

Oct 1943



# Milestone Number One.....

With this issue we celebrate our First Birthday. One year ago our thriving paper was born in the humble environments of a British Columbia Conchie Camp. The idea of a paper was brought forth from ambitious, energetic minds and published in the form of the October, 1942 issue. To these founders of this growing institution we owe the success of the paper on its arrival at the First Anniversary. It has lived a unique life, indeed, in these months of varied experiences. Were it able to tell its own story of events through this, its first year, we would no doubt be amazed at some of the unequalled accounts. At times it may have been feared that the feeble thread of life would snap, but by some unforeseen benignity its life was spared and we can feel assured that she will continue growing and thriving.

During this span she has been adopted by new parents. Indeed, their great desire is to keep her healthy and free from harming influences. A child cannot grow to be healthy and vigorous unless it has been properly nursed and guarded in its prime. We feel the Beacon has had this necessary and tender care in its first months, and much of its present success can be attributed to that.

Our contributors deserve thanks for the splendid articles and news items which have formed the main body of reading matter. Certainly they merit credit in keeping the interest of our readers at a maximum. We trust we have published these in a manner complimentary to the Policy-Constitution.

Our many subscribers and readers also merit thanks for their much appreciated and kind support. This interest during the past year has been one of the important factors in the continuance of our paper, and we feel that you will want to keep it up throughout the future.

Let us together determine to face the future, and through this publication display the principles of peace and love toward mankind that they may ultimately convince the world that we have something in us which is the only way to enduring peace and a better world of the future.

-- Editor-in-Chief.

October-November 1943

## THE BEACON

Volume 2 Number 10

Compiled by Conscientious Objectors in the various Alternative Service Work Camps of the British Columbia Forest Service, and published monthly at A.S.W. Camp C-2, Lake Cowichan, B.C. The work in these camps consists of snag-falling, fire-fighting, road construction, park improvement, tree-planting and supplying fuel for general consumption. The men work 48 hours weekly and receive 50¢ daily, board and medical attention.

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# Seek Those Things Which Are Above

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God", Col. 3:1.

Does it seem rather pitiable that Christians, born again and risen with Christ, Col. 2:12, need to be told to seek after those things which are above? It seems quite natural that water runs downhill. We all expect it of water to respond to the pull of gravity. It seems natural, too, that worldly people, unregenerated and lost sinners follow after the world and its pleasures (?), sinking deeper and deeper in the slimy potholes of sin. They, too, respond to the law of gravity, if the term can be used in that sense. It is surprising, too, they need no exhortation as an extra incentive to keep them there.

Christians have not so easy a time for they are going contrary to the force of gravity, asking your pardon again. And yet, can we call it, in the strict sense of the word, against? Is not our Redeemer up yonder drawing us? But because we wrestle against no flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, Christians need to be exhorted to seek those things which are above.

There seems to be a wide diversity of opinion among Christians (?) as to what constitutes "those things which are above". Without going into any detail it can be safely said that those things which are above are not found on this earth. Therefore they cannot be temporal things. If they are not temporal, they must be external or spiritual. And because they are spiritual they cannot be found on the dance floor, beer parlour, or any other places termed as places of amusement. Neither can they be found in reading of the type of literature termed as True, Modern, Western, and what have you.

No one is telling you to give up such pastimes if you follow them. You are just being told they are not "those things which are above". And if you do follow them you are not seeking after those things which are above -- are you then risen with Christ? Let us prove ourselves.

After we have proven ourselves and we honestly can say that we know of a day and an hour when we died in sin and arose a new man in Christ Jesus --, wouldn't it be a good idea if we did give up certain pastimes? "Lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us", and devote more time to seeking those things which are above. Who knows, perhaps it might be you who could then tell us just what specific things "those things which are above" are.

-- Peter Wolfe, Q-3.

## Your Attention Please

To the Editor's desk comes a great variety of correspondence. It is really interesting to delve into some of it for what it contains. However, he has been caught unawares several times when receiving literature in the German language. Unfortunately, he is too occupied to translate it himself, and his few German-speaking friends sometimes have difficulty in gaining the full meaning from the contents. So may we ask that you do your corresponding in English if at all possible. We are sure your friends will be happy to assist you if you are not in full command of the English. If you help us in this way, we will have little trouble in getting the thought of your letter and satisfying the requests you make.

Thank you -- Editor-in-Chief.

## Our Policy-Constitution

For the benefit of our new subscribers and those who have been our faithful patrons, we print our Policy-Constitution, in order that they may know the standards we hold and endeavour to fulfil in the publishing of our paper.

"The Paper is owned, operated, and controlled by A.S.W. men in the B.C.F.S. It is published as an inter-camp communication to further create a respectful understanding and common fellowship amongst us. We will co-operate with the authorities of the B.C.F.S. so that any dissatisfactions between the A.S.W. men and the Forest Service personnel may be entirely avoided or minimized.

We want to make our Paper a sort of newsletter, too, for the folks back home, as they are immensely interested in our activities, and why not? We are their sons. We should also like to show our friends and acquaintances who are not in camp what we C.O.s are doing to live up to our convictions. We want them to learn the nature of Alternative Service Work and come to know the sincerity of our convictions, our universal patriotism as expressed in our work.

Our Paper is an interdenominational publication. Equal voice will be given to the various religious groups. All viewpoints of these groups will be published in such a manner as to strike a balance so that no one viewpoint of any one group becomes the belief of the Paper, and so that no denomination has reason to feel suppressed.

We shall not make our Paper a platform for any political issue or discussion. Such material will not be printed.

With these few maxims we hope our Paper will be of value to all, that we may do the most good. Articles of a constructive nature and adhering to our Policy-Constitution are most welcome."

Since we have agreed to take other A.S.W. Camps and Units in Canada under the Beacon, there will possibly be a few changes made in the first part of the above. However, we will notify our readers of any such changes when and if they occur.

We trust our contributors will bear in mind these few statements, and thus make The Beacon a paper worthy of its cause and adhering to the principles upheld by the real conscientious objector.

-- Executive Staff.

## Objectors get Duties with R.C.A.M.C.

A recent arrangement with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and Canadian Dental Corps allows conscientious objectors to undertake duties in a non-combatant division. They are to perform the regular duties of a soldier in these units, and will have similar privileges. They will not be required to bear arms or do combatant duty. A good percentage of campees have made application, but will not all necessarily be accepted. They will serve either here or overseas. Already some of the applicants have had replies and are ready to be examined by the military authorities as to their necessary qualities that will permit them to enter the unit. They will not be a separate unit, but will work with others of the same service. It is expected that more will file applications in the near future. The applicants feel that the service they will render here will be both educational and of value to humankind, and yet will not violate the principles of conscientious objection.