

## The Markdale Standard

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### Liquor Control Act Amendments

A bill has been introduced in the Ontario Legislature to amend the Liquor Control Act and if it goes through the House in its present form the people of Ontario will surely have reason to doubt the judgment of those we entrust with the task of doing the business of the Province. The bill is brief and is sponsored by Premier Hepburn.

One clause, section 68, which recognized the precedence of the Canada Temperance Act is removed but the Canada Temperance Act still stands and the Ontario Legislature has no power to remove it.

The clause which provided for a beverage room to be closed two months after an adverse vote has been changed so that the closing will not take place until March 31st of the following year. An adverse vote might be recorded in January of 1937 but it would not be effective until March 31st, 1938.

The new amendments provide that managers shall be appointed five weeks before a local option vote is to be taken to scrutinize the petition. The petition would then have been passed upon by the Municipal Clerk and the Liquor Control Board and arrangements would be well on the way for taking the vote. The managers should be appointed in time to scrutinize the petition before being dealt with by the other officials.

The bill provides that Wards 7 and 9 in Toronto may not sign a petition or vote on local option, yet it also provides that a vote can be taken only by a municipality, not a portion of any municipality. Will Toronto be deprived of the privilege of taking a vote by this amendment.

Another clause provides that the last revised Provincial list of a municipality shall be used as a basis for a petition. The last Provincial list was made in June 1933 and two years hence how close would it be to being correct. As a matter of fact it is not a dependable list now, and we are doubtful if a copy of it can be procured in a majority of the municipalities.

A re-drafting of the Premier's bill might make it a sensible piece of legislation but in its present form it has none of the earmarks of having received even casual consideration.

### Holland Township Is Good Financially

Holland township has received considerable free advertising in the city newspapers and over the radio within the past week when some person discovered that the finances of the municipality were in splendid condition, which was not news to those who have kept in touch with the affairs of the municipality. The officials who have had charge of the affairs of the township during the last quarter of a century or more have been looking after its interest in an efficient manner. Mr. James P. Hare, the efficient veteran Clerk, deserves a fair share of the credit as does also his running mate, Mr. W. Hampton, Treasurer for a great many years. Of course much of the credit must go to Reeves, Deputy-Reeves and Councillors who served during the years when other municipalities placed mortgages on the future while Holland was satisfied to pay its way as it went along. We are not going to mention the names of those who have given Holland good service in case we might inadvertently miss one or two but will say that all who have served have done so faithfully and well. During the past few years Mr. Robt. Ceaser of Owen Sound, a former member of the Holland Council, has been an exceptionally efficient Collector and the township today has no tax arrears. Mr. Phil McKay, Treasurer, has served the township in that capacity for nearly two years now and is proving himself a worthy successor to Mr. Wm. Hampton. The Standard has given the township good service in the printing line during the past fifteen years or more.

### School Tax Systems in Ontario and Quebec

With the change in the school taxes question in Ontario, one of the major questions before the Ontario Legislature this session, and the fact that few Ontarians know very much about it, the letter given below, written to the Chesley Enterprise by "B. A. R.", a resident of Quebec Province for several years, should be enlightening. He says:

"I notice that your paper stated recently that Premier Hepburn intends to give the Catholics of Ontario the same privileges as the R. C.'s extend to the Protestants in Quebec, hence your readers will be interested to know exactly what the school law is in Quebec. Having spent several years in that province I am fairly familiar with the law there, which is difficult to compare with the Ontario law as they are very different. I have no hope to interfere in political matters but I pass on to you the details of the Quebec system as I came across them in print the other day, and know the explanation to be correct. I am an admirer of Premier Hepburn, who has shown himself to be a man 'for the people'.

"Quebec has no public non-sectarian schools—no common schools for the education of all upon equal terms. The basic principle is that of schools for Roman Catholics, and so Protestants, where they are in sufficient numbers, must provide schools for their own children. If they are not in sufficient number, they must send their children to the sectarian schools. In Ontario whether in minorities or majorities, Roman Catholic children may attend a public school—not a Protestant school—without fear of denominational influence. Thousands do.

"Taxes of corporations, companies and industries in Quebec are paid into a 'neutral' panel, from which they are allocated to Roman Catholic and Protestant schools on the basis of school attendance. In Montreal in 1934, the neutral panel yielded \$4,370,466, about 75 per cent. of which was contributed by Protestant-owned companies, but because the Roman Catholics have 76 per cent. of the school population, their schools received \$3,299,593. Roman Catholic schools receive nine-tenths of taxes paid by companies such as the Canadian Pacific Railway, Bell Telephone, Ottawa & Hull Power Co., International Paper Company and many other corporations.

"If a Roman Catholic stockholder in Ontario is not able to direct his share of school taxes to the separate schools, he is at least not compelled to pay them to a Protestant school for doctrinal teaching of which he does not approve; his taxes go to a public, non-sectarian school.

"On the other hand, application of the panel system in this province would compel Protestants to contribute to sectarian schools. An example sometimes cited is that of the Ryerson Press in Toronto, owned by the United Church of Canada, which would have to contribute 14 per cent. of its taxes to Roman Catholic schools.

"Furthermore, under the present system in Ontario, the establishment and maintenance of separate schools is a privilege conferred upon Roman Catholics as individuals, to be exercised or not at their own discretion. Members of no other religious denomination have a like privilege. Under the panel system, the Protestant owner or stockholder in Quebec cannot direct his taxes to the support of Protestant schools, nor under the panel system could he in Ontario."

### EAST BERKELEY

Miss Mary Woyce spent a week with friends in Markdale recently. The farmers are busy taking out logs to Mr. Mitchell's mill at Berkeley while the roads are good.

Mr. C. McCauley lost a valuable horse lately.

The school children spend their leisure time sleigh riding and skiing.

The crows are quite numerous. Is that a sign of spring-time?

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Connell spent a day recently with Mr. and Mrs. J. Steer.

SHOP IN MARKDALE.

### Religious Forum

#### THOUGHTS

A Christian minister who did a remarkable work in leading men to Christ was asked by a friend what the secret of his spiritual life was. He replied, with quiet humility, that a sense of the presence of Christ was always with him, and was the greatest factor in his spiritual life; he knew he could always count on that presence, entirely apart from any merit of his own, because of the Lord's word to believers: "Lo, I am with you always." Then the minister added something that was a new and unexpected thought to his friend, "Christ is the home of my thoughts," he said. He explained what he meant by this: when his mind was free from having to be occupied with any particular matter that required his attention, his thoughts would turn spontaneously, without conscious effort, to Christ.

To have Christ as the home of our thoughts is a satisfying and unfulfilling secret of spiritual life and power. Why should not such an experience be found oftener than it is?

Men were made in the image of God. Sin marred or destroyed that image. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life,"—and that means, should be restored to the image of God. The apostle Paul could say what God would have all men say: "To me to live is Christ."

And when Christ has become our life, by our having received Him as Saviour and Lord, then it is only normal that He should be the home of our thoughts. "Abide in Me, and I in you." He says to His disciples and to all who trust Him. Some one has well said: "Satan cannot understand the omnipotence of a soul that is homed in God."

But it is to be feared that Christ is the home of the thoughts of comparatively few of us. Our thoughts are liable to run the whole gamut of emotions and experiences, good and bad. Few of us would be willing to have all our thoughts plainly revealed for all about us to see. We keep many of our thoughts to ourselves. There are, to be sure, thoughts so sacred and intimate, yet right, that they are not to be shared with any other human beings. And there are thoughts that are so far from right that they are not to be shared.

We all know that our thoughts can be the mainspring of actions of any and every sort. Good thoughts can lead us to evil actions. Uncontrolled thoughts of sin or anger can inflame lust, can incite to hatred, and even to murder. Thoughts of discouragement can lead even to suicide. Unselfish thoughts of the needs of others can lead to self-sacrificing service. And thoughts of God can lead us to God.

The Bible tells us that one reason for the flood was the thoughts of men. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." By such thinking mankind would have destroyed the race morally and spiritually; and God's mercy blotted out that generation, all but one righteous family, in order that man might have a new start and a fresh opportunity to think thoughts of righteousness and life rather than of sin and death.

And down the centuries since that new start there have been men who have given God first place in their thoughts, and men who have done their best to keep God out of their thoughts. The Psalmist says of the latter kind: "God is not in all his thoughts." And that is a poverty-stricken life.

While our thought-life is not always subject to our control, for thoughts may race unbidden through our minds, nevertheless it is possible to exercise our thinking powers profitably, just as we can, if we will, exercise other parts of our life. We can discipline our minds; we can decide what we shall think about. So Paul wrote, in the closing chapter of his rich Epistle to the Philippians: "And finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if

there be any praise, think on these things."

Isaiah, that prophet in Old Testament times to whom were revealed so abundantly certain truths set forth more fully in the New Testament, spoke the assuring word concerning God and man: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee." A marginal rendering translates this, "whose thought is stayed on Thee." We can stay, or fix, our thoughts on God and His love and protection and provision, if we will. It is the way of perfect peace.

But there is something better than our thoughts of God, and that is, His thoughts of us. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil." So the Psalmist cried out: "I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me."

It is because of God's loving and gracious and redemptive thoughts of us that we can think, gratefully and in faith, of Him. "We love Him, because He first loved us." And we may truly say also that we think of Him because He first thought of us. Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord can give a man victory even in his thought-life. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." w1

### CHERRY GROVE W. I.

The March meeting of the Cherry Grove Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Hodgson on Thursday, the 7th, with ten members and six visitors present. The president, Mrs. Wm. Dickie, presided and the meeting opened by singing the Ode and repeating the Lord's prayer in unison. The minutes of the last meeting, which was held in December, were read by the secretary, Mrs. R. Boyce, and adopted. On account of bad weather and sickness no meetings were held in January or February. During the brief business period it was planned that members would make another quilt. The program was opened by Mrs. Wm. Dickie giving a reading on "Life's Statistics". Miss Jane Dickie gave a demonstration on the making of a dainty little boudoir cushion. Mrs. Russell Boyce gave a reading on "Wool Craft" which was very instructive. Miss Elda Ward gave a demonstration on making a comb case which was both useful and ornamental. Mrs. A. V. Bowen gave a reading on "Good Children" which would be helpful in the training of little folk. Mrs. Merton Pendleton put on a cake contest which was won by Mrs. Wm. Dickie. This brought to a close an enjoyable program, which was then concluded by singing the National Anthem. Mrs. Wm. Hodgson and daughter, Miss Euphemia, then served a delicious chicken pie supper to the members and visitors, which was a lovely treat and enjoyed by all.

Have you paid for your paper for 1936?

  
Saugeen Lodge No. 327  
Markdale, Ont.

MONDAY, MARCH 16th—Regular meeting. The D.D.G.M. will pay the lodge a visit at this meeting. PRESTON YORK, Noble Grand W. J. COLGAN, Rec.-Sec., Markdale

### Business Directory

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L. G. CAMPBELL, L.D.S., D.D.S., Dental Surgeon. Graduate of Ontario College of Dentistry and University of Toronto. Office over the Post Office. Office hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments made by phone.

DR. J. A. McARTHUR, Dentist. Office in the Artley Block, over the Perkins hardware store. Entrance at south-west corner of building, Toronto Street.

#### FRATERNAL

L. O. L.—Markdale L.O.L. No. 1045 meets in the Orange Hall, Markdale, at 8 o'clock p.m., the first Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. J. W. Stoddart, W.M.; A. E. Scott, Rec.-Sec.

A. F. & A. M.—Hiram Lodge No. 490, G.R.C., Markdale, meets in the Masonic Hall, Reburn Block, at 8 o'clock p.m., on the second Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. W. J. Halbert, W.M.; A. E. Colgan, Sec.

R. B. K.—Victoria Preceptory No. 282 meets in the Orange Hall, Markdale, at 8 o'clock p.m., the third Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren always cordially welcome. G. W. Littlejohns, W. P.; A. E. Colgan, Registrar.

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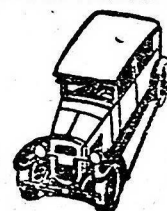
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