

## CANADIAN LEGION EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

THESE SERVICES ARE CARRIED ON WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL DEFENCE, NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR NAVAL SERVICES AND NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR BY THE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION, CANADIAN LEGION WAR SERVICES INC., IN COOPERATION WITH THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION WITH THE COLLABORATION OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, EXTENSION DEPARTMENTS OF UNIVERSITIES, CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND OTHER AUTHORITIES.

Committee

Address reply to

June 15, 1944

Mr. Thomas Raddall  
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I want to thank you again for the inspiration you gave us last Thursday evening. Our group was rather heterogeneous, many of them I had not met before, and they rather stole the show from our modest but very fine wrens. Many persons, both in the forces and without, have asked about the meeting. I have met several of those present that night, and all express sincere appreciation. I have not seen our French friend who is in the field to sea, but at least he is aggressive, and is going after what he wants. Lieut. Coates did not express his real sentiments when he emphasized selling. He takes infinite pains with his written work, and accepts criticism with appreciation.

I am working on the idea that when persons of similar interests, from various parts of the Dominion, meet and work together the individual life must surely be enriched, and the bonds of national union strengthened. Neither am I above wanting our guests to appreciate Nova Scotia, and how can they gain that appreciation better than through seeing it through their eyes and heart of a writer who loves it. I was so glad when you brought out that fact of actually mentioning NOVA SCOTIA in every story. I had not realized that. My outstanding impression is of the living qualities of the characters.

I shall take your advice about continuing the classes for the summer. I shall stop lectures - or rather the informal talks I have been giving. We shall give the first hour to writing, the second to criticism. I shall work in what I want to say through the criticisms. Mrs Coates is coming to us tonight that will close the special speakers for the summer.

Again I do thank you for coming. At least that many readers, I believe new ones, will be awaiting with interest the new book which I believe we are to have this fall.

You might be interested in the fate of my copy of His Majesty's Yankees. My home is in Guysboro County, in a small community where people love to read, but read anything that comes. I send books there as I can. I wanted a Christmas box for a queer old fellow who reads ANYTHING. I sometimes give him my Atlantic Monthly, sometimes a child's book. All the same he reads them all. So with some misgivings ~~with~~ parting I sent him your book. He read it three times before passing it on.

Quote File No.

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When I was down in the spring it had gone through six families, and was approved as "the best yarn yet". So much for literary criticism.

Thank you again for meeting our group. Personally I wish I were young enough to try the game again. I shall always be interested in creative writing, even if I cannot write.

Very sincerely yours,

*Lana Suttis*

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Committee

Address reply to

*Ans'd.  
Jan 4/445*

Dear Mr. Raddall,

I have long intended writing you. First, to tell you how much I enjoyed several quick peeps into ROGER SUDDEN before passing each copy I bought on for Christmas. My own full enjoyment is to come a little later, when evenings may afford some leisure.

But I particularly want to tell you about our Service Writers Group who continue to function. The poets, who aroused my grave fears, have been most interesting. Two have found markets in the Canadian Home Journal. When Charlotte Boucher's poems came out in October - November issues. I am enclosing on of the pages I happen to have. Now Corp. Peter North, a man of middle age, has had four poems accepted by the same magazine. We have had criticisms, complementary as well as scathing, from various sources, and some poems are still but seeking a home.

Miss Boucher is at work on a full length novel. Two others are at work on similar projects. One, Lieut Coates, is now in Labrador, but sends frequent reports of his novel - last report it had arrived at the 21,000 word stage. He sent a very clear synopsis of the action. An air-force man, Corp. Redman, is at work on a novel covering one hundred and fifty years <sup>in history</sup> in which I have faith. I like what he writes. He sets himself subjects for exercise, and rather revels in weird effects.

Another achievement is that of C.P.O. Wenban whose poem will appear in the poetry contest in the Writer this month. Another contributor gets honorable mention, but I do not yet know who it is.

If you are in Halifax this winter, will you please give us another evening? The personnel changes, but hopes and aspirations remain the same. There is much inspiration in hearing from one who has achieved.

Judy Whittaker comes for supper with me tonight. She has told me of her wonderful day in Liverpool. It was good of you to give her that pleasure. Please give me a call when you are in Halifax, and we can plan a club meeting to suit your plans.

Hopefully yours,

*Laura Suttis*

Laura Suttis  
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Halifax