

# We And Our Neighbours

By Ruhamah Scheinfeld Frank  
HOW FAR IS NEAR?

There are people who spend their lives tracking down other people and there are those who spend happy days and years hunting down words. Sleuthing after the word "neighbour" was fun for me. "Neighbour" is a good Anglo-Saxon word composed of "neah" meaning "nigh" and "gubur", a "dweller"—thus the first definition (Webster's) of neighbour is, "One who lives (or dwells) near another."

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question, "How far is near?" Can we measure nearness in terms of distance or in terms of time? Is the person who is removed from us by the width of a narrow hall in an apartment house, more a neighbour than the one separated from us by a hundred acre farm? Do the people of Elmira, for instance, regard those of Tignish more as neighbours now when it takes several hours to get there by car, than when it took four or five days to travel by horse and buggy? Are neighbours more or less neighbours on P. E. I. when the snow-plough clears the road so they can easily visit back and forth, than when the road is blocked and it takes much time and effort to get through?

Or what about places off the island? Moncton is about 55 minutes from Charlottetown by plane and almost seven hours by train. Does it make a difference in the neighbourliness of folks in Charlottetown and Moncton whether one is plane-minded or train-minded? Or let us look across the ocean for a moment. A fast steamer takes about five days to cross the Atlantic. A plane leaving P. E. I. at 5:30 a.m. reaches London about 11:40 a.m. of the next day, allowing ample time for stop-overs (changing horses, so to speak). Can we sing out, "Hi, Neighbour!" with more truth as we step off the run-way of the plane than if we come down the gang-plank of the ship?

It seems then, that in 1952, modern inventions have telescoped distances to such an extent that we cannot decide who is our neighbour on that score alone. What about the next definition of a neighbour, "one who lives on friendly terms with another?" That is what we all know and feel; a neighbour must be friendly. But we still have the problem, "How far is near" involved in the word "lives." How large an area must be shared by those who "live" on friendly terms with one another? ... Finally, we learn that a neigh-

bour is "one who is near in nature and therefore ready to perform or entitled to good offices; a fellow being; one of the human race." Now indeed we have pushed back all boundaries. No matter where he lives, or who he is, any human being can be our "neighbour." It is possible for him to "perform—good offices" and he is "entitled to good offices" from us if he does so perform. World events show us that we must somehow, sometimes, include in our inventions a device to turn each "fellow being" into a neighbour or—who has the heart to predict the kind of world there may be? The time must come when to be "near nature" is the only measure of distance.

Yet most of us can only hope to chip away gradually at the barriers that separate far removed peoples and keep them from being "neighbours." We shall be content to try and put into practice the second definition, "a neighbour is one who lives on friendly terms with another." Perhaps we can stretch our friendliness to include those who live further and still further from us.

Indeed, surprisingly enough, we have been doing this right along on the island. Old-timers may recall wistfully the sleigh-rides, the "frolics", the "house-time" of the past, and believe that there was more neighbourliness before cars whizzed like mad along the highways; and folks stayed at home where they "belonged." But even then as a neighbour from Kingston said, "Odd ones wouldn't be asked." And he also said, (he is in his late thirties) comparing now with pre-car days "on the island, "More people know more people." If more and more people get to know more and more people, and learn to understand how much they need each other, and how many needs they have in common, there is hope, isn't there, that eventually the commandment, "Love Thy Neighbour as Thyself" (Leviticus XIX 18—Matthew XIX 19) may become a glorious reality.

## CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of the Charlottetown Auxiliary of the Protestant Orphanage, will be held in Zion Church Ladies' Parlor, Friday, June 20 at 3:30 p.m.

**RECITAL** by pupils of Louise Cox, Heartz Memorial Hall Monday, June 23rd at 8 p.m.

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**ON VACATION HERE** — Dr. Ewen Gillis, head of Dept. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, University of Kentucky, is visiting with his mother, Mrs. Hugh Gillis, and sister, Mrs. Harold MacLeod, Vernon River, and his brother, Mr. Samuel D. Gillis, Rose Valley. Dr. Gillis will spend the remainder of his vacation on the West Coast with his brothers, Dr. Thomas C. Gillis of Kednwick, Washington, and Messrs. Archie and Donald Gillis of Meridian Heights, B. C.

## Personals

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bearsto, Sarnia, Ont. spent Wednesday in the city, guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bearsto, Euston St.

Miss Joyce Gay, of Toronto, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon A. Gay of Southport for a few days before returning to Toronto for her marriage which will take place later in the month.

Mrs. Joseph A. MacDonald (nee Miss Joyce Cantwell) arrived in the city by plane to spend holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Cantwell. Mr. MacDonald, accompanied by his two brothers Ray and Reg, will arrive later this month.

Mrs. Cora Keat, Sarnia, Ont. is a house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Earle MacKay, Sea View. This is Mrs. Keat's first visit to the Maritimes and she is greatly impressed with the beautiful island scenery.

## BEDEQUE UNITED AUXILIARY

The June meeting of the Auxiliary of the Bedeque United Church was held at the home of Mrs. Pearl Affleck. The President, Mrs. E. S. Weeks presided and led the devotional period and Mrs. Edna Jenkins acted as pianist. The opening hymn "Oh Master of a Wakening World," was followed by reading Scripture lesson Psalm 74. Hymn: "Savior Sprinkle Many Nations," and prayer by Miss Louisa Callbeck for the Missionaries in foreign land. The offering amounted to \$16.70. Emergency Fund \$3.65. Community Friendship secretary Mrs. W. J. Reid reported six hospital calls, 17 house visits, and 18 cards sent. Miss Louisa Callbeck spoke on Temperance and conducted the programme theme: "Social Drinking." This subject was dramatized in the form of a playette.

Several articles were passed in to be sent to Korea. A letter was read from Miss Elma Inman, describing her work in Trinidad, and expressing her appreciation for Christmas cards received. A farewell gift was presented to a faithful member, Mrs. George Mizuno, who with her family is leaving shortly for Ontario to join her husband where they plan to reside. Mrs. Mizuno thanked the members for their kind remembrance. At the close of the meeting lunch was served, and a social hour enjoyed.

## "Waiting"

### "HOPING FOR PEACE"

A universe awaits enshrouded in deep gloom, A stillness hovers o'er all with storm-clouds o'erhead, An ominous presentiment of disaster, A grim foreboding which fill all hearts with fear, dread.

All nations waiting for a peace that never comes, Month after month negotiations going on, Seemingly without any progress being made, Waiting, despairing, 'til hope of settlement's gone.

Countless thousands made homeless by war's ravages, Mothers fleeing in terror, their possessions left Behind,—grasping just the dearest of their treasures, Their children by the hand,—horror-stricken, bereft,—

Of their sons, husbands, and all their hearts held most dear; Oh, God! help, pity and comfort, all the harassed, And bereaved of all the earth, whose loved ones go forth To battle for the right,—to make our freedoms last.

Let not their sacrifice be all for naught, in vain, Give all in authority patience, and insight, A sense of responsibility, brotherhood, So peace may come not by the sword's, but by THY might.

Written Monday, March 17, 1952, when there were dark storm-clouds hovering o'er the part of the earth visible from my windows and the whole out-doors seemed enveloped in gloom. An ominous sense of something fearful awaiting all the universe. The gloominess of the weather matching the feeling of foreboding in men's hearts as they wait trying to find a silver lining,—a gleam of hope that peace may again reign on the earth in our time.— G. S. Gordon.

## ALBERTON W. M. S.

The June meeting of the Alberton Auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society was held in the United Church Hall.

The associate members were especially invited to this meeting and the opening worship service was conducted by Mrs. Charles Johnston, associate member secretary, assisted by Mrs. Fred Leard who read the poem, "While We Have Time". Mrs. A. R. Wallis who read the scripture from the twelfth chapter of Romans, and Mrs. John Wells who sang "Was That Somebody You?" During this part of the service the offering was received and dedicated by the leader.

Mrs. Green, the president, then took the chair for the business meeting. She welcomed the associate members who were present and also two regular members who had been unavoidably absent from the meetings for some months.

The secretary, Miss Annie Leard, in the reading of the minutes, stated that since the presentation of the Membership Certificates recently to Mrs. A. C. Green and Mrs. John Wells, there are now twelve life members in the Auxiliary.

Mrs. Underhill Coughlin, corresponding secretary, reported a card of acknowledgement received from Mrs. Cecil Hutti, and Mrs. Green announced that the West Prince Rally would accept the invitation to meet in Alberton at a date to be announced later.

The nominating committee were asked to secure a Mission Band leader to replace Mrs. Frank Weeks who asked to be relieved of that office.

Plans were made for the next meeting when the hall hostess will be Mrs. Heber Hardy; worship leader, Mrs. Arthur Wright; study leader, Mrs. Fred Leard, and Watchtower reporter, Mrs. Charles Johnston.

The study period was then led by Mrs. Green based on the story from "MacLean's" of Dr. Allen's experiences as a prisoner of the Chinese Reds and stressing that as these facts were unfolded no one should think complacently that it could not happen here.

In the closing social hour lunch was served by several of the members.

## HEAVY CONFETTI

TORONTO—(CP)—Italian exhibitors at the International Trade Fair here showed Italian "confetti"—hard white candy with almond centre. In Italy newly-weds sent the "confetti" to their friends in artistic boxes. The colored scraps of paper they actually toss at weddings are known as "cori-andoli."

## Graduate Of Toronto U., To Continue In Divinity



Mr. Bryer Robert Jones (shown above) of Cross Roads, recently graduated from the University of Toronto with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

In conjunction with regular work at Victoria College, he took courses in the College of the Churches of Christ, and this spring received a diploma from the college. Next fall he intends to take post graduate work in theology at Emmanuel College Toronto, working toward the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. He is a candidate for the Ministry of the Church of Christ (Disciples).

Mr. Jones, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bryer Jones, taught school for three years, 1944-47 and was an honour graduate of P.W.C. class '46. He worked with the Department of Education as acting supervisor of schools for one year, before entering Victoria College, University of Toronto in the fall of 1950.

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