know but, after all, we've got ourselves to consider. This isn't like one of those places where they've only got to sing out for a warship to get one. We're on our own here — two white men against a couple of hundred Kanakas."

"It was necessary from the first to take a strong line and when we'd get the upper hand it was up to us to keep it. Any concessions would only have made them think we were weakening and then there would have been trouble straight off. Well, the kind of education the Government approves would have acted just that way. It would have given them the idea that they were as good as we were — and that would have been the end of us. That was why Porson set his face against missionaries. This 'dark brother' stuff just won't work in our position. Either we've got to hold 'em down firmly or they

KINGSTON UNITED W. M. S.

The May meeting of the Kingston United W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. Owen Younker. Miss Irma Newson was leader of the devotional period, of which the theme was "A great door and effectual is opened." It was followed by the hymn, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". The scripture reading, from Corinthians 12:4-13, was read by Mrs. Bert Willis, and prayer was by the leader. The Christian Stewardship was read by Mrs. Owen Younker. A reading, "After the Darkness the Light" was read by Mrs. Lorne Smith.

A very interesting talk on Berwick Camp was given by Mrs. J. D. McFarlane, Cornwall. Minutes of the last meeting were read, followed by roll call with a verse of scripture, answered by 13 members. Three visitors were present.

It was moved and seconded that each member make two pounds of candy for the Mission Band play. A letter of thanks was read from a sick member. The meeting closed with the hymn, "Pass Me Not O Gentle Saviour", and the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Bert Willis, when the lunch committee will be Mrs. Lyman Newson, Mrs. James Jewell and Mrs. Edgar Newson.

Lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge, and a social hour spent.

climb all over us. There's no middle way."

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- Swans Down Cake Flour, pkg. 43c
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- Woodbury's, Palmolive, Cashmere Bouquet, Soap, 4 cakes 28c

Meat And Fish Dept.

- Wieners, lb. 39c
- Fresh and corned Spare Ribs, 4 lbs. . . 65c
- Roasting Pork, lb. 53c
- Rolled Rib Roast, lb. 73c
- Rolled Chuck Roast, lb. 59c
- Young Fowl, Grade "A", lb. 52c
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NOTICE OF POLL

SCHOOL UNIT NO. 1

To All Persons Qualified To Vote At School Meetings:

Take notice that for the purpose of electing TWO TRUSTEES for School Unit No. 1—One Trustee to each Polling Division—a poll will be held on Wednesday, the tenth day of June, 1953 from 12 o'clock noon to 9 P.M.

POLLING DIVISION NO. 1—Is defined as that portion of School Unit No. 1 formerly known as the school districts of Spring Park and Parkdale.

POLLING DIVISION NO. 2—Is defined as that portion of School Unit No. 1 outside the former school districts of Spring Park and Parkdale.

Nominations of candidates for election to the Board of Trustees shall be filed with the Secretary at any time up until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of May 30, 1953. Each nomination shall be signed by at least two sponsors who are ratepayers in the Unit. The candidate must be a ratepayer resident in the Division and, unless such candidate is a parent ratepayer his or her nomination paper must be signed by at least one parent ratepayer.

GORDON M. RICE,
Secretary, School Unit No. 1.