



The Acton Free Press

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G. A. DILLIS, Editor and Proprietor.

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THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5, 1928

EDITORIAL

"Wet Neighbors"

People in the United States evidently do not consider the liquor control provinces of Canada in a very favorable light so far as the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors are concerned. To them liquor control provinces are invariably placed in the "wet" column. In an editorial recently the Young People's Weekly, of Chicago, says: "Much is made of wet Mexico to the south and wet Canada to the north; as difficulties in enforcing prohibition in the United States. Shall a great country like this be unable to cope with her wet neighbors?"

Treading on "Corn"

Every publication, serving the best interest of its field, must persevere tread once in a while on the "corns" of some reader, and just as a result, temporarily at least, a valuable subscriber. The real power of a publication rests on its facilities for the dissemination of worth-while information and news to readers, its ability to expose extravagance and corruption, fear of publicity in its columns alone often preventing wrong doing. Unscrupulous men in public life dread the "limelight," whilst honest and straightforward citizens prize the publication of facts that often influence and shape a country's destiny. Be it daily, weekly or monthly, truth alone must be its guiding star if it seeks to shed its light successfully on civic, provincial or national problems. All right-minded people agree that the ideals of journalism should no more be sacrificed to the bigot or the narrow-minded than to the advertising puff or circulation stunt. Yet, how much easier it is to pursue a "wait and see" policy, to pander to all shades of opinion by sidestepping the vital questions of the day, than to bring to light frankly and earnestly by facts and figures, the truth on situations affecting the whole Dominion, questions such as the pulp and paper embargo, the shipping subsidy, the prohibition question, the what not. Few papers can afford to lose one subscriber, but still fewer can afford to please every reader. To be worth while, to have no fear of the estimate of the world, matters and news dealing with the welfare of a community must be discussed without fear or favor, if the influence of the paper is to grow. In the long run it will be found that lovers of fair play, the honest and far-sighted, will continue to rally round, just as the "easily peev'd" will continue to borrow from their friends a copy of the paper, that, in their hearts, they admire or fear.—Printer and Publisher.

Keeping the Youthful Mind Clean

The sessions of the Older Boys' Parliament that were held in Toronto the past week brought many excellent points out. One resolution that was carried makes newspaper people who have to do with the handling of crime stories at least think a little. "That this Seventh Ontario Older Boys' Parliament views with apprehension the detailed newspaper reports of crime, and we believe it detrimental to the plastic minds of youth." Many arguments were advanced on behalf of both sides of the question, noted among those in favor were references to the gruesome details published in connection with recent murders, the Hickman case in particular; it was also argued that the influence of newspaper reports upon the "plastic minds of youth" was such as to be largely responsible for the great increase of crime of late among those of tenderer years. Another speaker asked the House why the newspapers should be attacked, and went on to express his opinion that some moving pictures were far more injurious to the "plastic minds of youth" than were the newspapers. After nearly an hour of heated discussion the motion was put to the House and carried by a standing vote of 80 to 4. Will the time come when newspapers of certain types will be considered as undesirable reading and barred from youths by parents who have the welfare of the youth at heart? And will certain movies be designated as unfit places for youths to attend? It almost seems that if the mind that craves the sordid details of these affairs is to be satisfied and supplied with their gruesomeness and the youthful mind is to be kept clean there will have to be a dividing line somewhere. Or wouldn't it be easier to delete these horrible things from the public press and serve up these news in a way that all ages can read it and allow the journals who are labelled for such things to have the details. But when in many cases youth will be found buying these sordid journals and feeding on the horrible pictures and accounts given in these periodicals. Newspapers and movies can do much. Parents and youth can do more by refusing to read the stuff or to clamor for this news.

The Premier's New Year's Message

The following New Year message of Premier King sounds a call to all to build this Canada of ours in the future on lines that will be lasting and upholding the moral qualities and habits of the past in our future building: "The dawn of 1928 has a special significance for Canada. It marks the close of one period in our history and the beginning of another. Behind us lie sixty years of united effort. In this time we have built steadily upon the foundations laid at Confederation, and have extended the boundaries of the Dominion from sea to sea. Forty years hence many now living will join in the commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of Confederation. The happiness of that day will depend in large measure upon our labors in the new year and in succeeding years. As a result of the celebrations of the past year, we understand more clearly than before the greatness of the task of building a Canadian nation. We know that the dream of the Fathers of Confederation was not realized without courage and perseverance. We know, too, that natural unity in a country of different races and creeds is not achieved without charity and forbearance. The true wealth of Canada consists less in the abundance of our material possessions than in those moral qualities and habits of thought which have come down to us as an inheritance from the past. In the new period of expansion which lies before us, it is our highest duty to conserve this inheritance for the benefit of those who will some day stand in our places. So it may be said of us, as it was said of those who created the Dominion: 'Providence being their guide, they builded better than they knew.'

The Past was Good—the Outlook is Bright

In its business summary for the month of November the Bank of Montreal gives Canadians real cause for optimism and a very satisfied feeling for the year 1927. It says: "Generally speaking, the year has brought expansion in most industries and has yielded larger profits to producers and manufacturers. A conspicuous feature has been the tendency to merging, manufacturing and, to a lesser extent, trading corporations, as well as to public holding of these concerns through issue of capital stock. Forecasts are being made of conditions likely to prevail in the coming year; these are mainly optimistic, and as respects Canada it can be said that no cloud is visible upon the horizon. Official estimate of the value of Canada's field crops gives assurance of sustained domestic trade, that value being placed at \$1,141,367,000 or \$35,839,000 in excess of last year, and only slightly below the value of similar crops in the banner year 1925. The foreign trade of Canada increased \$7,000,000 in November over the corresponding month a year ago, and was \$42,200,000 larger than in October. Exports at \$153,118,000 were nearly \$50,000,000 in excess of the preceding month, practically the whole of the gain being in grain shipments. There was a favorable balance of trade of \$58,807,000 in November, and of \$80,100,000 in the elapsed eight months of the fiscal year. Through the port of Montreal there passed in the season of navigation, which closed on December 6, the largest volume of traffic in its history. The immense quantity of 300,000,000 bushels of grain was handled, being 58,000,000 bushels in excess of the previous high record made in 1925. The number of ocean steamships entering the port, 1,240, was 109 more than last year. A feature of the season's business was the large quantity of British anthracite coal landed, 683,140 tons, this coal, having come into popular favor to the displacement of American anthracite; while Nova Scotia bituminous coal is again finding a large market in Montreal, 1,503,907 tons having been brought in by vessel during the season."

Canada, the Land of Opportunity

The nineteenth century was the century of the United States; the twentieth century will be Canada's century." Such was the declaration of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier while still Prime Minister of the Great Dominion. He was no mere visionary, as events have proved, nor was he prone to indulge in rhetorical flights of fancy. He was a statesman of clear perception and he spoke whereof he knew, as the amazing progress of Canada so far in this century impressively confirms. Unquestionably the nineteenth century was the century of the United States, for America's growth in population, enterprise and wealth were without prior parallel in the world's history. But the ratios of Canada's progress in the twentieth century were never equalled in any equivalent period of America's nineteenth century expansion. In the past two decades, as Mr. R. J. Barrett—the Managing Editor of *The Financial Times*—shows in his introductory articles to our supplement, Canada's expansion in all material respects has been prodigious. That article and those contributed by Canadian authorities may well astonish such as have not been aware of what is happening in Canada. Lack of knowledge of this vital imperial concern is, unfortunately, too common in the Mother Country, Canada's southern neighbors, on the other hand, are keenly perceptive of the Dominion's pertained greatness and prosperity. While there is a notable migration of Americans from the middle Western States to settle on the virgin soil of Canada, American industrialists and financiers are investing money without stint in Canadian enterprises and establishing many branch works in the Dominion. If Canadian prospects be so alluring to Americans who, thanks to constituency and experience of like physical conditions, are likely to be best informed, can British capital and enterprise afford to hold aloof? Certain big British firms, it is true, have established branch works in Canada and the movement is spreading, but the opportunities are so great and the advantages so manifest that there is ample room for far more extended efforts than we have yet seen!—London, England, Financial Times.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The holidays and elections are over and now to settle down and get a grasp on 1928.

If the announcements of new lines of cars for this year means anything, 1928 will surely be known as auto year.

The electors in a number of municipalities in the Province showed conclusively by their votes that they not desire a liquor store to demoralize their community. Bracebridge, Vaneck Hill, Port Rowan, and other places voted against having a liquor dispensary established within their borders. Wallaceburg and Alexandria gave favorable votes. They will very likely be sorry.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

General Lesson Title.—Jesus and the Berthier Legion—Mark 1: 21-24.

Scripture Text.—He hath done all things well.

Message.—He maketh even the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Devotional Reading.—I Sam. 3: 1-10.

The Text Explained.—

21. —*Jesus and the Berthier Legion*—An important city located on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Its exact site is uncertain. It was founded by the Phoenicians about 1200 B.C. It is now known as Kinnereth. It entered into the synagogue and taught—His teacher.

22. —*He hath done all things well*—An adoration of truth, not based upon creation of authorities or quotations from other teachers.

23. —*He maketh even the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak*—A striking point in this miracle is the testimony of the demon to Christ's Membership, which, however, he refused to admit into the synagogue and taught—His teacher.

24. —*He hath done all things well*—An adoration of truth, not based upon creation of authorities or quotations from other teachers.

25. —*A man possessed by an unclean spirit*—A man who had been possessed by an evil spirit.

26. —*He casteth out devils*—A man who had been possessed by an evil spirit.

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