



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOFF DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

A Committee Report That Was Not Presented

At the meeting of Halton County Council no mention was made or correspondence tabled regarding the division of the costs of the Middle Road construction. The Council has not publicly withdrawn its opposition to this construction and yet the construction goes on. Will Halton County be saddled with this additional debt as a question being asked by many ratepayers. Apparently there was no report presented to the Council as a result of the Good Roads Committee visit to the Department of Highways. At the previous meeting of the Halton County Council, a committee was appointed to interview the Department regarding a bill presented at that meeting. This committee was asked to report at the next meeting of the County Council which was held last Thursday. There was apparently no report to record at the meeting last Thursday. Can it be that the matter has not been definitely settled whether Halton County will be called upon to add to its highway debt or is it deemed advisable not to divulge the decision of Queen's Park in the matter just now? It's a question of very vital importance to every taxpayer now and for the next twenty years. Why doesn't the Provincial Department put the cost where it belongs? The question will be one that will probably be asked in the Provincial election campaign if the County Council cannot get an answer.

Peculiar Situations

If decisions can be reached, it looks as if Acton will experience quite a little building activity this year. This municipality is in rather a unique position in this regard. While most public buildings meet a stumbling block when the question of financing the project arises, Acton has the finances ready waiting for use and the trouble seems to be to agree to put the funds in circulation. With the Public Utilities building, a surplus is on hand sufficient to meet the estimated expenditure and still leave considerable on deposit, and the plant is entirely debt free. In the Murray Memorial project, the total amount has been left by the late James Albert Murray, with only the stipulations as to the nature of the building and the actual providing or spending of the money. It is a peculiar situation—in fact, it's two peculiar situations. But we have a very vivid recollection of a municipality not a hundred miles distant from Acton where the residents could not agree on the site for a new public building, for which the money had been appropriated. That incident happened over ten years ago, and to-day the demand is more insistent than ever for the erection of that public building, and we imagine that when the funds are again available there will be little argument over the situation. Opportunities do not always present themselves. The ability to grasp them when presented is what makes for advancement and characterizes all successful individuals or municipalities.

How the amount of revenue, employment, times are of such deep concern to the League. In reality greater profits for millers are its most vital concern.

Demand for Canadian Furs Increases

Business for the Canadian fur trapper and fur farmer has recently improved, substantially, if the latest export figures are taken as an indicator. Exports of undressed furs from April 1 to Jan. 31, 1934, were valued at \$10,496,000 as compared with \$7,866,000 in the corresponding ten months of the preceding fiscal year. The British Isles are Canada's best market for furs, with the United States coming second and France third. In January, 1933, Canada shipped 43,872 black and silver fox pelts, valued at \$1,852,048, to the British market. During the ten months under review Canada exported 182,637 fox pelts of all types to the value of nearly \$5,500,000; a total of 165,881 mink skins, valued at \$1,570,718; and 1,764,332 muskrat skins, with a value of \$1,049,488. Other skins exported during the ten months included beaver, valued at \$776,561; marten, 205,908; lynx, \$180,501; fisher, \$147,403; wolf, \$132,379; seal, \$17,505; and other undressed furs, \$929,768. Shipments of dressed furs to other countries from April, 1933, to January, 1934, inclusive, totalled \$169,429, as compared with \$38,901 in the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year. Furs from Canada find a ready market abroad because of their high quality.

The Beginning of the End?

What would appear to be the finish of the C. C. F. movement in Ontario was written this week when the U. F. O. group withdrew from its associations with the Federation, and such well-known leaders in the movement as Miss Agnes Macphail and Captain Philpott were out of the executive. Perhaps one paragraph in Mr. Woodsworth's statement concerning the difficulties explains much of the failure of the movement. It reads thus: "The clubs were hurriedly set up to provide for the needs of hundreds who desired to associate themselves with the new movement. The organization and education of such large numbers who had been swept into the movement on a wave of emotional enthusiasm, proved too heavy a task for a new organization without trained local leadership, or financial resources. The clubs, too, became a 'happy hunting ground' for various types of cranks, and for Communists. To escape from the interminable bickerings, many members withdrew in disgust." It would appear that the movement owed much of its rapid growth and just as rapid decline to the conditions of the present time. A short time ago, with everything topsy-turvy, the C. C. F. group seemed to offer a cure-all for the troubles of the people. Its C. C. F. orators policy of pointing out the ills of society appealed to many, and in the dilemma the theories advanced offered a straw at which to grasp. Those who were discontented numbered many and most of these flocked to the standard of the C. C. F. The movement would appear to have been rather visionary and, with the hope for immediate help impossible of fulfillment, the tide turned in another direction and deserted the banners of the new movement. The movement also appears to have too much of a destructive nature and rather lacking in a feasible constructive plan. The welding of the radical labor faction and the steady and more conservative farm section would seem to be a task well-nigh impossible. It is quite likely the movement will continue to decline and not be an important factor by the time elections roll around.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There'll be more than the Irish proud to wear the little shamrock on Saturday—St. Patrick's Day.

The Canadian Legion's new motto will be "They served till death; why not we?" It is taken from the last message of Sir Arthur Currie.

With the finish of the O. H. A. schedule, and the winning of the Peter Smith Trophy, the hockey season seemed to lag and rather quit of its own accord, although the ice surface remained weeks after.

Money must be getting more plentiful. The mails again bring the booklets telling of the sure things in the mines. The bait seems as tempting as ever, and we suppose there'll be a new crop ready for it since 1929.

In Hamilton Dan Cupid is making a saving in the marriage fees. The young folks are having banns announced in the churches, and thus saving the marriage license costs. The Ambitious City will have a thrifty lot of young couples.

Information recently secured from the prize winners at the International Hay and Grain Show, held in Chicago in December last, reveals the striking fact that in the hard red spring wheat class, the most important class in the Show, all of the prizes were won with varieties of wheat originated and developed by the Dominion Experimental Farms. There were thirty-five awards in all. Twenty-eight exhibitors won with Reward, six with Marquis and one with Garnet.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 18th

JESUS RESPONDS TO FAITH

Golden Text.—Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.—Matt. 7: 7.

Lesson Text.—Matt. 15: 53-16: 12. (Verses printed, 15: 21-31.) Study, also, Mark 7: 24-30; Matt. 9: 1-13.

Time.—May or June, A. D. 29. Place.—Neighborhood of Tyre and Sidon.

Exposition.—I. Faith Seeking a Blessing, 21, 22.

Scarcely had Jesus arrived in the coats of Tyre and Sidon (Mark 7: 25, R. V.) when a woman in sore distress on account of a little daughter's being under the power of an unclean spirit, heard of Him. It is quite likely that she had often wished, when she heard of His mighty deeds, that, some day, He would come her way. The long hoped-for hour was at last arrived, and, without delay, she hastened to Him. "This woman is an exceedingly interesting and instructive character. Her position was very discouraging. She was outside the covenant promises and blessings (vs. 22, 24, 26); she was in sore distress, her daughter having fallen under the power of the unclean, but real and awful powers of darkness. The disciples were unsympathetic, and even the Saviour, Himself, appeared to be unbreeding. There was apparently no helper. Even her own mode of approach to Jesus was a mistaken one. She approached Him as the Son of David—as if she, a Canaanite outcaste, had a part in the promises of Israel. But this woman got the blessing she sought, in spite of all. Her faith conquered, and made her a true child of Abraham and heir of the promises (Gal. 3: 28, 14; Luke 19: 13; 16). A rationalistic interpretation of the incident would make the child's affliction simply a case of insanity or epilepsy. But in honest and candid reading of Scripture is against this. So, also, are carefully observed facts, modern as well as ancient. Demon-possession, as distinguished from insanity, arising from purely physiological causes, is an established fact. It is found more frequently at some times, and in some places than at others. There was naturally enough, a virulent outbreak of it, when the Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3: 8). Satan mustered all his forces for the great fight on hand (Col. 2: 15, R. V.). But demon-possession exists to-day, as has been clearly proven by carefully-observed and recorded facts (See "Demon-Possession and Allied Themes," by Nevius). It is a narrow and shortsighted philosophy that admits the existence of only such beings as we can see with our poor, physical eyes. There is a world of spirits—bad as well as good. This fact will account for those phenomena that remain to spiritualism, clairvoyance, hypnotism, etc., after fraud, sleight-of-hand, natural causes, and so forth, have been eliminated. This girl's case was a sad one. She was in Satan's power, and, like so many of his victims, grievously tormented. But, fortunately, she had a believing, praying mother. Her mother's prayer was a model. It was earnest, direct, brief, definite, personal, humble, believing, persistent, prevailing. The kernel of it was, "Have mercy on me." That was a cry Jesus often heard (ch. 9: 27; 17: 15; Luke 17: 13; 18: 13), and never passed unheeded. He is just the same to-day (Heb. 13: 8). Note the place where the woman found blessing—at the Saviour's feet.

II. Faith Tested, 23, 26.

To the woman's first prayer, Jesus answered not a word (v. 23). This action on the part of the Master, at first glance, seems inexplicable, and out of all keeping with what we usually read of Him. But the more we study it, the more meaningful it is seen to be, and the more evident the genuineness of the story becomes. There was a threefold reason why Jesus paid no heed to the woman's petition. (1) There was a real difficulty in the way of giving the woman what she sought; she was a stranger to the covenants of promise, an alien from the commonwealth of Israel, separated from Christ (Eph. 2: 12). This difficulty was very real, but faith surmounted it. Mountains are nothing to faith. (2) The woman approached Him on a wrong footing—as a child of the kingdom. This she afterward rectified by taking her place as a Gentile dog, although of a pet and privileged kind. Many of us would get more if we would only take our right place before God. (3) Jesus would test her faith. He often seems not to hear when He really does, and simply would have us cry again, and thus prove our faith to be deep-seated, real and earnest (Luke 18: 1-8; 11: 5-9).

III. FAITH Overcoming and Obtaining, 27, 28.

In the end the woman got far more than she sought. She asked healing for her daughter. This she obtained, and, with it, testing, instruction and commendation for herself. How wonderfully blessed to have Jesus, Himself, say to one, "Great is thy faith!" The Saviour's answer to the disciples (vs. 23, 24) is deeply significant. His chosen followers begged Jesus to send away the woman because they were annoyed by her importunate cries. The seemingly strange and partly irrelevant answer given by the Saviour means, when looked at closely, "I can't send her away without granting her request; and, yet, how can I grant her request when she is without the covenants and My mission?" The lessons about faith, in this passage, are

very rich. (1) Often found when least expected. (2) Rooted in Jesus. (3) Manifested in (a) coming to Jesus, (b) praying to Jesus, (c) holding on to Jesus, (d) expecting much from Jesus. (4) What it accomplishes: (a) overcomes apparently insuperable obstacles, (b) obtains all it asks, (c) pleases Christ, (d) wins His commendation.

IV.—The Great Physician, 29, 31. This report of Jesus' mighty power was abroad in the land. The people were not accustomed to real miracles, and never before had there been such a Teacher among them—One with a ministry to the body as well as to the soul. We read (v. 30) that great crowds came to Him, "having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many others." Numbers of them, no doubt, had travelled many miles, and gone through much fatigue. But the hope of being healed was in sight—a hope which was a rich and blessed fulfillment. "And He healed them." Rich in blessing to those who became the immediate recipients of His mercy, this great work of Jesus stands for us as an emblem of our Lord Jesus Christ's power to heal diseased souls. There is no ailment of heart He cannot cure; no form of spiritual sickness He cannot overcome. All give way when He sends forth His Spirit on any one of the children of men.

UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED

"You mean to say you were not at your own daughter's wedding? Where were you?" "I was looking for a job for the groom."

THOSE DEPRESSING MOMENTS

He wasn't much to look at but he was an ardent wooer. "Darling," he said to the bright blonde as he stroked her pink fingers prior to the next dance, "I wonder. Do you ever think about me?"

"Yes, Algy," she answered, "I do have my moments of depression."

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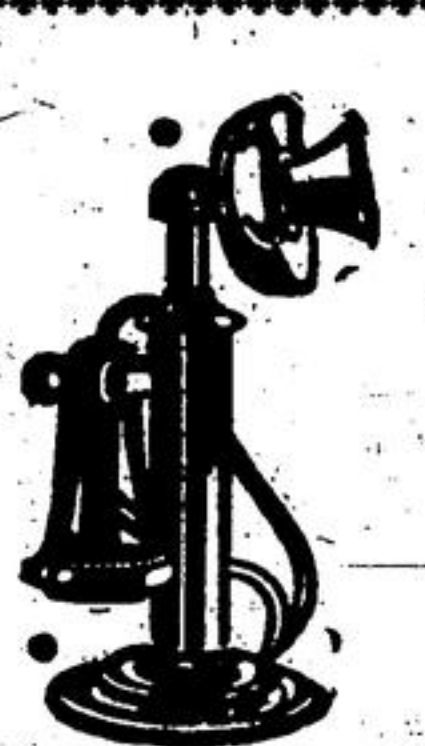
IT SNAPS

"Now, what about some elastic?" suggested the commercial traveller who was getting an order from an Aberdeen shopkeeper.

"Na, na," said the Aberdeen. "I'm for use mair' o' it. I couldn't measure a yard of your lost consignment w'ot the stuff snapping."

Government cease to be successful when men cease to be tolerant.—George W. Wickereham.

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