

The Acton Free Press

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H. P. MOORE, President and Editor
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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 12, 1925

EDITORIAL

The Profits on the New Beer

The Government evidently expects the new 4.4 beer will be popular and be partaken of in wholesale quantities. The Provincial Treasurer in his budget speech, estimated that \$2,200,000 would be realized by the province from the tax on this new drink. That will mean the people must spend about \$10,000,000 in the new beer to work out the anticipated revenue and the \$10,000,000 must come largely from reduced purchases of clothing, provisions and other necessities of life.

Trying to Please All Parties

The Town of Elmira has had a very vexed problem for some time, and the Council hope it has now been settled satisfactorily. Two years ago there was considerable outcry that the police department was too lax, it being declared that Elmira was a bootlegger's resort. A new chief was appointed, and since then protests have been numerous against what was termed too severe enforcement of the laws. As a result W. A. Forth, of Toronto, has been chosen from 29 applicants, to please all parties. The new Chief of Police will assume his duties next week.

Secession Talk Nonsense

Premier King has some sharp things to say, and quite properly, too, about the hints of secession that had been spoken by delegates from the Maritime Provinces the other day. "Isn't it true," he said, "that this nonsense of talking about secession was stopped. No Canadian, who is really a Canadian, can for one moment think of such a thing, and any other citizen of this country who talks such nonsense cannot have any appreciation of the true feeling of the overwhelming majority of Canadians." And he might have added: "And no loyalty or respect for the principles of Confederation who so effectively united the provinces of Canada more than half a century ago."

A General Election. When?

Whether or not we are to have a general election this year nobody knows, not even the Prime Minister, because while the possibility is being discussed more or less, so long as the House is in session no government can make up its mind when it is going to the country. But there will be a general election before a great while. This is the fourth session, and naturally it is all important that candidates should have an opportunity of meeting the people. The Liberal party will go into the next fight—whenever it comes—with much hope for success and with equal pleasure and satisfaction, because in the years in which Premier Mackenzie King has been Prime Minister he has not made any serious mistakes. On the contrary, he has added lustre to his own record and has reflected credit on the Liberal party that his followers are enthusiastically confident of the outcome.

Encouragement for "The Old Man of the Big Clock Tower"

The Collingwood Bulletin makes this very kindly estimate of the value of the "Old Man's" weekly contribution to local history: "The Old Man of the Big Clock Tower, who has been writing reminiscences in the Acton Free Press for several years, is giving that town a history such as has been the good fortune of few places to have had written. To Actonians the weekly chapter cannot but be of intense interest while for the general reader it possesses much value from the historical point of view. In the last week's contribution the writer entered upon recounting the story of the medical profession as it related to his town; this included brief sketches of half a dozen of the twenty-two doctors who have practiced there. It is a good work and deserves the encouragement it is given by Editor Moore."

The Responsibility of a Municipality

Every municipality is concerned with the recent decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Ontario holding the City of Belleville liable for damages for injuries sustained by a fall on an ice-covered sidewalk. The trial judge ruled that the plaintiff had failed to show that the icy condition of the sidewalk could have been relieved at an expense proportionate to the city's financial resources, and accordingly dismissed the case. The Appellate Division, however, held that the municipality is responsible for the relieving of such conditions, pointing out that it has the power to commandeer the services and financial resources of occupants and owners of property adjacent to snow or ice-covered walks. Municipal councils, in view of this verdict are faced with a situation that places the responsibility for accidents caused by slippery pavements squarely upon them.—Orillia Packet.

This is What the Statute Says

Any person who takes a paper regularly from the post office, whether addressed in his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for payment. If a person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrears or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and then collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken or not. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers or periodicals from the post office, or removing and leaving them unpaid, is prima facie evidence of intention of fraud.

The Tariff Appears to be All Right

The annual report of the Massey-Harris Co. must be disappointing to those who are clamoring for a change in the tariff. It shows the prosperity of this great concern under the new tariff. In 1921 the company had a deficit of one and a half million dollars. In 1922 there was a deficit of \$642,000; in 1923 the deficit was \$399,578. In the year just closed the company's earnings showed an improvement of no less than half a million dollars, and instead of a heavy deficit, there were profits of \$87,771. The Massey-Harris Co., in view of its experience, will no doubt be quick to testify to the constructive effort of the tariff of the Government.

Financing the Municipality

In Whitby, the Town Council is clearing up what the Gazette-Chronicle terms a "civic mess" by asking the provincial legislature to pass a Special Act providing for the consolidation of a floating debt amounting to \$35,000. The accumulation process has been going on since 1918. Now it is to be passed on to the years to come, thereby permitting posterity to participate in the process of paying. This is the experience of most progressive towns. Fortunately for Acton, a halt in floating indebtedness was made ten years ago, expert book keeping revealed some \$3,000 unprovided for; this was wiped off, and each year since the current year's expenditures have been covered by the current year's levy of taxes.

Obedience of the Sabbath in England

Sometimes we pride ourselves on a better observance of the Sabbath in Canada than prevails in the Old Country. Many cities in the Old Land are as scrupulous in preserving the Sabbath as the people are anywhere. Permission for Sunday games in the parks was requested of the city of Leeds. This has been decisively refused by the corporation of the city, despite the intentions of the petitioners to hedge such permission with severe restrictions. Several public bodies petitioned against the granting of permission for Sunday games. A plebiscite taken by the newspapers resulted in a vote of approximately seven to one against the proposal. This is surely creditable to the people of this fine old English city.

Canadian Weekly Newspapers

The annual meeting of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association will be held in Winnipeg in June. It is expected that upwards of five hundred ladies and gentlemen will be in attendance. These meetings are always attractive and though the programmes are more or less technical there is always something that comes from them of value to the public. The making of good weekly newspapers better and the placing of them in a position to render greater, hence better, service to their respective communities and the public as a whole is the keynote of these annual conventions. So far they have proven their places in the irregular order of things and especially in the field of Canadian Journalism.—Collingwood Bulletin.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is apparently the old story of the traffic in liquors: "The lust of appetite and the lust of gain," with the 44 beer which is to be legalized.

Those optimistic spirits who thought Saturday night's earthquake shock was owing to the Conservative member of a temperance constituency refusing to swallow the double strength beer proposal guessed wrong.

Merchants in the home town have an advantage no catalogue has so far been able to overcome. They can take the customer by the hand and ask him about the new baby, or the crops, or the hundred and one little intimate interests that bind a community together.

Premier Ferguson did a commendable thing on Friday, when from the floor of the house he proclaimed an immediate ban on all public officials and employees playing "Handbooks," as some of them have been reported to be doing freely. Instant dismissal will be the price of indulging in this form of gambling.

Canada, in comparison with nine of the world's industrial nations, is first in extent, second in the aggregate of the hydraulic power, third in the matter of railways, sixth in the total production of iron in its natural state and eighth in the business of exports and eighth in population.—Bankers' Trust Co., New York.

L. H. Martell, M. P., of Hants, has given notice of a bill which, if adopted by the House of Commons, will cut out church lotteries altogether. Under the Criminal Code as it stands, church and charitable institutes may hold lotteries, with the permission of the municipal authorities, when the prize does not exceed \$50 in value.

The Chicago water steal has at last been circumvented by the United States' Government. It will take ten years to get conditions down to normal. Chicago must inaugurate a sewerage disposal system as other interior cities are obliged to do. This action will ensure normal water levels for Canada's lake ports.

Study and observation has shown that water is not the only cause of typhoid. Apart from the water source, are milk, contaminated raw foods and oysters gathered in polluted streams. If a reduction in typhoid mortality has been brought about in Canada the last few years, it is by the controlling of the factors of development of this disease, viz: purification of water, pasteurization of milk, protection of raw food supplies by the destruction of the fly or its breeding place, and by the care of raw foods where exposed for sale.

SAVING WESTMINSTER'S ROOF

The roof of Westminster Hall, long a remarkable example of what the genius of a master builder can accomplish, is being saved, says almost everyone, by a tiny beetle whose first cousin have destroyed many millions of feet of lumber in western Canada.

The insect was discovered in the hall, however, and the builders are putting in new wood to replace the huge beams that were worm-eaten or perishing from dry rot.

The roof is two hundred and ninety feet long, and its apex is ninety-two feet above the floor. The remarkable thing about it is its width, sixty-eight feet, which is covered with a single span by stout English oak. With the exception of modern arched roofs, there is only one roof in the world with a greater span, and that is in the Hall of Justice in Padua, Italy.

William Rufus built the hall in 1097, but it was not until three hundred years later that the architects or masons who undertook the stupendous task of rebuilding the hall, took the oak that was originally built with a nave and aisle spans. These forgotten builders stood and provided so well for all possible lines of strain and thrust, pressure and resistance that the great timber span is sound from end to end.

It was the irony of destiny that in 1295 the roof of Westminster Hall, although not exclusively, was struck down on the ceremony of the solemn deposition. Two, and a half centuries later there was another striking event in the hall's history. In 1667 Cromwell rode in purple and ermine, was installed as Lord Protector in the hall, and later his head, severed from the execution block at Tyburn, was carried up in a coffin to Westminster, as Samuel Pepys so unctuously records in his diary.

Parliament met in Westminster Hall although not exclusively, from early times. Justice was administered there in the King's name, and some of the most important trials were held there. In 1834, William Wallace, King Charles I. Sir Thomas More, Anne Boleyn, the Protector Somerset and other illustrious names were tried in the hall. The timber of the great hall, evidently to prove the wisdom of the construction, has been the scene of the most interesting insect history.

WHERE PARENTS COME IN

In a certain Ontario High School the Principal was greatly annoyed by the persistence of parents' criticisms from the home of a few of the students in his school. The principal is a wise teacher and instead of losing his temper and taking out his grudge against the parents on the students, he prepared a printed questionnaire which he sent to the parents of all the children who were attending his school. Needless to say, the future complaints were very few. Here is what he asked them:

- 1—Do you visit the school to inquire about your child's progress and do not come to see if you can help the teacher to help the child?
- 2—Do you encourage your child in respect for teachers and others in authority?
- 3—Do you send your child to bed in time so that he will be rested and fit for study?
- 4—Do you provide plain, nourishing foods and see that your child is up in time to eat his meals?
- 5—Do you teach your child to read the papers and find out the best in them, and do you encourage an interest in public affairs?
- 6—Do you avoid gossip and telling of incidents which may be misinterpreted by your children?
- 7—Do you interest yourself in your child's sports and amusements and friendships?
- 8—Do you encourage helpful conversation at the table?
- 9—Do you comply with the rules on public health in your home, and do you keep in mind the fact that while the school may do much to instill the right principles, it is necessary to be handicapped if you do not support it by instilling obedience and high ideals of patriotism and personal life?

A MASTER OF MEMORY

It was Whittier's habit to memorize an effect in nature, and Mr. T. H. Way, in his recent "Memories" gives an example of his cleverness at it.

I shall never forget a lesson he gave me one evening. We had left the study when it was quiet and we were walking along the road by the garden of the "Cheese Hospital," when he pointed to the building and said, "The distance, an old public house at the corner of the road, with windows and shops showing golden light through the gathering mist of twilight."

"Look," he said.

"As he did not seem to have anything to sketch or make notes of, I took my pocket notebook and offered it to him.

"No, no," he said, "I have a long pause he turned and walked back a few yards; then, with his back to the scene, he said:

"Now, see if I have learned it, and then he gave a description of the scene perfect in every detail of arrangement and color, as might have been repeated in a poem he had learned by heart."

HIS MISTRESS'S VOICE

As the following story shows the use of the telephone, is not confined to human beings.

A lady took her little brown cocker spaniel with her to call on a friend who lived a mile or so away. When she left, she quite forgot the dog, and as soon as her friend discovered him, she did all she could to make him leave without success.

Some hours passed, and he was still there. So she telephoned to his mistress to let her know his whereabouts. "Bring him to the telephone," she said. One of the boys held him, while another put the receiver to the dog's ear.

Then his mistress whistled, and called, "Come home at once, Paddy!" Immediately he wriggled out of the boy's arms, rushed to the door, and was out to get out, and shortly afterwards arrived, panting, at home.

A MISTAKE

A doctor and a lawyer lived in the same street. Although they were not related, they were both named Smith. It happened that in June Dr. Smith died, and in July lawyer Smith went abroad. From Paris, the lawyer sent a wire to his wife which was delivered to the widow of a doctor. "It said, 'Arrived duly. Heat terrible!'"

"REAL MAN'S COUNTRY"

Winnipeg—Frank Day of Glenworth, Saskatchewan, who came to Canada from England over 20 years ago, believes that the Dominion is the land of opportunity for the enterprising man to work hard. In a letter from him published recently in the Manitoba Free Press, he said in part:

"There may be among the ranks of the unemployed some men who are sincerely looking for work, and perhaps somewhat discouraged with the prospects for the future. To these men I would say: Be of good cheer and have faith in the future. There are jobs to be had in this great empire for all who are truly worthy of a position.

"I have been over twenty years in the West and never yet had to sponge on the cities for a meal. I have worked at nearly all the so-called low-down jobs—mining, logging, and in fact anything in the line of work. The Canadian National Railway, and the fact that I could hold down my end with the other fellow. I truly sought to give satisfaction to my employer."

"To-day I farm three quarters sections of land. I still have times of hard work, but I am glad to say that I have made a good thing of it. I have been over twenty years in the West and never yet had to sponge on the cities for a meal. I have worked at nearly all the so-called low-down jobs—mining, logging, and in fact anything in the line of work. The Canadian National Railway, and the fact that I could hold down my end with the other fellow. I truly sought to give satisfaction to my employer."

DREADING THE DISHES

Most people get out of doing disagreeable things. "Won't to-morrow do" is a familiar question in the household; the easy promise, "Yes, I'll do it in a little while" has often tided us over until the morose "eleventh hour" that finds so many things undone or done hither-sither. In order that we may be ready when the clock strikes twelve.

It is disagreeable to wash dishes. Even mothers will sometimes pass the dishes on to youthful and unwilling hands. The schoolgirl invariably has dishes to do, and the dishes are so insistent! Even when stacked in the sink, they look reproachful. Let us in order on the table they place at you every time you pass; and when you are playing tennis or finishing a book, they loom over your head like a thunder cloud. "I just dread to get at them," you say, and the dread grows greater every time you think of them.

But there is no reason for dreading them? To scrape off the left over food; to pile spoons with plates; to have sparkling hot water, to wash and hot water; to attack the dishes in order of their cleanliness; instead of inversely or haphazardly; to hang up the dishes and see a cloudy sky spanning a golden afternoon—surely there are worse things than dishes to do. The sense of freedom and the feeling of righteousness that follow the prompt washing of the dishes are enough to raise the humble drudge to a fine art, and insure that it be done only quickly, but well. "There," said one waitress, glancing up at the dishes to be washed, "if I plunge headlong into them, I don't really come to my senses until I am halfway through. It is only dreading them that gets on my nerves." That, as we all know, was hitting the nail square on the head.

SUNBURN AND TAN

One who comes from a sunnier vacation without what is commonly called a good, healthy tan is regarded as not having taken full advantage of the opportunity. Most people feel that in getting themselves well-tanned they have done something meritorious—something that is to their benefit and benefits to their health and well-being. So strong is the superstition that people will sometimes voluntarily submit their faces to the rays of a painful sunburn, and rejoice in the subsequent mahoganying of their skin.

As a matter of fact, there is no special virtue in a coat of tan. It is a protection unaided nature attempts to supply to the skin when it is exposed to the sun. The rays of the sun weaken or eliminate the force of the sun's rays. Most people feel that in getting themselves well-tanned they have done something meritorious—something that is to their benefit and benefits to their health and well-being. So strong is the superstition that people will sometimes voluntarily submit their faces to the rays of a painful sunburn, and rejoice in the subsequent mahoganying of their skin.

THE DISAPPOINTED BISHOP

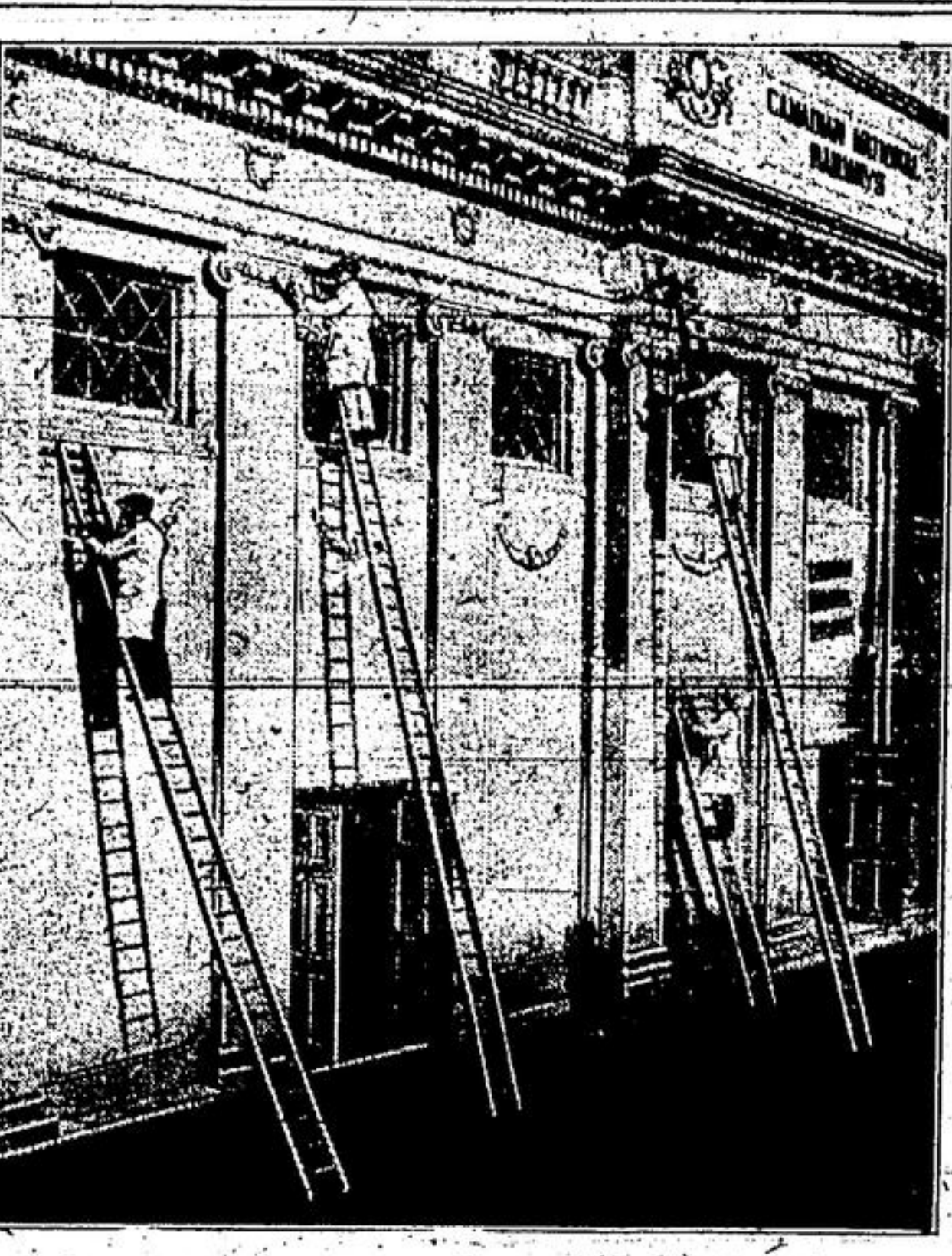
The "Banbury Bum," celebrated in song and story, has sustained its reputation for more than a hundred years. It is not surprising to learn, from the Baptist Union, that the Bishop of Worcester, when passing through Banbury, was desirous of trying it for himself.

When the train stopped at the station, the bishop saw a small boy standing near, and beckoning to him. The bishop thereupon handed the boy sixpence and desired him to bring one to the car, adding, "And with the other threepence you may buy one for yourself."

The boy shortly returned, complacently munching his Banbury, as he handed threepence to the bishop, said, "There was only one left, guv'nor."

A KIND WORD FOR ALL

An old Scotchwoman, about whom there is a famous story for speaking kindly. No sheep was so dark that she could not discover some white spot to point out to those who could see the blackness. One day a gossiping neighbor lost patience with her, and said angrily: "Woman, you are always finding fault with the devil himself!" Instantly came the reply: "Well, he's a vorra industrious body!"



HOUSECLEANING AT WEMBLEY

The British Empire Exhibition will re-open at Wembley, in April, bigger and better than ever. As last year, the Canadian National Railway will be one of the biggest exhibitors and Mr. H. R. Charlton, manager of the advertising bureau of the company is present in the exhibit, arranging the places of the exhibits. Improvements have been made to many of the features shown last year and much work has been done on an especially fine exhibit to attract settlers to Canada. English fogs and rains have not been kind to the description of the pavilion of the Canadian National Railway, and a squad of men have been employed to scrub the building, inside and out. The photograph shows men at work washing the outside of the pavilion preparatory to the opening of the fair.



YUKON WON BALTO TROPHY

Struck with the fine qualities of determination, courage and endurance displayed by the veteran Balto, who headed his way in record time at the head of twelve other dogs driven by Gunnar Kaason against most adverse conditions into Nome, Alaska, with diphtheria anti-toxin, Mrs. Frank Clarke, of Sheephead Bay, N. Y., offered an antique silver plate as a trophy to the winning team in the Eastern International Dog Sled Derby. The trophy was won by Yukon, the leading dog in the Manitoba team, driving to victory at Quebec by St. Gaudard under Franquin Paul Company colors and will be held perpetuity by its owner. Mrs. Clarke intends to offer a similar trophy each year.

EXTRAVAGANCE

The circus had come for its annual visit to the little country town, and the children for miles round were wild with excitement. The young son of a notoriously close-fisted farmer rushed up to his father and clamored to be allowed to go.

EXPLAINED

A man, unaccustomed to praising his wife, went out of his way to call her an angel.

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