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On an Operetta Call of Spring

An operetta entitled "The Call of Spring," by W. H. Woolnoth and R. J. C. Chanter, will be produced by the pupils of Lord Kitchener school, North Kildonan, next Friday, under the direction of Lena E. Lovegrove, assisted by the teachers. There will be 63 children taking part in all grades from elementary to high school.

Excerpts from "The May Festival," by J. Booth, have been chosen by Mrs. L. E. Lovegrove, in the form of choruses and trios, and woven into the operetta, including the ceremony of presenting the garland, crown and sceptre to the May Queen. Also a military number by the captain and the queen's bodyguard.

The flowers are called in a duet sung by two of the maids of honor; the little flowers later dance in lively formation before paying homage to the May Queen.

The plot is set in an English village and reveals the village children having just left the green, after their May-day revels, awaiting the arrival of the May Queen. Dancing is arranged for her entertainment.

Robin, under the spell of a witch, is awakened by Spring escorted by her flowers. She remembers Love, and calls Cupid to her aid, but he only makes havoc amongst the shepherdesses.

After settling a quarrel between April and May over a garland of buttercups, the dance of Spring returns Robin to life, thereby breaking the spell. Happiness is disturbed with the entry of the Witch, who defies Spring and insists that Robin choose between them. Robin chooses Spring, and the Witch leaves amid a tumult of shrieks and curses. The dance of rejoicing follows. Spring bids farewell to the May Queen and villagers.

The operetta is interspersed with bright and catchy music. The villagers, shepherd and shepherdesses take part in several English folk dances, trained under Miss Marion Romanche. The ballet dances were supervised by Miss Eunice Lovegrove.

The programme will open with a mock auction of articles donated by the mothers' auxiliary of Lord Kitchener school, who are the sponsors. Following this will be a short play by the high school boys entitled, Tea for Three in 1978, under the direction of Miss Marion Romanche. There is to be a formation drill by the boys of the junior and senior hockey teams, for whose benefit the entertainment is put on, Mr. Hooper, principal, being responsible for the training of these boys. The operetta will occupy the second half of the programme.

The cast is as follows: Nelly Vanderhurst (May Queen), Eunice Lovegrove (Spring), John Redekop, George Damon, Fanny Kooyman, Vivienne Lovegrove, Mary Helen Mackay, Harold Bingham, Billy Simpson, Douglas Morton, Herbert Roberts, Mary Hooper, Thelma Enns, Annie Jean Mackay, Ella Robinson, Mary Loewen, Mary Tatchell, Nettie Enns, Allan Hooper, Cameron Brown, Frank Klassen.

Proceeds of the above entertainment are to go towards sports equipment for the junior and high school boys.

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