



### The Acton Free Press

Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario

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G. ARLOFF DILLS, Editor.

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### Who Is To Blame?

The Bowmanville Statesman makes the following rather apt comment that is not peculiar to that community: "Less than an hour after The Statesman was in the Post Office last week, one observing reader commented on our 'Home Town Buying' editorial. He said he noticed a transient recently painting signs on the windows of three local merchants when there are at least three good sign painters right in our own town. It may have been that the out of town chap went after the job while the local artists just didn't bother. You've got to go after business these days. If a merchant doesn't advertise he shouldn't complain if business goes elsewhere."

### More Difficult

As another winter confronts us, the question of relief work, which when started three years ago was thought to be only a temporary measure, is just as big a problem as ever. Without a doubt there are more people at work now than when the problem was first faced. However, the earnings have been small and have allowed scarcely for catching up with past obligations. Credits have been stretched past the limit and savings have gone. The problem this year is just as serious as it was at the outset. The question of funds, that were so generously provided by citizens, is also a serious one. Many who gave freely, now find themselves in a position where such cannot be continued. Their savings have also reached a point where the work cannot be carried on as in the past. Perhaps the question this year is the most serious of any years since assistance started. Governments are finding the load heavy too, and are enforcing stricter regulations on the municipal bodies administering relief. The present season will see plenty of call for assistance and the problems more difficult to face.

### Increase in Employment

A considerable increase was shown in industrial employment on October 1st, when reports received from 8,864 firms showed 933,486 persons were at work, as compared with 923,078 on September 1st, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported. The index, made on the base 1926 equals, 100, stood at 100.0 on October 1st, as against 98.9 on September 1st, and 90.4 on October 1st last year. The most outstanding feature of the survey of employment was the unusually pronounced expansion in bush operations, which directly provided work for more than 600 persons, an increase that in the Octobers for which statistics are available has only once been exceeded (viz., in 1920). Mining showed the greatest gain on record; transportation, building, construction and trade also reported considerable improvement over the preceding month. A slight advance occurred on the whole in manufacturing, being the ninth consecutive gain since the opening of the year. On the other hand, communications, highway and railway construction and hotels and restaurants released a large number of persons as the active season drew to a close. The trend was upward in Ontario, according to 3,899 employers of 398,349 persons, or 5,317 more than at the beginning of September.

### For Public Protection

The regrettable shooting accident of last week, which it is hoped will not have serious or fatal results, should serve as a warning to boys with firearms in their possession. No boy, under sixteen years of age, has the right to have firearms, and no one has a right to sell firearms to a minor. Another point often overlooked with firearms is the fact that air guns are mentioned also as being in the same category as other weapons. Very severe penalties are provided for infractions of this law. The danger from firearms cannot be over-emphasized and even if in the hands of adults, the accidents resulting from their possession is a serious consideration. Parents and others should carefully guard minors from the dangers of firearms. Homes are saddened and pain endured all because of an accidental discharge of the weapon. The laws guarding sale and possession of firearms were not made just to clutter up the statute books, but for the protection of the public.

### The Promise Fulfilled

Definite announcement that, commencing on Thursday, the Ontario Government will relieve the municipalities of the twenty per cent. levy on highway costs will certainly be welcome news to Halton County. The 1932 Auditors' Report of the County gives Provincial highway construction costs to the County of over \$5,000, and maintenance of over \$4,000. With the construction of the Middle Road and the other improvements of the highways in the County, this amount will now be well over that figure. Starting with November 1st, the County Council will not be required to raise this amount. The saving this year will be only a trifle, but next year will amount to considerable and will likely enable this body to lower again the amount required in the County rate. The question has been long debated by the municipalities, without effect, until just prior to elections, when the Conservative Government promised to lower the amount. Now the new administration has put the taxation in its proper place, and the roads will be paid for from the motor and gasoline taxes, where they rightly belong. Election promises are often glibly made. It is a source of satisfaction to see them so promptly and fully carried out.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

As the signs of winter become more noticeable, the rumors and signs of hockey are more to the fore.

It is said that we had no Indian Summer last year. Most folks hope that we receive a double allotment this year to even up.

The candidates for municipal office are beginning to come to the fore. Perhaps more to fore now than during the last week in November.

The scene of political interest has shifted this week from the Provincial to the Dominion Capital. Bennett has been doing the firing this week. But when one disagrees within the party it's usually termed resigning.

We notice that the Oakville Record makes some remarks regarding Acton and the raising of Oakville to a higher class in hockey circles. My, how that sports' writer is going to miss us. And we'll miss you, too, brother!

The Latchford-Smith report on the Abitibi Canyon deal does not improve the standing of either Mr. Henry or Mr. Meighen in the eyes of the public. Both held rather peculiar positions in their dealings as buyers and sellers.

The announcement of an hour earlier closing of the beverage rooms and a share in the profits for the municipalities will please many, and is an improvement no doubt. There will be plenty of room for further improvements.

Col. Drew has proven himself an excellent letter-writer, but Mr. Godfrey has seemingly surpassed him as a man of action in his brief term of office. The mining sheets in the mails and the telephone calls are no longer bothersome.

The Smith's Falls Record-News believes there should be a penalty imposed on the person who mails a letter without attaching sufficient postage. There seems to be only one way of getting back at these individuals. When you answer the letter, save on the postage.

The Fergus News-Record announces a population of 2,600 for Fergus, but the editor says: "Larger size does not always bring other advantages, and we usually think that a village of the size in which we spent our boyhood is ideal, but sober consideration prompts us to admit that increased size has brought Fergus many other advantages, and we can only suppose that continued growth will also make this a better place to live in." Most towns welcome the growth regardless of advantages lost when passing the village stage.

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

#### CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Golden Text.—But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—2 Peter 3: 18.

Lesson Text.—Luke 2: 42-52; 2 Peter 1: 5-8. (Verses printed, Luke 2: 42-52.) Study, also, Deut. 6: 3-9; Matt. 19: 3-9; Luke 24: 28-32; 2 Tim. 1: 3, 5; 3: 14, 15; Prov. 4: 10-19.

Time.—A. D. 8. Place.—Jerusalem. Exposition.—I. Jesus Inquiring and Manifesting His Wisdom, 40-50.

When Jesus became twelve years of age and so "a son of the law" He went to the feast with them. At this visit everything took on a new and deeper meaning to Him. Though divine, He was also human, a real boy; and though a marvellous boy, thoughts and truths opened gradually to His mind as to the mind of other boys. The Christ of the Bible was as truly human as He was divine. The real Christ is a Christ who was "very God of very God," and at the same time very man of very man. And those were wonderful days to Him when at twelve He stopped at Jerusalem amid the great Passover throngs, passed in and out of the magnificent temple. Jesus enjoyed being in the temple. He felt more at home there than any place He had ever been. It was "Father's house" (v. 49, R. V.). He felt that He belonged there, that "I must be in my Father's house." How many of us have that deep, consuming longing for the place where the Father dwells and manifests Himself? (Ps. 27: 4). When His human parents left He could not but stay behind where His real Parent was. When His parents had sought Him three days everywhere they could think of, they at last found Him in the temple. He seems to have spent the time there, and they ought to have sought Him there in the first place (v. 49). The house of God is the likeliest place to find a true child of God. Jesus was often found in the temple during His whole life (Mark 14: 49). He made Himself very much at home in the temple. He was "sitting" there, no passing visitor or sight-seer. He was there to learn—He was "in the midst of the doctors (teachers)," and He was "hearing" and "asking them questions." The questions displayed great wisdom (v. 47), but they were not asked to display His wisdom. He wished to learn. The teachers were far from the wisest the world has ever known, and He was infinitely the wisest scholar; but He felt there were things that He could learn even from them. There is no suggestion that He criticized His teachers. He was a model Bible class scholar. He answered questions as well as asked them (v. 47). And His answers were so profoundly intelligent as to "amaze" "all that heard him." It was more as the perfect, human boy than as the divine Child that He was asking questions in the temple, and so He owed the "understanding" He displayed not so much to His inherent divinity as to His Spirit-guided study of the Word of God (Ps. 119: 99; Luke 24: 27; John 3: 34). Not only the bystanders were amazed, but Mary herself, who had watched Him and listened to Him for twelve years, was astonished. Depths were now revealed into which even she had never been allowed to peer before. Even Mary, though His mother, had not understood Jesus. There seems to be a tone of complaint if not abruptness in the question Mary put to Jesus. Mary was a wonderful woman (Luke 1: 28), but she was not divine and not faultless. The Mary of the Bible is not the Mary of legend and adoration. Mary and Joseph should have had no anxious fears about Jesus. They should have known that, wherever He was, He was just where He ought to be. While Mary and Joseph were surprised that He was in the temple, Jesus was surprised that they should search for Him at all instead of coming right there, fully assured that He was there. There is no note of apology or regret in Jesus' reply. Though the most dutiful, tender and obedient of sons (v. 51; John 19: 26, 27). He was conscious that He was something more than "the son of Mary" (comp. John 2: 3, 4), and that Mary must for her own sake be made to realize this fact. So while Mary says "thy father and I sought thee, etc.," Jesus answered, "Wist ye not that I must be in my Father's house?" He points her from the human reputed (ch. 3: 23) parentage to the divine real parentage. This is the first recorded utterance of Jesus, and, like the last (ch. 23: 46), its central thought is "God is my Father."

II.—Jesus Obeying and Growing, 51, 52. Having made this needed assertion and given this clear proof of His deity, Jesus fell back into His place as the son of Mary and Joseph. "He was subject unto them." He doubtless helped

His father about the carpentering (Mark 6: 3) and His mother about her domestic work, and He was just as truly "about his Father's business" when carrying water and making fires in Nazareth as when in the temple asking questions. For nearly twenty years longer He remained in the humble obscurity of Nazareth. He did not chafe at that commonplace life, though conscious of power to fill a vastly larger sphere. That quiet life was a necessary preparation for the work the Father had given Him to do. During these years Jesus was growing. If we, too, are in a humble sphere where there seems to be little else to do we can at least grow. That is the best thing a child can do, anyhow. If his growth, like that of Jesus, is not only in stature but in wisdom and favor with God as well, Jesus could grow because He was a real human being. He had voluntarily put aside divine glory to become a real man (Phil. 2: 6, 7; Mark 13: 32). He was perfect as a babe and boy, but the perfection of manhood is a higher form of perfection than the perfection of childhood, and more pleasing to God. So He "increased in favor with God" as He grew from perfect boyhood into perfect manhood.

III. Adding Grace to Grace, 2 Peter 1: 5-8.

When one is born again the Christian life is begun. There must be growth (1 Peter 2: 2). Grace must be added to grace, and this requires not "merely diligence, but "all" diligence. In our faith, which is the source of all things, we must supply "virtue," i. e., moral goodness, excellence of character. To this there must be added "knowledge." But even this is not all. In our knowledge we must supply "self-control," then "patience," "reverent regard for God," "love of the brethren," and, then, "love to all mankind." It is when these things are ours, and ours in abundant measure, that we are really accomplishing something—working and bearing fruit. The longer we are permitted to remain on the earth in the service of our Master, the richer and fuller should our spiritual life become. We should in a quite definite and literal sense be engaged in adding grace to grace until we are called to the fullness of higher service.

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