

AUTHOR ADDRESSES ACADIA GROUP — Dr. Thomas Raddall of Liverpool, famed Nova Scotia author, was guest speaker when the Men's Discussion Group of Acadia University held their closing meeting this week. The noted writer spoke of the position of literature in Canada and of problems facing the Canadian writer. He is shown above chatting with club members at the meeting. Left to right, are Prof. P. G. Cornell, retiring president; Dr. Raddall, and Brigadier H. J. D. Keating, new president. (Macaulay Photo).

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Outlines Position Of Canadian Literature

WOLFVILLE, April 17—In the Massey Report, which consists of several hundred pages, only six are used in a chapter headed "Letters" to deal with Canadian literature which shows the position of literature in Canada," stated Dr. Thomas Raddall, of Liverpool in his address before the closing meeting of the Men's Discussion Group of Acadia University, held at the Paramount Hotel.

The speaker went on to say that in all of Canada only a score of stores dealt exclusively with the sale of books, and even with departmental stores there were only 100 in Canada which have a real book shelf.

The biggest problems of all for the author Dr. Raddall said, are the book clubs and paper reprints—the "soft backs". These have revolutionized the book trade and have almost put the book store out of business. The publisher sells very cheaply, the plate to a book club, owned by a publishing company, and the book clubs issue thousands of copies, which sell cheaply and for which the author gets very little. Not only Canadian

Open Navigation Season In PEI

CHARLOTTETOWN, April 18 — Navigation for the 1952 season has been opened here.

The ship "Magdalen" was the first craft to enter the Charlottetown Harbor this season. She arrived here this week from the Magdalen Islands. From here she will go to Pictou, completing a three-way run.

The Magdalen will be on a regular Summer run between here and the Magdalen Islands. She is in command of Captain Julien Menard.

authors but all authors are facing this revolution in the writing profession. Their royalties come from the book stores, but as these are being forced out, so the authors are finding it most difficult to make a living.

The speaker was introduced by Prof. Cornell, of Acadia University.

April 18 — The Nova Scotia Union, at its annual convention here today, invites locals to seek affiliation under the new constitution Act.

The convention will continue Monday with the annual business session of the organization as well as a dinner for some 80 delegates. More than 3,000 delegates are expected to hold a general assembly here from April 19 to 23, 1953. The convention is the largest of affiliates in the province.

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Railway Bowling Meet Under Way At Truro

TRURO, April 18—With scores topping the 1,500 mark in the 25th annual Canadian Railway Bowling Association tournament for the Todd Trophy, the event is under way here to date. Several matches have been completed and another four are in progress Saturday.

Getting the responsibility of the event under way, the superintendent, J. W. Robinson, rolled the first ball. W. E. Robinson, president and Canadian National representative from Moncton.

In the first round, Halifax defeated a flying squad of four points. The second round took a different turn with a 1-0 victory for Campbell over getting into the final.

Truro is the third municipality to win the trophy. For the first time since 1910, Moncton was not represented.

Reports were given to the meeting by B. H. Ruggles for the house committee; E. B. Tufts, match committee; Irving McKenna, canteen committee, and A. L. Robinson for the ways and means committee. It was decided the curling bulletin would be continued next season with Fred Cook as editor. A list of banks was given.

Named President Of Curling Club

DIGBY, April 18—Freeman L. Wilson was elected president of the Digby Curling Club at the annual banquet meeting of the club, held at the Hotel Champlain here. Other officers elected at the meeting, which was presided over by retiring president W. A. Hanson, were Dr. L. F. Doiron, first vice-president; E. B. Tufts, second vice-president; Elle Comeau, treasurer, and Harold Nichols, secretary.

Report of the treasurer, given by Mr. Comeau, showed total receipts for the year amounting to \$5,510.43. Total expenditures amounted to \$5,170.24, leaving a balance of \$340.19. Receipts in dues amounted to \$1,947.03.

Webster Dunn, reporting for the ladies' committee, stated the Ladies' Curling Club had enjoyed a most successful year. He said there were about 58 members in the club.

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for a holiday card May 24 to open the season which will see further development of the local track were made at a meeting of the Bants County Harness Club.

It was decided to look into ways and means of providing lights for the track for night racing. It was reported the runway came through the winter in good shape and further work will be done in improving facilities as the club gets under way for the season. Several stables were built last summer and are occupied, with others to be erected this year.

Wilfred Wier and Bert McLellan were named the classifying committee and Blanchard Harvey track manager. Vice-president Roland Phillips presided.

Amherst Curling Club Closes

AMHERST, April 18 — The Amherst Curling Club closed its season in banquet form with the senior curlers as hosts and with more than 140 curlers at the tables. It was the first time in several years that the juniors have not been the hosts. The business session included the presentation of trophies.

Today's Starters

NEW YORK, April 18 — (AP)—Probable pitchers for tomorrow's major league baseball games (1951 records in brackets):

American League

Philadelphia at Boston (2) —

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GILLIS PURCELL, *General Manager and Secretary*

JACK BRAYLEY, *Chief of Bureau,*
[SUPERVISING MARITIME SERVICE]
379 BARRINGTON STREET,
HALIFAX, CANADA

April 29, 1952.

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Tom:

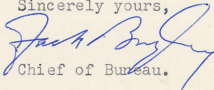
The other day we picked up briefly what you had to say in Wolfville about the position of Canadian literature. I enclose the clipping from The Chronicle-Herald, which refers very sketchily to what looks like a damn good subject.

I wonder if you have the text so that we could do a better job of quoting our best author. This Chronicle-Herald rewrite leaves much to be desired. If you'll lend me the text, I'll send it back.

Incidentally, if you could tell us what your latest literary project is, it would be very helpful and give us a newspeg for a better story.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Chief of Bureau.

JB/kbm
enc.

May 1st, 1952

Hello Jack,

This must be telepathy or something. Not long ago when I was in Halifax on one of my semi-annual here-today and-gone-today visits, I had a hunch to call you up for a chat, as it was a long time since we saw each other; but of course something interfered, my wife's shopping probably, and that was that.

That Wolfville address was made without a prepared text, so there's no copy to be had. The only notes I had were of two or three quotes that I wanted to give exactly. Gist of the thing was that the Massey Report on Canadian Arts, Letters and Sciences disposed of Canadian Literature in a single chapter of less than 6 pages, out of 586. It reflected exactly the place that our native literature occupies, and I went on to give some practical reasons for the scantiness of Letters in Canada, chiefly financial. There are only 25 honest-to-God bookshops between Halifax and Victoria and about 100 large stores that maintain a fairly good book department. A Canadian author who depended on Canadian sales would starve to death. He has to look to the U.S. market for the greater part of his income, which lets him in for agents' fees, a U.S. tax of 15% and of course the Canadian income tax. The temptation is to move across the border where he has only one tax authority to deal with -- and the U.S. income tax is and always has been much more lenient with authors than ours. (It was not till the Year of Our Lord 1949 that the Canadian Income Tax Department admitted at last that a Canadian author actually worked for his living. Up to that time the ruling was that royalties on books were the same as royalties on oil wells, etc. and an author's entire earnings from this source were taxed an extra 4% as "Unearned Income" !)

I dealt also with the general picture, the revolution that has taken place in the bookselling trade through the operation of book clubs and huge editions of "softbacks", which pay the author only a fractional royalty. (i.e. a "softback" edition of 150,000 copies pays a total royalty of \$1500, which the author has to split 50-50 with the original publisher of the "hardback" edition. The U.S. tax is 15%, so the Canadian writer winds up with less than \$640.)

Well, Jack, I recited all this to the university people in Wolfville because I felt they might as well know the hard facts. I'm not sure that it would be wise to publicize it -- from my own point of view. I mean I have to do business with

publishers and book clubs here and in the States and Britain on their own terms, and a public squawk of this kind picked up by the press might do me more harm than good. I'd like to yell the whole damned thing from the house-tops but I have to recognise that I'm in a highly competitive profession that is very much at the mercy of the publishers. At the present time the U.S. publishers and book clubs are highly sensitive, because they are under a government investigation for unfair trade practices towards the retail bookshops.

At the present time I'm just finishing another novel, title not yet decided, the scenes laid in Nova Scotia and the West Indies in the days of the great rum racket. The central character is a sea-going rogue who makes a fortune, chiefly at the expense of the rum kings, and loses it when he decides to be respectable as proprietor of a coastal shipping business in Nova Scotia in the early years of the Depression. It was a game that I had a first-class chance to watch, here on the south shore, where so many of the rum-ships used to come for supplies and repairs on the old run between St. Pierre and Rum Row, and I met a good many of the leading characters.

If you're ever down this way don't fail to give me a shout.

Sincerely,

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GILLIS PURCELL, *General Manager and Secretary*

JACK BRAYLEY, *Chief of Bureau,*
[SUPERVISING MARITIME SERVICE]
379 BARRINGTON STREET,
HALIFAX, CANADA

May 5, 1952.

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, N. S.

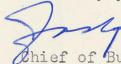
Dear Tom:

What a guy! Your May 1 letter starts out to fill me in on exactly what I need and ends up with the newspeg, but in the middle is the joker.

I certainly don't want to embarrass you with the publishers and the book clubs, so we won't use it, but I'd appreciate if you'd drop in the office next time you're in town and I'll get Irv Whynot to interview you on something less troublesome to use as background for an announcement on your new novel. I'd appreciate too if you'd mull over something we could talk about and keep out of trouble.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,


Chief of Bureau.

JB/kbm

CANADA IN THE YEAR 1067

(On April 6, 1967, the Canadian Press phoned me and posed a question that they are asking one hundred Canadians from coast to coast. "What are your ideas about Canadian conditions one hundred years from now?" A whimsical question of course, and I offered some whimsies in reply, as follows.)

1. Canada has over one hundred million people; and those in British Columbia and Alberta are now as rich and self-important as Ontario used to be.
2. There ^{is} an active Separatist party in Quebec.
3. Eight out of ten Canadians speak English only. Two speak French and English, in that order of preference, and one of these belongs to the Separatist party.
4. Science found a simple means of counter-acting nuclear fission and making it harmless. Hence the most notable feature of the Third World War, as far as Canada was concerned, was that odd metal of all sorts was melted down for orthodox bullets. With instant patriotism Toronto gave up Henry Moore's magnificent sculpture.
5. Canadians bought up all the foreign-owned shares in their economy long ago, and in turn invested billions abroad. They now give ~~billions~~ away billions in foreign aid also. Someone has written a book called The Ugly Canadian, and from ^{Chile} ~~Cile~~ to China there are shouts and scrawls demanding Canuck Go Home. This does not apply to expatriate Canadian poets, actors, painters and others in Paris, London and Hollywood, who thank God for their absence as publicly as possible.
6. Canadians are buying more books than ever before, and some curious minds are still trying to figure out what Marshall McLuhan was trying to communicate back in 1967.
7. There is ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ^{continuing} doubt among seamen of all nations as to whether Canada or Peru owns that red-and-white flag with the blob in the middle.

8. A group of Canadian professors has just published a new History of Canadian Literature. It states at great length that Canada has no literature, but it adds that Canadian critics are the world's best. Meanwhile Canadian writers go on writing non-literature, and Canadian and other non-professors go on reading it.

J.H.R.

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