

THE CLUB STAR

Garnier Residential School
Spanish, Ontario

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GRADE ELEVEN DEBATE.

On December 14th the Grade Eleven Debating Society held its first public meeting. The subject chosen for their debate was both topical and interesting: "Resolved that the Western Powers should use the atomic bomb on Russia now." Upholding the affirmative were Basil Johnston, Dominic McComber, and Alphonse Trudeau. Defending the negative side of the question were Julius Neganigig, Alfred Cooper and Francis Commanda. David Joeko very capably filled the office of chairman for the evening disputation. The speakers on both sides delivered their arguments clearly and slowly.

The affirmative based their case on the fact that the use of the atomic bomb would stop the spread of communism, free the oppressed peoples of Europe and Asia, give freedom to Russia by ridding the country of the Soviet clique. They argued that the use of the atomic bomb now would be less costly in lives and money than waiting till Russia strikes or until it is too late. The negative maintained that the use of the atomic bomb was against Christian principles, that scientists were afraid of the chain reactions. They hammered at the scientific aspect of the question. Eloquently the negative portrayed the sufferings of the innocent people in Russia while the leaders would escape all destruction.

Basil Johnston and his fellow speakers marshalled their arguments better and had more facts and figures to support their resolution. The negative were quicker on the rebuttal and appealed to the audience. The most noteworthy feature of the debate was the refutation by the speakers on both sides. The judges, Miss Whalen, Miss Lebel, Miss Dwyer, awarded the decision to the affirmative by three points.

The debate showed that the speakers had spent much thought and research on the topic under discussion. Each speaker could be heard clearly at the back of the hall. The chairman opened the question to the house. Several young ladies from the Girls' School gave their opinions for or against the use of the atomic bomb.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Following the precedent set last year many of the boys went home for the Christmas vacation. Cars and trucks rolled up to the front door and big and small boys smilingly waved good-bye. Needless to say there were rejoicings both on the part of the boys going home and the faculty. The boys who remained looked with anticipation to the days ahead—no class, skating, games. The first task was to complete the decorating of the Recreation Hall and Students' Dining Room. Ladders, crepe paper, wreaths and questions filled the air. The magic touch of Christmas transformed the old familiar place into new rooms.

The programme for the holidays was printed and placed in the Recreation Hall. Every night had its own event.

- Dec. 19—Movie
- 20—Skating Party.
- 21—Bingo.
- 22—Sliding Party.
- 23—Skating Party.
- 24—Movie.
- 25—Midnight Mass and the arrival of Santa Claus at 7 p.m.
- 26—Movie.
- 27—Skating Party.
- 28—Sleigh Ride.
- 29—Broomball.
- 30—Skating Party.
- 31—Movie.
- Jan. 1—Sports Nite.
- 2—Movie.

The youngsters like Jimmy King, Joe Michel and Simon had their own separate programme and what they enjoyed most was the lunch every evening. Santa Claus had quite a time on Christmas night as he handed out parcels to all the boys. Little faces quivered waiting for their names to be called out. Perhaps they thought that old Santa had forgotten them — but, no—he remembered everyone. Papers covered the recreation hall floor as parcels were eagerly opened. Games were tried out, and cars wheeled across the floor. When bedtime came, precious gifts were clutched tightly and taken up to bed with their owners. Christmas comes but once a year and it is truly a child's feast day.

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EDITORIAL

When lips are curved in smiles they quickly shape themselves into song. On Christmas day we hum those melodies that have been handed down by countless generations. No other songs are half as beautiful as Christmas carol. The Gloria in Excelsis of the angels is the sweetest, gayest song that ever crossed the lips of men. Adeste Fidelis, Hark the Herald Angels and O Little Town of Bethlehem transport us to the stable and in silent adoration we kneel with Mary and Joseph.

Why is Christmas so unique in song and melody. Easter is glorious but Christmas is a day of joy. It is the birth day of Christ, the Saviour of the world. It is only in music that we can express our admiration for God's generosity in giving us His Only Son. More precious than the joy, the laughter and the music is the peace which Christ brought to us on His birthday. The Prince of Peace drained the first Christmas of its poverty, suffering and loneliness to give us peace of heart. The angelic voices on that day announced the motto of Christ, the campaign—Peace on earth to men of good-will.

Where Christ is there is peace and good will. Each of us can keep Christmas in his heart throughout the coming year by being close friends of Christ, the Prince of Peace. The peace of Christ is the most precious of gifts. It will not tarnish. You can carry it wherever you go. It will comfort you in distress and add a new note to your joys.

The Fathers, Brothers and teachers of Garnier wish and pray that Christ will bestow this precious gift on every Garnier boy. May each student carry into 1949 the blessing of Christ. To your friends, relatives and parents we extend our wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas and Good New Year. The boys who remained at the school for the vacations remembered you and all the friends of the school at Mass on Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

THE ART CORNER

It takes almost as much skill to decorate as it does to paint a picture. The old Greek motto, familiar to the Grade "Elevens" "Nothing in excess" certainly applies to decorations. Maurice Peltier and James Wemigwans spent much time and labour in making the Students' Dining Room attractive. Herman Peltier, Cornelius McComber, Alphonse Shawana and Peter Cooper all had a hand in decorating various rooms in the house. David Jocko had all his paintings on display for the Christmas Dance. He also re-painted the back-drap for the crib in the chapel.

MIDNIGHT MASS

To a Catholic, Christmas would be incomplete without Midnight Mass. To the boys at the school, it is one of the biggest events of the year. Quickly after supper they go to bed in order to be wide-awake during the Mass. The choir put their heart and soul into the singing. The Mass servers in their red and white soutanes, the Christmas wreaths and the Infant Jesus in the Crib, all contributed their share to the spirit of joy which filled the chapel. For a brief hour everyone forgot the turmoil and strife which headlines the daily newspapers. At the second Mass the boys and girls sang three favourite hymns—Adeste Fidelis, Angels we have heard on High, and Silent Night. For that one night we were all united, the boys in the church at Wikwemikong, Cutler, Little Current—all united in spirit, all singing Christmas hymns.

GARNIER ORCHESTRA

Under Mr. Bazinet's direction the orchestra has made steady progress. They played during the intermissions at the Christmas concert and judging by the applause, the music was highly appreciated. The Garnier Orchestra made school history on the night of the Christmas dance. The piano was placed on the decorated stage and Mr. Bazinet, like a Tommy Dorsey, took over the job of Master of Ceremonies. Waltzes and fox-trots were played between the square dances. A very effective arrangement was when the dancing couples sang "A White Christmas" and "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town", as the orchestra softly played the melodies. Much praise is due to Mr. Bazinet and to each member of the orchestra.

SPORTS

BLACK HAWKS TRIUMPH—

December ushered in the finals for our Fall Basketball League. Black Hawk Seniors tangled with Canadiens in the semi-finals. The Hawks living up to their season form easily overcame the Canadiens. Their fast passing, consistent hard playing and accurate shooting was too much for the erratic Canadiens. The Red Wings however had their hands full when they clashed with the red-shirted Maple Leafs in the other semi-final fixture. Led by Julius, the Maple Leafs fought strenuously. Maxie could only eke out a two-point lead in the two games. It was enough however to give his team a right to challenge the Black Hawks for the senior championship.

On Monday, Dec. 6th, the Hawks and Red Wings met for the first of a two out of three series. The Senior girls, supported by the intermediate groups from both schools were on hand to cheer and shout. According to their record on paper, the game looked like a walk-away for Frankie Commanda's Black Hawks. From the first tip-off the Wings played a close guarding game and actually had the superior blue-shirted Hawks baffled and worried. The plays that had so often brought a basket were ruined by the defensive tactics of the Wings. On the third quarter the Red Wings relaxed for a brief two minutes but long enough for the Black Hawks to chalk up six points. Four long centre shots by Maxie brought the crowd to its feet. Play became fast as each team tried to seize the lead. The Hawks were very fortunate to take the game.

The second game of the finals was on Tuesday, the 7th. The Hawks had one game under their belt and needed this second to clinch the title. Evidently Frankie gave them a pre-game pep-talk. The Hawks took command of the game from the first jumpball. Alphonse and Rudy by a series of tricky passes worked the ball under the basket for a quick sure shot. It was good basketball to watch, and the ball handling of the Hawks brought a gleam of joy to the genuine basketball fans among the crowd. The Red Wings who had waged such a valiant fight the night before seemed completely demoralized. Time after time their passes were intercepted and rebounds stolen from their finger tips. Their main fault lay in abandoning the close guarding tactics of the previous evening. The Hawks easily took the game and the championship.

THE SNOW MAN

The girls from St. Joseph's took over the stage on the night of December 13. The operetta performed by the younger girls showed excellent direction and costuming. The theme song gave the title to the play, "The Snowman". Of particular note were the dances of the dolls. The Imps and the Japanese dolls added much colour. The little girl who played the part of Jane moved and acted with naturalness and simplicity. When all the dolls, the Snowman and his court, gathered around Jane, the stage looked like a picture from fairyland.

The intermediate girls added a touch of laughter with their play "The Songs That Santa Loves." The plot revolved around a jester (Rita Jocko) who had been jailed for insulting the Queen of the Christmas Spirit. The Jester was promised his freedom if he was able to discover songs that Santa liked. Rallying all his friends the Jester was able to find several songs that Santa liked. The Queen of the Christmas Spirit was so impressed that she granted the Jester his freedom.

The High School girls in a very vivid Nativity play portrayed the emotions and mental attitude of the shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem before, during and after the birth of Christ. The tableaux were striking and not overdone. Violet Shawanda as the old Jewish patriarch, turned in a topnotch performance. The supporting cast was good. Throughout the play the deep note of Jewish learning and pride was subtly revealed. The conversion of the shepherds from their worldly and false ideas about the Messiah to the acceptance of the Babe of the Stable, was smoothly and easily carried.

The three plays were very enjoyable and the boys of Garnier congratulate Miss Berrigan and Miss Foy and all the girls for a very entertaining evening.

The Hawks deserved to win the league title, for they have been the most consistent team: all season. Their passing, shooting and ball handling have been the best seen in the school. Congratulations to the captain and to each member of the team.

SOCIAL COLUMN

The lights were up, the rink was flooded several times but the weatherman decided to postpone ice. Without ice there can be no skating parties so every one decided that the next best thing would be a Christmas dance. Quickly the decorating crew assembled the trimmings for the hall. It was decided to put up cedar garlands, build a fireplace, and place wreaths and curtains on the windows. Cecil King had quite a time with the garlands. He had one nicely in place and it kept breaking in the centre. After six attempts he finally heaved a sigh of relief as the garland remained in one piece. The fireplace with its red flickering fire, Santa in his red sleigh, gave the right touch of Christmas.

As has been mentioned, Mr. Bazinet was master of ceremonies for the evening. He introduced the boys and girls to a folk dance and the polka. It is funny how shy some people are. After practising the polka before the evening entertainment started, a few of the boys had to be coaxed to step up and show their skill. The orchestra was a real asset during the whole evening. After the lunch five boys and girls washed the dishes and set the tables. They showed unaccustomed speed when they heard the sounds of music and dancing coming from the Recreation Hall.

It was the last party of the school term and certainly one of the most enjoyable. The social lights are now looking forward to the skating parties and the St. Patrick's dance. The three main events of the past term were the last day of summer dance, the Hallowe'en masquerade and the Christmas dance.

HOCKEY

The Garnier Intermural Hockey League is now in its stride. The Junior rink has been lengthened to allow Junior and Midget teams to have a larger ice surface. The future of hockey in any school depends upon the development of young players in the school leagues. The Midgets and Juniors play twice a day. The Seniors and Intermurieta teams play during noon recreation. Thus six games are played daily and extra games on holidays.

The rink is reserved at night for the school team practices. This year the majority of the team will be young and light. There are many promising players and after much practise should be a fast young team. The hockey schedule for the season has not yet been

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Dec. 11 the stage was erected and everything prepared for the annual Christmas Concert. The Little Carollers with lanterns, song sheets, red toques and scarfs opened with four Christmas numbers: "Away In A Manger," Santa Claus Is Coming To Town", "Jingle Bells and "Deck The Halls". Grades Three and Four gave their own rendition of "The Night Before Christmas." Jimmy Kitchikeg was Santa Claus. The little chaps all took their parts well and Mr. Bazinet spent much time in preparing for the event.

"A Christmas Fantasy" re-told the story of Bethlehem. Peter Armstrong as the Old Man, stopped two young lads from fighting (Joe Michel and Larry Lavalley), The Old Man narrated the story of the first Christmas. As he explained why Christ came on earth, the scenes which took place at Bethlehem were acted on the stage. The playlet was very effective because of its simplicity and naturalness. The characters in the Nativity scenes were: Blessed Virgin, Wilfred Enosse; St. Joseph, Joe Marion; Two Jews: Leslie Day and Franklin Lavalley; The Archangel, Stanley Pitawanakat; Angels, B. McComber, M. Bell, W. Shawana, D. Southwind, M. Daybutch, A. Bebamikawe.

The main play of the evening was entitled "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus." The cast was as follows:

Nicholas, J. Norton; Hans, Clement Trudeau; Otto P. Cooper; Jan, A. Belleau; Bavran, R. Jocko; Laurens, E. Norton; Marsden, R. Daybutch; Henryk, C. Trudeau. The Squire, A. Cooco; Widow Appren, W. Belleau; Lief, F. Abel; Gypsies, D. Jacobs, T. Daybutch.

(Owing to lack of space this story has been considerably curtailed).

announced but the second week of January will see the neighbouring teams in action. Massey and Blind River are reported to be organizing teams. For fifteen years now more Garnier has dominated Junior Hockey in this district. From 1930-1940 the school played the senior teams of the district. Even during the '46 and '47 seasons the Cadets, winners of Senior North Shore League, were held to a tie. In the 47-48 season the school began to play juvenile and won the sectional title. Juvenile or High School hockey is our proper age and weight division.