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H. P. MOORE, Editor and Publisher

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EDITORIAL

Death of Pope Benedict XV

Many millions of people are mourning the sudden death on Sunday of Pope Benedict XV at the Vatican at Rome. His Holiness was a faithful servant of his church and a man of sterling character. His last words were: "If it please the Lord that I shall work again for the church I am ready. If He says it is enough, let His will be done."

Your Salary When You Become Prime Minister

The people who pay the taxes are usually interested in where their money goes. This paper has been asked repeatedly what the Premier and members of the House of Commons receive in salaries and indemnities. The salary of the Prime Minister of Canada is $15,000, and the Premier of Ontario gets $9,000. Members of the House of Commons receive $4,000 per session, provided the session extends beyond 50 days, and that the member attends at least three-quarters of the days on which the House sits. The sessional indemnity in Ontario is $1,400, if the session extends beyond 30 days. If not, the member's indemnity is $20 for each day's attendance.

These Long Winter Evenings

Now that the long winter evenings are here parents might do something more than they are doing to interest their children and young folks in books and reading. At present dancing appears to be the chief pursuit of the young people; but here and there are boys and girls who would rather read than dance, and in years to come these will have their minds well stored, while the devotee of the dance will have only a vacuity in the upper story. A membership in the public library costs next to nothing and opens the way to a wide range of reading; but boys and girls should be encouraged to have books of their own. The person who owns a few good books is never without friends at hand; and the home without books, even though it have wealth and everything else, is a rather a dreary place. —Goderich Signal.

William Lyon Mackenzie's Democracy

The election of Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King to the Premiership of Canada naturally creates a new interest in matters relating to the days of his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie. Rev. John Moyer, pastor of the Methodist Church here, who has a trenchent for the collection of remote historical documents of note, exhibited to the editor the other day a copy of Mackenzie's Gazette, dated May 4, 1830. This edition was published in Rochester, N. Y., when Mr. Mackenzie was a fugitive from Canada, because his radical views on Canada's rights were not appreciated by the autocratic rulers then in power. This number is especially interesting. Rev. Mr. Moyer secured the copy from an old storehouse at St. David's, near his boyhood's home. That William Lyon Mackenzie was on the right track, but far in advance of his times, the following characteristic sentence concluding one of his editorials gives ample evidence: "I have never doubted for one moment the triumph of democracy in Canada, nor do I now."

A Young Man's Worthy Career

The appointment of Mr. Murdock to a prominent portfolio in the Dominion Cabinet is another proof of the democratic spirit which obtains in this Canada of ours. Hon. Mr. Murdock's early career was that of the average Canadian boy. With only the ordinary advantages of education at his command he made the most of his opportunities as a youth. When a young man entering the activities of real life, he started as a railway brakesman. By faithful service and keen interest in material things he won step by step to a high position in the railwaymen's union. During the war he was chosen for important service in the interests of the country, and he fulfilled his duties so effectively that the "big interests" found their war profits in danger. In his selection as Minister of Labor Premier King has shown wisdom and foresight. Hon. Mr. Murdock will make good. His career up to this point is worthy of emulation of Canadian boyhood. Mr. Murdock is a native of Kent County and the electors of Kent did the decent thing last week in giving the new minister his seat by acclamation.

"Unity for Peace and Honor"

THE FREE PRESS has received with much pleasure a budget of copies of the Freeman's Journal, of Dublin, Ireland, published during the fateful week when the Dail Eireann were concluding their historic discussion of the Irish Peace Treaty, and their final decision to endorse the treaty and turn down Mr. de Valera, the Spanish leader, who had for so many months been at the head of the Sinn Fein organization. In an editorial leader on January 5 the Journal says: "Those who hoped that Mr. de Valera would spare Ireland the ordeal of a faction fight over his absurd amendment, are to be disappointed. Knowing the practically unanimous will of the country, he is going to fight the treaty of honorable and secure peace to a finish. The Irish people will find no justification there for his criminal attempt to divide the nation in the crisis of its fate. What is the explanation? Is it Mr. de Valera's vanity? Apparently, he cannot forgive the Irishmen who have made the treaty, for their success, and for this he is ready to sacrifice the country. He has not the instinct of the Irishman in his blood. The Irish people must stand up, and begin their freedom by giving their fate into the hands of their own countrymen." This they since have done. It may be interesting to our readers to learn that the managing editor of the Freeman's Journal is a Canadian of Irish descent—Mr. Harry Moore, a namesake and nephew of the editor of the FREE PRESS, and only son of Rev. Dr. T. Albert Moore, of Toronto.

Here's Good Municipal Philosophy

At the inauguration meeting of Oakville Council quite a lot was said about economy, and it is likely that there won't be quite so much money spent this year, says the Record, though, as Reeve Hillmer pointed out, real economy consists in getting value for the money spent.

The Newmarket Era Does Not Fear Libel Suits

The Era has been served with a lawyer's letter in connection with the Sutton liquor raid on behalf of Mr. J. A. M. Armstrong, stating that if a retraction is not made action will be entered for libel. We have nothing to retract. We simply gave the facts as published in the Toronto Star and corroborated at the Police Court investigation.—Newmarket Era.

All the Cabinet Ministers are Re-Elected

All the ministers of the new Dominion Cabinet have been re-elected by acclamation. J. A. M. Armstrong, the Premier's opponent in the election in North York on December 6, was nominated to oppose Mr. King last week, but he has since given up the forlorn hope. It's just as well, for many of his former Conservative supporters declared they would vote against him. Armstrong's opposition was purely factious.

Beer Licenses Gave No Control of Liquor

Quebec has evidently gotten tired of its barrooms. The taverns were authorized by the Liquor Law adopted last session to sell beer within certain hours, but abuses of all kinds have resulted and the Premier now recommends that there be no tavern licenses granted after May 1. Already there are five hundred applicants for licenses before the Commission. It has been well demonstrated that where beer has been allowed to be sold, stronger liquors were always smuggled in.

Economic Ten Commandments

This is national thrift week in the United States and it is based upon an economic programme with the following ten commandments as the foundation stones of success: 1.—Work and Earn. 2.—Make a Budget. 3.—Record Expenditures. 4.—Have a Bank Account. 5.—Carry Life Insurance. 6.—Own Your Own Home. 7.—Make a Will. 8.—Pay Your Bills Promptly. 9.—Invest in Reliable Securities. 10.—Share With Others. These commandments are worthy of adoption in any land.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Detroit magistrate announces that everyone convicted in his court this year of motor car speeding will receive a jail sentence, without the option of a fine. That will have a tendency to stop them.

The $75,000,000 paid by Henry Ford in a single year for taxes stands as the record individual tax in the world. There are others who would willingly take Henry's income and pay the tax out of it.

Citizens who send their money to mail-order houses, or order from pedlars goods which might be purchased from our local merchants, are not in a very reasonable position to complain about the rate of taxation.

At the inaugural meeting of the Empire Forestry Association at the Guildhall, London, a resolution was passed urging the early extension of a constructive forestry policy to all parts of the British Empire for the purpose of scientific conservation and prudent exploitation for the benefit of the Empire.

Stephen Leacock, the erratic professor and novel writer, having ignominiously failed in his propaganda against prohibition, has now assumed a new role, and is attacking the present form of higher education for women. His impotence in this will be as signally marked as in his liquor advocacy.

The ex-Minister of the Ontario House who boasted about "the hides he would nail to the fence," isn't saying much about it since the Drury Government's investigation has already resulted in the recovery of over a million dollars from the firms who secured timber limits from the Department of the late Minister of Forests and Mines.

In the investigation under Mr. Justice Logie, he found that Hon. Howard Ferguson, when Minister of Forests and Mines, sold timber in Quetico Park for $7 per thousand, when it should have brought $17.60. The purchasers must pay the difference, a matter of a million dollars. It looks as if the change in the ministry is proving profitable to the Province.

Canadians hear so much from our esteemed neighbors to the south of us about "the biggest things in the world being over there," that they may be pardoned for a trifle of boasting over our own new Chippewa-Queenston power canal. It has set in motion the world's greatest electrical generators. Let us not overlook our own worthy achievements.

The by-law endorsed by Toronto ratepayers to authorize an agreement with the Ontario Hydro Commission for the acquisition of the Toronto Suburban Railway from Toronto to Guelph at a cost of $3,000,000 has passed the city Council. An application to the Legislature will be made to validate the by-law. That's all right. We've no objection up this way.

The Province of Quebec occupies the position of a big greedy old bartender. Premier Taschereau announced with great glee and smiling satisfaction the other day that profits of $4,000,000 had been made during the year from the sale of alcoholic drinks. Wonder if he and his fellow-legislators ever give a thought to the misery of the homes from which these millions of dollars of profit on booze was wrenched.

England to-day is endeavoring to reduce expenses, and some propose to lessen the amount spent on education, but this has resulted in a loud protest led by Lord Burnham, one of the British journalists who visited Canada last summer, the owner of the Daily Telegraph of London; and the hope is that though economics will be effected in other lines, the amount spent on education may not be reduced.—Bowmanville Statesman. If England would devote a few hundred million pounds less to intoxicating drinks there would be ample means for educational activities and other helpful utilities.

SMELT

Very few Canadians but know something, or at least have heard of, the smelt. But very few indeed will know why the smelt was thus named. The name originates, according to authority, from its peculiar odor, which resembles that of a cucumber. The smelt is a small and very delicate food fish, native to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and is in season from October to March. It is closely allied to the salmon family, having the general structure of these fish. Although related to the salmon, the smelt is really a dwarf species. For the most part they are marine, though some ascend the rivers to spawn just as the salmon, but do not go as far and frequently become landlocked in pounds. Most of the species are confined to the north temperate zone and a few sink into the deep sea. Shrimps and other small crustaceans constitute their chief nourishment. The flesh is extremely delicate and charged with a fragrant oil which aides in the digestion of this excellent food.

The American smelt, the best known of the smelt group of fishes, is found along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is the fish of America, declares Dr. David Starr Jordan. Entering the many streams it often becomes landlocked, hence the lakes and bays of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia abound with this delicious variety. During the winter it ascends our rivers and brackish bays to spawn, when it is caught in immense numbers in nets and by hook and line. In the olden days it was more prolific than it is to-day. In 1622 Capt. John Smith wrote: "Of smelts there is such abundance that the savages doe take them up in the rivers with baskets like sieves." Great quantities are taken on the coast and after first being frozen, are then shipped to the larger cities. But the greatest demand is for the unfrozen or "green smelt," as it is called, which is much more highly esteemed.

Oulachan, or the candle fish, a native of Pacific waters, another member of the smelt family, is said by some authorities, to be unsurpassed by any fish whatever in delicacy of the flesh. In the spring it ascends in enormous numbers, all the rivers north of Columbia as far as Skaguay for the purpose of spawning. These runs usually occur in advance of the salmon runs. The oulachan has many enemies among the various predatory fishes and sea birds which prey upon it during its course to the spawning grounds. At the time of the runs, it is extremely fat, so much so that it is said by Dr. Jordan that when dried and a wick drawn through the body it may be used as a candle. On the Nass River, B. C., a stream in which the run is the greatest, a factory has been operated for the manufacture of oulachan oil. It is proposed to substitute it for cod liver oil. Indians in Alaska take the oulachan and bury it in the ground in great masses. After they are well decayed they are taken from the ground and the oil extracted.

The oulachan is about ten to twelve inches in length, of a whitish silvery color. Broiled or fried it is a favorite dish in British Columbia. It is fat, tender, juicy, richly flavored and practically free from the many troublesome bones. This last ought to bear weight with some people. Very often distaste of fish arises from the fact of having to carefully dissect the many minute but greatly troublesome bones from the fish. One draw-back is that it does not bear transportation well.

Capelin, another variety, closely resembles the oulachan. It is very abundant on all the Arctic coasts of America in the Atlantic and the Pacific. Natives of Arctic regions depend largely upon the capelin as a source of food.

On our Pacific coast from San Francisco northward to Bristol Bay in Alaska, we have the Pacific smelt. It is about eight or nine inches in length —a very weak and feeble species. The flavor is excellent although the flesh is soft. It has not good keeping qualities and soon spoils.

Surf smelts are also plentiful in the north Pacific. They are so called because they spawn in the surf. It is a firm-fleshed and fat little fish, slightly inferior to the oulachan in flavor. Quillitute Indians of Washington, says Dr. Jordan, believe that "the first surf smelts that appear must not be sold or given away to be taken to another place nor must they be cut transversely, but, split open with a mussel shell."

The pond smelt, dusky in color and slightly transparent, we find in northern waters of Alaska, and in Behring Sea southward to Japan. The pond smelt is somewhat similar to the surf smelt, though only spawning in fresh water pools.

The grayling, so prolific in Alaska, and our own northern waters, is closely allied to the smelts. It is a very gamey fish and an interesting customer for sport fishermen. St. Ambrose once described it as the "flower of fishes," presumably on account of its gay coloring.

As a rule fish are drawn before they are transported to market as it means a reduction in weight of from fifteen to twenty per cent., but it is only in exceptional cases that this is ever done with the smelt. While smelts are not as plentiful as in former years, fishermen are getting good prices for this delicious little fish. During the year 1920, 87,555 cwts. of smelts were caught and landed in Canada with a first hand value of $971,306. Canada exported during the same period 51,995 cwts, with a marketed value of $763,042.

IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

In the long automobile trips which year by year are becoming more common, it is not necessary for the driver as he starts out, to know every road he will follow throughout his journey. He may safely put off finding out about a good many things. He may not be able to tell within several days when he will arrive, and that, too, is unimportant. But it is essential that he should know that he is going in the right direction.

And, after all, that is about as much as any of us need to know. We have no way of finding out whether the months before us are to be an easy road or a rough one. We cannot know how great the distance is between ourselves and the goal of our ambition. But these things do not matter, provided we can be sure, beyond a doubt or question, that we are going in the right direction.

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FLOWERS IN WINTER

Hyacinths, Narcissi, Tulips, and Lilies Can be Grown in the House

Bulbs of various kinds, grown indoors during the winter months, add much to the attractiveness of home surroundings and their culture should be more general than it is.

A bulletin dealing with the matter in detail, prepared by the Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station on Vancouver Island, has recently been issued by the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and is available upon request.

Provided certain essentials are observed, success is easy. A glass house is not necessary, but only a good basement and sunny windows. The temperature must not be permitted at any time to register more than six degrees of frost. Roman hyacinths, Paper White narcissus and Freesias will supply all the winter bulb bloom desired up to the end of January.

After the first of February, the Dutch Hyacinth, early varieties of narcissi, and early tulips will provide a wealth of bloom as extensive and attractive as one can wish for.

The writer says that he has prepared the bulletin chiefly with the view of aiding farm women to brighten their homes and door-yards during the dull season, but there is no reason why dwellers in town and country alike should not do the same thing if they will follow the instructions that are set forth. Lists of suitable varieties are given.

The requirements, besides care and attention, are a good quality of bulb, firm and of decent size, flower pots, pans or boxes, and some fine garden loam and sand.

To know the treatment that must be followed it is necessary to consult the bulletin, in which the methods are also given that should be adopted for outdoor cultivation in colder districts. It would appear from the experiments made that many bulbs which are now imported from Holland might be produced in Canada. Even now there is a progressive trade in bulbs between British Columbia and Ontario and Alberta.

Issued by the Director of Publicity, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

MAKING A ROAD FOR THE FIRE ENGINE

One municipality has a unique fire signalling system for traffic to stop when the fire apparatus is on the way to the fire. A bell and flash light have been installed in the middle of the chief street of the town and whenever a fire occurs the bell rings and the light flashes. This means that all traffic in all directions must stop. The bell may be heard for squares and the light is very powerful. The apparatus has proved to be very effective and while it could, in a large city, be applied only by means of some zone arrangement, it is obviously a sound idea to make all traffic in the entire neighborhood stop until it is established just where the engines are going. A good many accidents and a good many delays in getting the engines to the fire would be prevented by the general adoption of this plan.

WHAT HE THOUGHT OF PA

"You acted very wrongly, Horace!" Thus spoke Horace's father, in the presence of Horace's mother, to Horace, discovered in the act of stealing jam. "It may seem a small crime, Horace," continued father, "but it has for its foundation one of the prime causes of this world's unhappiness—disobedience. I am grieved. I want my son to grow up a fine, strong, right-minded man. I want him—" Here father paused for breath.

Horace turned enthusiastically to his mother. "Mamma," he cried, "ain't pa interesting?"

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