

P.O. Box, 3, Delhi, Ontario  
29 th. May, 1949.

Dear Mr. Millott.

It is a fine thing indeed to read letters from people far away, and yours was no exception. I feel honoured that you cared enough to write to me at all. I hope we shall be able to enjoy the mutual expression of ideas etc., for a long time.

Every Sun. afternoon I have of recent months, devoted to answering any letters I may have received during the week, or in writing to new addresses. Yours arrived yesterday, 6 weeks after the mailing date. This will probably take the same length of time to reach you.

Your system of schools is similar in many ways to our own. We have ten Provinces - now that the Island of Newfoundland and Labrador have come into confederation with Canada. Each has its own Gov't Dep't of Education. However local school boards of county and municipal size finance each school or group of school as in the case of a city or a group of rural schools. All that the Gov't Dep't does is to make the grades of studies uniform over the Province and to keep the standard comparable with that of other Provinces. The Dep't gives grants to each local school board and also sets the standard for the training of teachers in the "Normal" schools. There are private schools which are not free, and which teach usually the standard courses. The Roman Catholic Church of course has its own Separate Schools and the Gov't makes grants to these also. That is a sore spot with Protestant voters for often the number of R C children in a locality is very small and yet the grant is paid as it were by the Protestant tax payers. It is an issue much played upon every election time.

There are Kindergarten classes for the very young in the larger centers, and then from the age of 5 to 7 years there is the Public school with grades from 1 to 8. After that are the High School grades from 9 to 13. High school usually means a standard Matriculation course, but where there are facilities in the school there is available the option of a

technical or commercial business course. Free school extends to the end of grade 13 and compulsory schooling is for everyone to the age of 14 in the rural schools and 16 in the urban schools.

WE have some Religious Education in the Public schools, something like three  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. periods per week or each grade. The Ministers of the various Churches of the locality co-operate in teaching an equal number of periods. Here we have The United Church, The Baptist Church, The Anglican Church, and The Latter Day Saints Church. I believe that there is used for this purpose film strip projectors and also moving and sound picture projector, both of which were presented to the United Church last Fall.

It is the same in this country as you have mentioned as being the case in Australia. Church attendance has fallen off to a large degree. Here in a small town I mean Village-- like Delhi (pop. 2100 or 25000) Y P organizations in the Church are almost farcial there so few turn out for the meetings. Between the School and the Kinsmen, the Optimists, the Masons, the Odd-fellows, the Knights of Columbus, and all their Junior and Womens' side organisations and even the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the ex-curricular time of the Y P and students seems to be to full for there to be any left for the Church. There are a large number of European people here who seem to be bound and bent not to become Canadians in the sense of the word but strive mightily to retain there old lives and to perpetrate "New World" counterparts of their old Homelands. Accordingly we have large and expensive Halls built-- Polish, Belgian, Hungarian, and now just being built a magnificently huge German Hall, all at the cost of thousands of dollars paid by these New Canadians. It makes one wonder why they came here since they seem to merely want to continue the old quarrels and controversies they had in Europ

I have my own opinions as to the why and where-fors of all this rising tide of what I shall call paganism for the want of a more descriptive word, but whatever it is, it is rising hand in hand with the spread of Drunkenness and Smoking

That in turn is largely due to Gov't policy. Up to 1930 there was in effect in Ontario a Prohibition Law. It started in the World War 1 and replaced then the Canada Temperance Act. In 1930 the Ontario Law was withdrawn largely due to behind the scenes-payment of campaign money the all the political parties by the Brewing Co's. When this Law was withdrawn the older C T A law was supposed to go into effect automatically since it was a Dominion Law. However the Ontario Gov't conveniently forgot about this and did not even enforce the C T A in the Counties where by local option had remained "dry" under the C T A. Now the Liquor Control act is in force which is in effect a sale and promotion of alcoholic beverages, act. "Dining lounges" may stay open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following morning while cocktail bars for men and, or women must close at 10 p.m. There established everywhere Ontario Gov't Brewers Retail Stores, to give the full name, which sells beer wine and spirits (I'm not sure about the spirits) by the case lots or bottle to anyone who has to show a Permit. The Permit costs but a Dollar a year to any adult and permits him to buy enough "beverage" to make a whole battalion drunk each week, every week. That statement is exaggerated but in general it is true.

So there you have some of our woes and they make me rather discouraged. There is a option clause which allows a petition to be presented whenever an application is made from any town for a cocktail bar licence or dining lounge lic. but the ones who do not want it have to get out and tramp the streets to gather the signatures and then properly prepare them and send them in to the Authorities, all for no remuneration. I did this about a year ago against a series of applications and got the Ministers of the three Churches to help and managed to quash three of the four app's. The fourth was the app'n. of the Legion which all across the country is known as a club to get the returned soldiers drunk for old times sake. Now I hear that in the local paper there has appeared notices of application for beer selling licences for three of these foreign halls I've been telling you about. I started the

ball rolling and kept going before and I feel it is my duty to do so again cause I've a feeling that the people here are so dead or baised that they don't care if the village becomes more and more drunken & debauched. We do not take the Local weekly paper because it is so bias in favour of the chief industry here the growing and processing tobacco. That is natural I suppose, but my Parents do not like to read a paper that is nearly all about something they believe to be wrong. I argued that we should get it just so we could check up on anything like these applications. There are many people who do not approve of further drunkenness which would be brought on by more outlets but they seem not to care to do anything about it, but merely to complain that the world is going to the dogs and things are not as they used to be.

That space represents an interval of time in which I have been to the evening Church Service- picked up an extra copy of the weekly paper I mentioned above- drove around to the various Ministers who were at home yet from the evening services and enlisted their support and told them of what I was or I should say- what I am planning to do. eg. I've already typed out a petition form which my Father will take down to Simcoe tomorrow ( Simcoe is the town next to the east of us here 12 mi. away) There He will get the President of the Norfolk Temperance Federation (Norfolk is the county we are situated in) to mimeograph copies enough to distribute to various men whom I hope the Reverend Gentlemen will be able to enlist. Then if I can have the copies by tomorrow night I shall take them around and find out what streets the various men can canvass. Last time we had about 250 names I hope we shall have more than that this time. The application notices have been out two weeks now and we must have our petitions in by the 7th of June so as to be the required 10 days ahead of the hearing date. It is not so bad to face the prospect of another fight to enlist support once you get going, but every one has seen those notices before me yet no one did anything confound them! And even those who are in favour of the Cause did not.

5.

Well I'm afraid I must close on that topic for it  
10.45 p.m. now and I have 9 hrs. of work at the gar  
tomorrow as usual and with the running around aft  
hours about this petition and the tension that I  
always work up when trying to persuade people, I  
shall have to have all the energy that can muster  
I intend yet tonight to look up a map of Delhi  
that I made for one of my New Zealand pen-pals and  
list the names of the streets for the canvassers.

By the time you receive this the whole thing will  
be over with but never the less it will be a first  
hand account of what I'm doing just now anyway.

So cherrie and don't work too hard,

Yours very truly,