



THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22, 1927

EDITORIAL

Sure of Criticism

The public-spirited citizen, who sets out to perform some civic service may as well settle down in the first place to accept criticism. Whatever is done, no matter how done, is bound to be criticized, most reluctantly by those who would not have undertaken the task themselves. Of course, a certain amount of this is legitimate, simply because no two people see anything from exactly the same angle. But the other kind of criticism, which must contain some sort of jealousy, is disheartening, and sometimes hardening, to the one who is honestly striving to help some project which is not his personal concern. The person who always indulges in criticism that is destructive deteriorates in the course of time to being an unmitigated nuisance to his circle. — Alliston Herald.

Spell It "Christmas"

If for no other reason that of good taste should appeal for the use of "Xmas" as an abbreviation of the word "Christmas." With the use of the brief term has grown a tendency to read it "Exmas," an unpardonable barbarism. Some exponents of the abbreviated word are now quoting ancient authorities in an effort to show that "X" as an abbreviation for Christ, has a history almost as old as Christianity and was used on the catacomb inscriptions. The argument is also used that dictionaries and encyclopedias include "Xmas" among the abbreviations of recognized standing. It is claimed that these authorities do not stigmatize it as colloquial and vulgar. Be that as it may, among the great majority of Canadians there is a feeling for words that impels them with a verbal conscience to spell Christmas out in full. It is too beautiful a word to spell otherwise. — Barrie Examiner.

No Concessions Likely for Truck Owners

Hon. Mr. Henry seemed to make it understandable to the heavy truck owners that there would be no concessions granted for allowing these big vehicles on the road when their extension of time expires at the end of the year. At a banquet of the Ontario Motor Truck Owners' Association the other night he pointedly asked his hearers, when they suggested an extension of time to 1930, "If I accede to your request now, when will you stop coming back asking for further extension?" Mr. Henry is in a position to know the damage these big vehicles, with their heavy loads, cause on the highways. He knows what it is costing the Province each year they are permitted to run. The Minister also said "that we are disposed to give consideration to extra speed and complete loads the year round on lighter vehicles." The Department, he emphasized, sought to encourage the use of moderately weighted trucks. Of course the truck owners were not in favor of increased gas tax and they desired a further extension. They received no encouragement and in a hostile camp Mr. Henry stood his ground and advanced his arguments for the probable action of his department.

A Word of Caution

A word of caution on speculation was given by Mr. A. E. Phillips, General Manager of the Imperial Bank, the other day, at the annual meeting of the shareholders. In speaking of the satisfactory financial conditions existing throughout Canada with the earnings of the Banks well up to the average, with losses lighter than they have been for a number of years past, he said: "I see nothing to suggest that the present favorable state of affairs will not continue for another year and perhaps for several years to come. There is one element, however, in the situation which might easily become dangerous. I refer to the unlimited amount of speculation that is going on in stocks and shares of every description. To my mind, it is a boom that is taking place, and, just like other booms, those who are engaged in buying those kind of securities are buying them, not because they want them, or because they think they are worth what they are paying for them, but because they think that somebody else will pay them more for the same securities to-morrow or next week. This will only go on so far, and when the apex has been reached, if the situation follows the course of other booms, everybody will want to sell at once, and there is where the trouble will develop for the banks, as well as the public. For our part, although we are quite willing to assist legitimate investment, and even in worth cases moderate speculation, we are doing everything we can to restrain and control the situation, and I believe that my colleagues in the other banks are following a similar course."

Merry Christmas

To every one who has access to read these columns and to many more we wish we could reach, Tim Fife's Press extends that good-old plain wish, "A Very Merry Christmas." The past few months this journal has been under the management of the new editor, have had their pleasures and of course their annoyances. It wouldn't do if we were all sailing. We have hurt some feelings, and some have touched us the wrong way. But at this season of the year, without strings of any kind, we like to lay aside our differences and wish to everyone the very best Christmas they have ever had.

The County Equalization (?)

In reviewing Judge's Elliot's report to the Warden and County Council on the county equalization appeal, there are many statements that must give the conscientious man, who studies it, real food for thought. The Judge points out the duty of the assessor, as contained in the act, that "land shall be assessed at its actual value," and the report goes on to explain "that is, at the amount it would really bring at a fairly conducted sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer. To be added to the valuation of the lands is the amount by which their selling value is increased by the buildings.

"This, I need not emphasize, is a completely wrong method on the part of the Assessors and should be corrected if these equalizations, with the large expenditure of public money, are to be avoided. Further, the matter could be dealt with more easily if the Assessors assessed at the same percentage of value in each Municipality, but this is far from the fact, and another thing is quite evident, their assessments in their own Municipality are not at a uniform percentage of value throughout.

"This is especially noticeable in the Townships of Nelson and Trafalgar, in Con. IV., S.D.S., and part of Con. III., S.D.S. Many properties, especially south of the Toronto and Hamilton Highway, are not assessed higher than 16 per cent. to 25 per cent. of actual value, and some as low as 10 per cent. These Townships, where the percentage of assessment is much higher, and it works out that the burden of taxation is not evenly distributed as it should be, and — *anyway*, which the Councils of these Municipalities should take steps to correct, or it will end in wholesale appeals against these assessments, with the trouble and heavy expense to be incurred. There are many beautiful and valuable properties in the sections named, and speaking generally the assessments of these are ridiculously low. There is no use in merely copying the old rolls.

"This year I have not included, as you will see, the Business and Income Assessments, as I do not think in strictness — and which counsel agreed — that the Act authorizes these to be included (Section 86). "On the whole, as I went into this question quite carefully last year, and as values have not changed very materially meanwhile, it could not be expected that I would make very great changes this year, the evidence being largely of the same character.

"I have, however, corrected some errors I found in my former calculations, which were not very large, and in the light of the evidence this year, have carefully gone over the whole question as far as time will permit. Comparing the aggregates of the assessments of 1926 shown in the Schedule, with my aggregate of \$30,850,770.00, it is apparent how inadequate the assessments are."

The total assessment of the County has been increased from \$19,775,508.00 of last year, to \$30,950,770.00 for this year. Acton has been raised from \$30,300.00 to \$1,185,827.00, and other towns in like proportion. The schedule of the assessments of the various municipalities appear in another column along with the assessments of 1926. It would appear that there is something radically wrong in the system of assessments throughout the County, and unfair burdens are placed upon certain sections, while others get off much too lightly. But how to solve this difficulty and make a more even distribution seems to be a bone of contention that will have to be threshed out in the courts each year. And that is not a very economical way of settling the matter.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The latest census shows that the area 50,000,000 in Canada valued at \$50,971,000.

The total value of production of the fisheries of Canada for the year 1926 was \$56,360,633, compared with \$47,942,131 for 1925 and \$44,534,235 for 1924.

Says the Mount Forest Confederate: "Seeing what we see, hearing what they hear, and knowing what they know, those who voted against Government Control can have no regrets."

Moscrip Bros., Major, Saskatchewan, have completed threshing what is considered to be the largest crop of wheat ever produced by one family in Saskatchewan. From 2,000 acres they threshed approximately 75,000 bushels of No. 2 Northern.

A record hay crop was produced in Western Canada in 1927. An official preliminary estimate shows that the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia produced 2,544,000 tons of hay and clover, compared with 1,564,000 tons in 1926, and 235,700 tons of alfalfa as against 223,000 tons last year.

An excellent survey of the activities of the United Church of Canada is contained in the 1927 issue of the Year Book of the denomination. Its compilation represents a vast amount of labor, and its 700 pages contain a tremendous number of facts and figures relating to the Church. It will be found an excellent book of reference for all interested in the work of the United Church. — The Globe.

"ACTON FREE PRESS is busy explaining that it made a mistake in giving the population of that town as 1,856, when it should have been 1,835. We hope none of the irate subscribers stopped their paper after that." This from our bright northern neighbor, The Fergus News Record. But Brother Templin, it is not our own inaccuracies we are busy explaining, but those of some other journals who have placed Acton in a wrong light. If you had digested your reading more thoroughly before running in hot metal and inkable print this article like the others, would have given us more leisure."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

General Lesson Title: "Christmas" Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20. Golden Text: "Thou shall call His name Jesus; for it is He that shall save His people from their sins." Matt. 1: 21. Devotional Reading: Col. 1: 21-29.

The Test Explained

8. Shepherds. The hills country above Bethlehem is peculiarly adapted for sheepbreeding. In the same country the shepherds sleep in the winter months, sheep in Palestine are protected in the fold over night. As these sheep were passing the mountain open, it must have been in the middle months of the year, the traditional date for Christmas.

9. An Angel. Both the Hebrew (Yahweh) and the Greek word "Angel" mean "messenger." — A natural state of mind under such circumstances.

10. Afraid. God's messenger begins with a "fearful messenger" of safety to the people. Everybody

11. The city of David. Bethlehem David's native town. Christ The Great Shepherd "Abraham" — The word "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew word "Mashiah" or "The Anointed Lord."

12. The Lord is with us. All know the Messianic Shephard's claim.

13. Peace. This word summarized all blessings when used by a Hebrew.

14. Made known concerning the sayings. They told Joseph and Mary about their expectation.

15. All that heard it wondered.

16. They marvelled and then forgot.

17. Mary kept all these sayings.

18. All that heard it wondered.

19. The Lord is with us.

20. Peace. — This word summarized all blessings when used by a Hebrew.

21. Men. — When he well pleased him fully "well-disposed men."

22. The Lord is with us.

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