THE FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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W. H. THURSTON, - Editor

EDITORIAL NOTES

More gold was obtained from Canadian mines last year than in any previous twelve months. We patiently wait the receipt of our share of the glittering metal.

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The great British doctor, Sir Archibald Lane declares that people have no more right to be ill than to be criminals. They have freedom of choice, certainly, and if they choose wrong they must suffer. It is a law of existence.

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A huge sink hole has developed on the new Provincial Highway between North Bay and Cobalt and the North. The builders should have profited by the experience on the highway north of Markdale. A sink hole cannot be glossed over by dumping a few loads of gravel into it.

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Dean Inge may from time to time earn the cognomen of "the gloomy Dean of England," but he utters a truism in perfect terms when he declares that "Christ was quite original in affixing moral censure to worry and anxiety." How many of us are like the old Scottish lady who was "frightened o' the death 'she'd never dee."

* * *

It is pointed out by these visiting Britishers that prohibition has "affected prosperity by diverting large sums of money into the purchase of commodities, and by having increased regularity of attendance at work." It is recognized, of course, that a good deal has been said and written contrary to the views expressed by these independent British investigators, but as the New Outlook suggests "if we bear in mind the sources from which these arguments proceed—that they are largely inspired by selfish and sordid interests, that the literature and propaganda by which they are kept are paid for by the liquor interests," the value of the allegations are largely discounted. It is, points out our contemporary, a significant fact that the Protestant churches in both Canada and the United States, with possibly one exception, by large majorities defend prohibition of the liquor traffic as the ultimate and only satisfactory way of dealing with a great and acknowledged national evil.

* * *

The United States Department of Labour has published an analysis of the report on prohibition in Canada and the United States made by the British industrial delegation that toured this country and the adjoining Republic last year.

Jack Miner, the famous lover of birds, is wide in his sympathies. He comes out strongly in favour of footpaths on highways for pedestrians, who are being crowded off the roads by increasing vehicular traffic. Mr. Miner tells us:-

"Just recently my boy drove me to Windsor, a distance of twenty-six miles, and I counted eighty-five children dodging their way to school along our cement highway, and to me it looked pitifully wicked. One little fellow actually fell into the ditch in its efforts to scape those dodging gas-burners that came upon him from east and west."

This experience is being duplicated daily on all thoroughfares in populous districts. The danger is especially evident on the Provicial Highways leading into Toronto, where we have seen the roads so occupied with autos, at full speed on both sides of the thoroughfare, that, children had either had to take to the ditch or make their way along an adjoining railway, In view of this, we regret to see it stated that the Provincial Minister of Highways declare that there is no need for providing footpaths. Surely the highways should not be entirely monopolized by vehicular traffic, to the danger of those of us who walk and especially to the peril of the little ones.

FEVERSHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SERVICE

Service at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. G. H. Preston, principal of the Shelburne high school, will preach next Sunday on prohibition.

The Church with a Message.

PASTOR - Rev. E. H. YOUNG.

FLESHERTON AND ROCK MILLS BAPTIST CHURCHES

REV M. SAUNDERS, Pastor.

July 31st, 1927.

Flesherton 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Subject: a.m. "A Bouquet of Sweet Peas."

Rock Mills 3.00 p.m.

Subject: "The Cry of a Lost Soul."

Were you resent last Sunday? Thank you, come again.

"Pioneers of Ontario"

Miss Emma Oliver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Oliver of the O.D. R., Artemesia, was the winner of the public speaking contest held among the U.F.Y.P.O. clubs in South Grey and received a trophy as a reward. At the Farm Youth Rally concert held in Flesherton on Friday, July 8, Miss Oliver again gave her speech, which we publish at full length this week. It is as follows:-

Ontario is the banner province of Canada. As we look out over her broad well-tilled acres, as we perceive a healthy industrial life, an expanding lumbering and fishing enterprise, a mining industry whose reputation is established throughout the world, as we look out over this Ontario of ours and recognize the qualities that have entitled her to be called the banner province, we must recall the unlimited loyalty and sacrificial spirit of the pioneers of Ontario.

Yes, Ontario is great, but too often we forget those men and women who made possible this province as we know it, those who laid the foundation of Ontario's character and prosperity, they the pioneers of Ontario.

Words are futile things with which to attempt to illustrate the efforts, thet successes, yes, and the failures of those who, midst danger and adversity laid solidly the foundation of the Ontario of to-day.

The great majority of our pioneers came from the Motherland, many from homes of wealth and ease. They came, throwing aside all, save the deterination to find new homes in a new land. The Ontario which met the eyes of those ancestors of ours was vastly different from that of to-day. Travellers in Ontario to-day marvel at the scenery, praise highly our good roads, speculate on the wealth of our well-tilled fields, and admire our comfortable modern homes, our schools and our churches. The pioneer coming to Ontario seventy or eighty years ago marvelled in quite a different manner. Fresh from the staid old land he marvelled at the lack of good roads, the lack of schools and churches and the lack of well-tilled fields. To him it was as though he had discovered a new, unexplored land, and so it was. But was he daunted? Did he turn back? No. indeed! In one great flame of self-sacrifice he automatically accepted his lot and became the explorer, builder, the pathfinder of this fine province.

He set to work to clear enough land to set up a small house and happy indeed were he and his household when they saw completed their rough little cabin. Happy indeed were he and his household when they ate their first meal in the new house off the rough home-made table. Little it mattered that all they had to eat was brown bread and molasses, was not this home? Their new Ontario home!

Life in a Country Home

Let us view in imagination a day's life in a country home. We find the men and older boys at work as soon as day dawns. If in the springtime we find them with their crude plows and clumsy oxen trying to clear and till a little land and sowing a meagre quantity of corn or other grain. If in the fall, we find the pioneer farmer harvesting his small crop with scythe, sickle or cradle. Later in the season we find the men-folk threshing their grain by hand. For this purpose a flail was usually used. Some of the threshed grain was fed to the stock, the remainder was ground into meal for use in the home. In early pioneering days the grain was ground at home by placing the grain in a hollow stone and rubbing it with another stone until finally ground. In later years the grain was ground into flour at the nearest mill.

The Women Had Their Place

What was women's work in the building of a new province. Carniff Haight in his "Country Life in Canada in the Thirties," says: "The women of the family found their hands very full in th thirties." When we learn of all the tasks which fell to that lot of pioneer women, we feel like echoing "Their hands were indeed full." Every day had its usual duties but without our modern conveniences. nI adition to these, every season of the year had its special duties. The farm woman in olden days did not drive to town in her car and buy her fruit by the basket to be preserved at home, nor did she buy them already preserved. She and her daughters, with their baskets and lunches, tramped wearily through the woods and gathered raspberries, wild strawberries and other wild fruits, so abundantly offered by the woods at that time. Many times when so employed, were they startled by the approach of bear, wolf or other wild animal.

After sheep shearing was another busy time for the pioneer woman. Some of the wool was carded by hand by means of cards which resembled flat brushes with wire bristles, the remainder of the wool was made into rolls, later to be spun into yarn on the spinning wheel during the long winter evenings. Some of the yarn was woven into cloth on a hand loom. Churning was another tiresome task. The dasher churn was used to convert the cream into butter and many a weary hour was spent by women or children, sending that dasher ceaselesly up and down.

Social Life of Community.

Perhaps in the social life of the pioneer we have more reason to be envious. Then people depended upon themselves and their friends for entertainment and not on some outside talent, as we often do to-day. The debating clubs and literary societies, which we have so much difficulty in establishing were keenly supported by those early settlers of Ontario. They did not feel the urge of outside things, to things apart from their own community. Another form of social life was the old time country or barn dance, when hilarious folk, old and young, went to a neighbor's house or barn and innocently enjoyed the splendid good time which they always had amid fun-making and jollity, to the rollicking tunes of the fiddler.

Thus far we have been thinking only of the farmer pioneers and while so doing are prone to forget that there were pioneers in other industries as well. Pioneers in mining and fishing demand our admiration and gratitude, but since by far the great majority of pioneers were farmers and lumbermen, we give them more thought. To the pioneer the forest was the central fact of existence, furnishing him with his home and fire, but bitterly opposing his plough. Early operations in the woods were primative indeed compared with those carried on by the lumbering and pulp companies of to-day. Most of the work consisted in falling of the trees and squaring the timber by hand, the timber then to be hauled to the nearest stream by oxen.

The Old Log School House

Perhaps what touches us most is the struggle to establish in Ontario schools and churches.

First let us consider the school, the little log school symbolic of the high ideals, the noble self-sacrifice and above all, the wisdom of our forefathers. 'Tis true they were inferior in many ways to our schools of to-day. But perhaps 'tis also true that there was something there in that little log school house that it would be well if Ontario could plant in her schools to-day. We see the pupils ranging in age from six to twenty years and the teacher doing the work of both teacher and janitor, for what? In money returns only a paltry one on two hundred dollars.

On the other hand we have the church similiar in structure to the school without library, without electric lights, without an organ but with a people, who earnestly wished to worship God and to praise Him for His goodness to them. Little it mattered how they got there—in wagon, stoneboat or by travelling many miles by foot. They were the founders of our church in Ontario. Perhaps these schools and churches were inferior, but this at least we know, it was in such schools and in such churches that the foundation of this banner province of Ontario was laid.

In conclusion—Let me ask: "What of Ontario's future?" What does it matter, the record of our pioneers, if Ontario's youth do not line up to the ideals which have been set for them. It seems to me the outstanding characteristic of the pioneer is self-sacrifice, sacrifice of himself for others. Is there this spirit of self-sacrifice in thte children of to-day? Some would answer "No", I would answer "Yes."

Would Sacrifice Himself

Only a few weeks ago I was studying with my Senior Third class that beautiful story of sacrifice, the story of Damon and Pythias and briefly told thes tory. At the conclusion I asked: "Are there such people in the world to-day? Are there people here in Grey County who would do for their friends what Damon did for Pythias? Back came the answer, not from the class I was teaching, but from a bright litlle fellow in the front seat. "Yes, there are." "How do you know," I asked "that there are such people?" "Because," he answered "I would do it and there are lots more like me." Did he mean it? Would he do it? He certainly did and he certainly would.

Is Ontario's future safe in the hands of the children of to-day? Will they live up to the ideals set by our early pioneers? Yes, they will.

Let us remember what we owe to the pioneers of Ontario and live our lives in such a way so that when we pass on, we may leave behind as great a legacy to posterity as they left to us in this province as we know it.

Read The Advance "Small Advts."

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