



The Acton Free Press
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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Christmas Buying

The urge to do Christmas shopping early has been made so often that perhaps it has lost some effect. But more than likely the desire to have it done early is present with all, if the funds were on hand to complete the job. We cannot become greatly enthused over the plan some buying places in cities advocate of spreading payments of Christmas purchases over a period after Christmas. Such giving, we believe, would be better curtailed to the ability of the giver.

But Christmas shopping is being done these days, and the early shopper gets the best selection. Most of it can be done with the least trouble and economically in Acton stores. The dollar spent at home is money that does the most good to the community. You at least owe it to the community to first try for your requirements in your home town. Merchants, too, have a duty to perform in displaying well through windows, in stores and through advertising the goods they can offer. Buying at home at Christmas, or any time, can be enlarged upon, but it requires a combined effort by merchant and customer to reach its highest peak.

Still Going Strong

Announcement of group schedules for hockey and formation of rural leagues show what an interest this great winter sport holds for Acton and the district. It is now nine years since the covered arena was put in operation. Its first period was the 1929-30 season. From the outset, it has been a popular factor in community life.

True, it has not always paid its debt to indebtedness, but always an operating surplus has been accumulated to apply on the debt amount. Now the principal is decreasing more rapidly each year and the amount is larger than the interest amounts to be met.

After nine years it is apparently just as popular as ever and pre-season activities would point to just as successful a year this season as have been characteristic. Municipal buildings, such as this, are not allowed any more under provincial statute. In Acton it has, however, proven a success and the cost to the taxpayer, when divided over the whole community, has been small indeed. Best of all, after nine years there are no symptoms of declining interest in the purposes for which it was constructed.

City or Rural Training

The Globe and Mail, in an editorial the other morning, makes some rather interesting comment regarding the success of boys from rural sections who make good in the cities. It says:

"The Ontario Statesman, Bowmanville, suggests that a Toronto daily paper offer a prize to the County in the Province that has provided this city with the greatest number of its outstanding citizens, past and present. This follows study of a survey made recently by The Globe and Mail, which revealed that many leaders in Toronto's professional and community life were rural-born."

"The predominance of former 'country boys' in leading urban activities being apparently established, it would be interesting to know what the countries individually have done toward keeping up the supply."

"This brings up again the old subject of the respective qualifications and abilities of the city and country youth. It cannot be said there is actual competition between these forces for high positions. It just appears that way, and if the country boys win, the explanation is evident. They are the invad-

ors, and youth, at ease in the city garrison, doesn't know anything about the invasion. Ambition, or actual need, brings the country boy to town, and he is determined to "make good." He may have no more talent than the city boy, but he makes it work harder. And when at various colleges the examination lists are posted, it is found that students from the towns, the villages and the concession lines are highly placed. They have been working. Not all, perhaps, but enough to make a good showing. The habit of industry they have cultivated carries them onward and upward in whatever lifework they undertake."

For Better Understanding

Changes and trade agreements would be more appreciated if they were not so cumbersome and so worded that a study of experts was unnecessary to get an interpretation. Each one of such agreements seems just so much more work for those who make a special study of legal points.

In the meantime (and experts' opinions are always given after great deliberation, and some recreation) business is more or less at a standstill until the effect of the agreement on it has been analyzed. Too frequent changes, therefore, are more of a detriment than a stimulant to trade arrangements. The recent trade agreement was some time in the negotiation stage. Its terms have been known for some two weeks, and now business folks are beginning to realize how these changes will affect their trade. It will require some further weeks to get back into operation under them.

Whatever effect it may have on business, the freer trade between democracies that it is attempting to promote is at least a move toward better and more friendly relationships between these countries.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ontario's traffic toll continues to mount. It is one record that all would be pleased to see decrease.

The weather may not be in accord, but the calendar is a reminder that Christmas is just a little over two weeks distant.

Looking on from the outside, one would wonder whether the problem of law enforcement was one of the Mayor's or the Chief Constable's in the city of Toronto.

Production from coke and gas plants in Canada during 1937 amounted to \$41,702,929 at factory prices, exceeding by 4.5 per cent the former record of \$39,910,443 established in 1929.

Hon. Earl Rowe has been appointed President of the Great Lakes Paper Co. No doubt leadership in this field will be easier than in the party he failed to lead and possibly just as remunerative.

It is estimated that the CNR dining car service and food for which the traveller pays \$1, actually costs \$1.57. Put on a cost basis, there would be even more lunch boxes in suitcases on the trains.

The Christmas edition of THE FREE PRESS will be issued next week. It will be printed in colors and provide an attractive and timely means for local stores to present their special shopping attractions.

The value of building represented by permits taken out in fifty-eight Canadian cities during the first ten months of the present year was \$52,696,759 compared with \$47,362,820 in the corresponding period of 1937.

The Brampton Conservator this week commences its 65th year of service in the newspaper field for Brampton and the district. The years have marked progress and the Conservator has ably kept in step with the town and given leadership. Under the guidance of Messrs. Charters it is going strong at 65.

The Japanese Legation has sent a questionnaire to Canadian newspapers asking for particulars of their owners, editors, circulation, etc. It is not likely to receive many replies. When the Japanese Legation last sought this information many newspapers suspected that the facts were wanted to assist the legation in propaganda work in Canada. Like the Germans, the Japanese are curiously inept in their relations with foreign newspapers. — Financial Post.

Last week, Hugh Templin, of the Fergus News-Record, completed twenty years of writing "That Inside Page." During that period many awards have been deservedly won for his weekly contributions. It is a very interesting part of the News-Record each week and some of us who find difficulty in getting together a couple of columns for a similar page wonder how he finds the time each week to contribute a whole page and above-all, to maintain such wide interest. May it continue for many more score of years.

The Sunday School Lesson
FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

THE SIN OF COVERTNESS
Golden Text.—"Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.—Exodus 20: 17.
Lesson Text.—Exodus 20: 17; Luke 12: 15-21. Read also 1 Timothy 6: 6-10.
Exposition.—I. Lusting for What is Another's, Eccl. 10: 17.

The desire for anything belonging to another is inconsistent with love and is sin. It is idolatry (Col. 3: 5). The man who keeps the tenth commandment will keep the four immediately preceding. Keep the heart right, and the life will be right (Prov. 4: 23). All these commandments are summed up in one word, love (Romans 13: 9, 10), and the breaking of them is summed up in another word, sin. The selfish man, the man who is only capable for love exercises love in himself, usually breaks all other commandments, secretly and overtly. The selfish man whose love extends itself on his neighbors keeps God's commandments instinctively, as a matter of course, because his heart, freed from a self-centered action-controls his outward acts and motivates them towards good and God.

II. The Polity of Covetousness, Luke 12: 15-16.

A man in the crowd desired to make capital of Jesus' authority. He thought the time had come to get his brother to divide. He was sure that his brother's riches were not his brother's, but his own. He was shocked at his brother's covetousness and was surprised to find he was guilty of the same sin in dealing his brother to divide that his brother was in not dividing. People are many who see nothing in the religion of Christ but a means of lining their own pockets. "Oh, if the other people would only do the Christian thing toward me," is their constant cry, but it never enters their heads that there is any Christian thing for them to do toward others.

The ethics of Christianity are not splendid for the other fellow. Jesus refused the office of arbiter. It is not fit to tell the other man what to do, but to state principles of action for the man he faces. He uttered a needed warning, never more needed than today. "Take heed and keep yourselves from all covetousness." Covetousness is the desire to get more. The poor may be as covetous as the rich. The lusting for more is a thing that creeps so subtly and silently in our lives and ruins them that we need to keep our eyes open for it. We must keep ourselves from it in all forms and there are many. The Bible classes covetousness with the vilest vices. I Cor. 5: 11; 11: 6, 10; Eph. 5: 3, 5. A man's life does not consist in what he has, but in what he is. A man may have much and be nothing, and may have nothing and be much. The desire to be should supersede the desire to get.

III. Wise in the Eyes of Men 10-19.

The rich man of this parable came honestly by his wealth (v. 16). He owed his prosperity to God but had no sense of the fact. His rapidly increasing wealth brought him anxiety and care. It is always so. He was perplexed to know where to put his fruits. They were already excellent places. To put them on the table of the poor and the rich would have proven stern strikers (v. 21, 22). He was too blind to see them. The intense selfishness of the man appears in the frequency of the personal pronoun of the first person, "my fruits," "my barns," "my corn," "my goods," "my soul."

After all these things were not really his. But men still regard the products of their fields as being their own. God's things were not his own, and He will bring all men to see that, some day. The rich man's way out of his difficulties seemed abroad and wise, but there was one serious defect in his plans: he left God out of his calculations. That is a common mistake with the worldly (v. 23-24). He could have saved himself if he had been wise enough to bestow all the trouble of building his new barns his surplus goods in the empty barns of others. That sort of wisdom is still rare. Having built his barns and bestowed his goods he would take his ease. He had had no sense in the accumulation of his wealth and he was not destined to have any in the enjoyment of it. The rich man is the one man who never does take his ease. The only place where rest can be found is neither in the accumulation or enjoyment of wealth, but in Jesus Christ (Matt. 11: 28). The rich man neither addressed God nor his fellow-man only his stiveled self "my soul." He got no soul that it had much goods laid up for many years. That was a great mistake. His soul had absolutely nothing laid up, only his body, and that not for many years, but a few short hours. The place to lay up goods for many years is not new barns, but heaven (Matt. 6: 19-21). They are laid up there by giving them away (Mark 10: 21).

IV. A Fool in the Sight of God, 20: 21.

Up to this point the man has done all the talking, now God speaks. He does not say much, but the little He says upsets all the man's plans. The man had said "many years," but God says "this night." So wide are man's calculations from God's. God called the man a "fool." He called him so because that he layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God. "Fools of that kind

MAKING CANADA
A Better Place in Which to Live and Work

A Series of Letters from Distinguished Canadians on Vital Problems Affecting the Future Welfare of Canada.
Specially Written for Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association.

Whitby, Ontario
Dear Mr. Editor: An ability to write stories does not necessarily presume a shrewd understanding of national affairs, nor does a certain amount of professional skill in the use of words qualify one to tell the editors of weekly newspapers how to improve their journals. I appreciate your invitation to contribute a letter to this series. Any newspaper reader would appreciate it, because any newspaper reader has a secret conviction that he could do much better than the editor, so would have amazing journalistic achievements in this country if the editors would all retire and permit the readers to take over and put their arm-chair notions into effect until the sheriff arrived.

As a social organism, the city is merely an enlargement of the town, the province an enlargement of the city, the nation an enlargement of the province. If the affairs of the towns and villages are managed indifferently, if the people are content to relegate local government to the incompetents and the stultified, it follows that weakness and inefficiency will characterize provincial and national governments. I think the weekly newspapers of Canada can exercise a great deal of influence collectively in Dominion affairs by the force of their local influence in stressing the fact that local government is not something remote and apart, something to be handed over to the mercies of professional politicians, but simply an extension of ourselves. If the more intelligent citizens of a community are aesthetic to municipal affairs and prefer to criticize rather than to serve they have only themselves to blame if their local government is weak, nor should they delude themselves in

the belief that the effect is merely local. The poison of indifference at the source pollutes the whole political stream. The weekly newspapers, which reflect the standards of their communities but at the same time influence those standards very powerfully, can raise the standard of government throughout all Canada by fighting apathy and indifference in the smaller centers. Many of you, of course, have been doing this, but it needs more to be done. Don't leave it to the big dailies to express the editorial viewpoint of your communities. Encourage more letters from your readers—not from the editors, but from the people who should have something to say. Try to wean your readers away from the idle notion that a person who writes letters to the editor stamps himself as being not quite bright. Mr. Bernard Shaw and Mr. H. C. Wells aren't above writing letters to The London Times.

Recent events have given us cause to contemplate democracy a little more analytically than in the past, to realize that it is threatened not only from without but from within. The cancer of decay is more perilous than the bombs of the dictators. If we assume that only rogues and fools would be interested in politics, and that decent men would be contaminated by associating with them, then we are in a way to giving our affairs into the hands of rogues and fools, and a little better states that the people of these countries governed by bullies. Better government, like charity, must begin at home.

Sincerely,
LESLIE MCPHAILLANE,
Canadian author of "Streets of Shadow," "The Murder Tree," "The Root-House," "The Little Men," etc.

about the man had said "my soul," God said, "thy soul is required raked back of thee." When God demanded his soul back, the poor wretch had nothing left. God put a hard question to him, "the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be?"

V. Wise in the Eyes of God, I Tim. 6: 6-10.

Godliness is the practice of the will of God in our lives. Contentment is that peace of mind which God bestows on those who put their trust in Him. Contentment is really an exaggerated estimate of worldly goods so that they detract from faith in, and obedience to, God. The man of faith will make the right choice and follow the best course.

ANNEXATION PROPOSED

The Italian Chamber of Deputies recommended to French allies calling for the annexation of the French possessions of Tunis, Nice, Corsica and Savoy to France. France's newly appointed French Ambassador to Rome enthusiastically responded he did not understand what was being said. The action of the deputies was as if Italy's first aid for territories shown above which now belong to France.

A REAL PHILOSOPHER

Old Ruston settled himself in his chair and addressed his wife "Yes, sah, Gai, dat dese dolic cut wages half in two again. Some o de boys is kickin' mighty powtal 'bout it, but I ain't gonna kick none. Way I figures it half of sumpin is better'n all of nuffin."

A REASONABLE REQUEST

The meek little man approached the constable on the street corner.

"Excuse me," he said, "I've been waiting here for my wife for over an hour. Would you be kind enough to order me to move on, officer."

SCOTT'S SCRAPBOOK BY R. J. SCOTT

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Electro-Therapy Phone 60

DR. WM. G. CULLEN, L. M. C. C.
Physician and Surgeon
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TIME TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
AT ACTON

Going East

Daily except Sunday	8:57 a.m.
Daily except Sunday	9:54 a.m.
Daily except Sunday	9:56 p.m.
Sunday only	9:19 p.m.

Play for exact time stop in Georgetown at 9:41 p.m.

Going West

Daily except Sunday	8:48 a.m.
Daily except Sunday	9:45 p.m.
Daily except Sunday	7:07 p.m.
Saturday only—flag	12:38 a.m.
Sunday only—flag	11:32 p.m.

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time

EASTBOUND (To Toronto)

8:51 a.m.	4:21 p.m.
9:11 a.m.	6:41 p.m.
11:31 a.m.	8:46 p.m.
1:06 p.m.	

WESTBOUND (To London)

9:53 a.m.	4:50 p.m.
11:38 a.m.	7:18 p.m.
1:23 p.m.	9:18 p.m.
3:13 p.m.	11:23 p.m.
4:12 p.m.	12:08 a.m.

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