



THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 29, 1927

EDITORIAL

It Was No Joke

The "smart Alex" who rang in the fire alarm on Monday morning committed a very reprehensible deed and deserves the serious punishment the law provides for such foolhardy actions. It is most desirable that the community possesses absolute confidence in its fire alarm system, and the inherent feeling that when this alarm is sounded, the Fire Company and the public generally will respond with utmost promptitude to assist in saving property and perhaps life. If this confidence is in any sense destroyed by the silly pranks of irresponsible parties the result will be disastrous. The Council or the Chief of the Fire Brigade will be amply justified in offering a substantial reward for the apprehension and due punishment of the guilty parties.

New Men Not Always Advisable

The municipal elections are on in many places in the County, and many new faces will be seen at the Council tables throughout the County and elsewhere. At the last two sessions of the County Council this year it has been remarked in several quarters that if a majority of the members were returned, many things could be expeditiously accomplished next year. The members were just beginning to understand each other real well and get acquainted in their work. This is a fact that should be kept in mind by the voters. If you have a good representative in the County Council, who is attending to the interests of your municipality well, be loath to change him for a new man. It is not wise to continue indefinitely the tenure of your representative but in your own interests do not change him too frequently, unless he is not attending to your affairs well. It takes some few meetings and a little time before your new man gets acquainted with proceedings. A new man is very apt to be delegated on rather unimportant committees. He has to prove himself capable of big undertakings before he is placed in responsibility at the county seat. He goes there a stranger to his fellow Councillors. During this time of getting acquainted finding his ground and proving himself, your municipality suffers and you suffer indirectly. There are points to consider well in your choice for representatives at the County Council. Ask yourself the question if you can afford to sacrifice them in your own interests when making your choice.

The New Year

Saturday will see the close of the old year and 1927 will, after that, be a thing of the past. This is the time of year for looking both ways backward and forward. A time when we view the past errors and resolve to correct them in the coming year. It is a reckoning up time, when we clear the books and endeavour to start afresh in the New Year. It is a time when we wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. But do these words convey enough? True happiness and prosperity are things desired by most everyone. But are they not just a little narrow? Sometimes our happiness may be at the expense of others. Sometimes our prosperity may be achieved to the ruin of some of our fellow men. The outlook for the future years, for many years after 1928, is bright indeed in this Canada of ours. There need be no overrunning or pushing aside of the timid to secure a fair measure of prosperity for all. Hon R. B. Bennett, leader of the Opposition, struck a high note in his speech before the Commercial Travellers' Association the other night. "The child is not yet born," said Mr. Bennett, "who will see the true development of this great country. You and I are only at the edge of it." The prospect is almost beyond conception. While other nations are withering, Canada has the full vigor of youth, with its zenith far in the distance, and every year one of building. To direct its progress in safe and sure channels is not an undertaking for the timid and doubtful. Like other far seeing men, Mr. Bennett realizes that this direction must take place within the British Empire. Canada owes her present position to the Empire, and her future depends upon the closeness with which the tie is maintained. "Our future and greatness as a people," he stated, "lie in the maintaining of the relationships that bind us, one to another, the Dominions and the Motherland into one Empire." We are building a great Dominion.

Canada for many years to come will be prosperous and advance. With the prosperity will come happiness to many. Let us advance and be prosperous, but let the advancement not be at the expense of others. Let our foundation be laid on a basis that will weather the decades to come as well as the immediate future. We wish all a Happy and Prosperous 1928, and a solid and sound foundation for the decades to follow.

Over Again for Another Year

Christmas is over again for another year. The excitement of the many parcels received all at once has worn off. The new shirts and ties are being worn, and the other thoughtful gifts put to use. The remains of the feast are being cleared away each meal and the hilarity is settling down to ordinary routine. In two or three weeks we will be back to normal again and trade and business will resume their ordinary aspect. Maybe our pocketbooks are flattened, maybe we are not bothering to carry them at all. Possibly we didn't get all we expected and very probably our stomachs are none the better for the over-indulgence of the festivities. But looking over that glad time that is just over for 1927, wasn't it all worth it? Wasn't the joy of giving and watching the surprised looks, the rapture of the children as they gazed on the Christmas tree or pulled the trinkets from the stockings with gleeful shouts, worth all the effort it cost? The getting away from the routine and the entering into the Christmas spirit for those two days will give a new grip on the affairs that will confront us in the days of 1928. It was an effort, but everything worth while is an effort and the pleasures of the Christmastide spread their joyousness from one year right through to the next.

The Wardenship Guesing

"THE ACTON FREE PRESS, in a complimentary write-up of Warden Agnew's administrative abilities during his occupancy of the chair, every word of which is true and deserved, asks 'Who Will Be Warden of Halton for 1928?' and answers its own query by suggesting the name of Reeve Mason, of Acton, as a suitable candidate for the coveted position. There's no doubt in the world but that Reeve Mason is well qualified to fill the position and would make a splendid Warden and presiding officer. At the same time, if we know Mr. Mason, if he thought for a moment there were others who might possibly have a prior claim to the position, he would be the last man to press his. However, it is a little early to talk Wardenship before it is definitely known who will compose the County Council for 1928.—Milton Reformer. Possibly we're a little premature, but then in these northern towns in the County, Georgetown and Acton, you know we have had our elections over for nearly a month. We know what our representatives will be in the County Council for 1928, and are therefore prepared to offer suggestions. The Reformer man knows Reeve Mason well. We know, too, that Reeve Mason would not press his claim over a prior claim. We doubt if Reeve Mason desires the position at all. But the point is that the efficiency of the County Council always best served by giving the honor out to the municipality who has the best claim on it? Would not Halton be best served if the qualifications of the men were put ahead of the claim of the municipality? Surely it has not come to the point in the County Council where efficiency is not considered. We know of some men from other places who would ably conduct, but it is not their turn, and we know of some turns that may and have been given where the County Council and its administration was not benefited.

Healthy and Prosperous

Another example of Acton's sound financial standing and independence was shown at the County Council last week. It is now the practice for the County Council to pay half of the cost of care and hospital cases and the municipality to bear the other half of the cost. In the presentation of the claims last week Reeve Mason had the distinction of asking the Council to head off the list with Acton, whose claim was nil for these cases. Milton was a close second to Acton, with a budget of only \$52.50 to pay for these cases. The other municipalities in the County had the following amounts to provide for: Georgetown, \$600.00; Oakville, \$862.00; Burlington, \$1,009.80; Trafalgar, \$206.00; Esquerring, \$1,080.00; Nelson, \$608.70; Nassagawaya, \$744.08. These figures represent the total amount. Only half these amounts are paid by the County Council. While Acton has charity to attend to, it is rather proud of the fact that this year it was able to look after its own cases. The town has been blessed with good health. It is truly indeed that a municipality is free from disease as Acton has been the past year. But the spirit of independence of its people, in striving against handicaps to pay their own way is the commendable feature of the whole subject. We do not claim wealth more than any other place in the County. In some places Acton is looked down upon as a working town. But the figures proved that we are not afraid to work and pay our own way when humanly possible. Our people do not look for charity, but prefer to stand up and pay their own obligations. We are not boastful, but thankful, and we wish that at the wind-up of 1928 we may have a better record and that each municipality in the County may join us in our good health figures. But let us consider a word of warning to the individual who considers Acton a place to be cared for by charity. Charity is only dispensed where it is really needed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Good New Year, through all its 366 days, to everyone, is the wish of all of us to all of you.

An advertising value alone, outside of the joy brought to all, the Community Christmas Tree was worth many, many times its cost to Acton.

In Almonte, failure of any of those nominated for the Town Council to qualify apparently stirred up the public for fourteen candidates contested six seats at the adjourned election.

The Christmas cheer (?) released by the Government Control stores in many cases became uncontrollable and in many more cases didn't bring cheer without it more Christians cheer might have reignited for more people.

THE FREE PRESS appreciates the many kind and complimentary remarks paid by subscribers and others on the Christmas edition executed in this office a couple of weeks ago. We feel that our efforts were really appreciated and enjoyed.

There will be no municipal election in Acton, the Council for next year having been elected by acclamation. Milton Champion. And even if there had not been an acclamation our election would have been over a month ago. The prediction is a little belated.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR JANUARY, 1

General Lesson, Title John the Baptist and Jesus. Golden Text: He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3: 30. Do you know Reading: Psalms 4: 3 to 5; 3 (beginning with "Know").

The Text Explained

1. **Golden Text.** The word "increase" literally means "grow more." Jesus, the personal name of our Lord, meaning "Saviour"; He is Jehovah, Christ—Christians, a Greek word meaning "anointed" is the exact equivalent of the Hebrew title "Messiah".

2. In Isaiah the prophet, that is, the prophet which is called Isaiah the prophet, which is given to indicate its authority, the reference to the book of Isaiah applies.

3. **Do you know?** To the quotation from Malachi 3: 1, I send the original Hebrew text of Malachi in the Septuagint—the ancient Greek translation here directly from the Hebrew original.

4. **Reading.** These words are either in a sent Hebrew text of Malachi or in the Septuagint.

5. **Do you know?** The word "increase" is the same name as "Haman" (Greek "Amman"), It is equivalent to the Phoenician "Ham" and the Amorite "Amman," account of John's birth and early life is given in Luke 1: 25 and 37-40.

6. **Do you know?** The word means originally "to increase," "to grow," "to multiply."

7. **Do you know?** The word "decrease" is the same name as "Jehoshaphat" (Hebrew "Yeshaphat") which means "God has judged." It is the name of the King of Judah.

8. **Do you know?** The word "decrease" is the same name as "Jehoram" (Hebrew "Yehoram") which means "God has exalted."

9. **Do you know?** The word "decrease" is the same name as "Jehoash" (Hebrew "Yehoash") which means "God has strengthened."

10. **Do you know?** The word "decrease" is the same name as "Jehoahaz" (Hebrew "Yehoahaz") which means "God has taken away."

11. **Do you know?** The word "decrease" is the same name as "Jehoash" (Hebrew "Yehoash") which means "God has strengthened."

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