

THE RIVER OF TRUTH

No one stops the river. Flowing to the sea. Men may hold it for a while. But soon must set it free. Bound, it grows the stronger; Angrier, denb'd; And your little dams and dykes It soon will sweep aside.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, January 8th, 1920

Nineteen twenty was ushered in with zero weather and gales of wind and snow. Wingham has again honored Acton's son, W. H. Gurney, by re-electing him Mayor of that busy town.

The election for School Trustees on Monday resulted in the re-election of C. C. Speight, and Rev. I. M. Meyer and James Symon, new members. The Board for 1920 will have as its members R. Scott, R. McPherson, George Mann, C. C. Speight, Rev. I. M. Meyer and James Symon.

The by-law to authorize the appointment of Commissioners to superintend the construction of the waterworks system was defeated with a majority against the by-law of eleven.

BOEN - At Lot 22, Second Line Township, on Tuesday, January 8th, 1920, to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Walde, a son.

HENDERSON - At his home, Lot 31, Concession 5, Equestrian Township on Sunday, January 4th, 1920, Robert S. Henderson in his 63rd year.

NICKLIN - At Grand Rapids, Mich., on New Year's Day, 1920, James H. Nicklin, son of the late Benjamin Nicklin, formerly of Acton, aged 68 years.

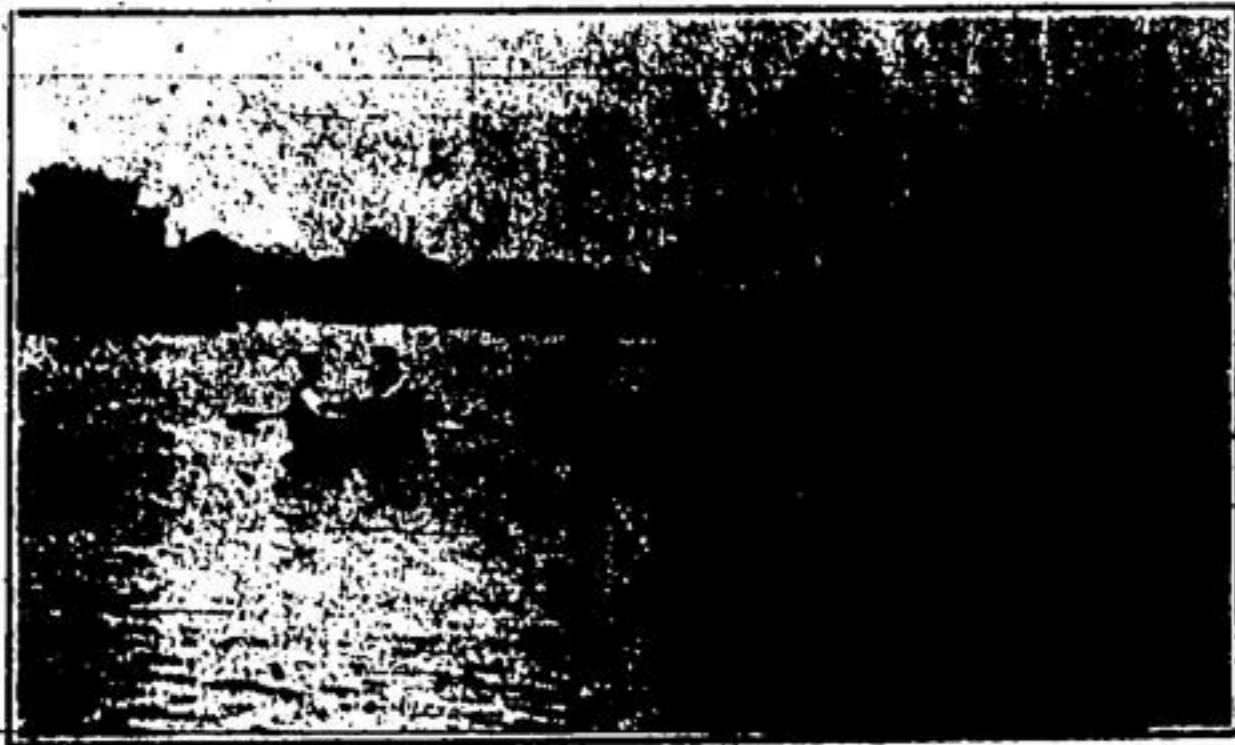
"RAIDERS' NIGHTMARE"

When the King visited balloon barrage units recently, he was told of Britain's secret weapon of defence. "A new method of making the balloon defence even more effective," is the cryptic official description of a means which brings certain destruction to enemy aircraft coming in the slightest contact with this "raiders' nightmare."

Acton's Family Album

Turning Over the Pages, Week by Week, and Looking on the Faces of Those Who Were Familiar to Many Here in Other Years

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE?



THE SAILING OF THE SECOND CANADIAN CONTINGENT

In slow procession, a flotilla of stately ships steam into a cloud of mist and swirling snowflakes. Although it is broad daylight, so murky is the weather that in a few minutes the transports and their conveyance are as completely lost to the handful of watchers ashore as if it were midnight.

The Second Contingent of Canada's Active Service Force has sailed towards the far-flung battle front of Europe. On shore the spirit of Christmas is abroad. Holly wreaths hang in windows and crowds cluster about the counters, where myriad colorful objects are displayed. But out in the harbor there is stern business afoot.

On board, however, there is plenty of good cheer. During the extra days when a wait in harbor has been made necessary by unfavorable weather conditions, the troops have become acquainted with each other and with the ships on which they are being transported.

On shore there is silence except for the ordinary day-time noises of a port going about its usual business. From the decks of the passing transports, strains of broken music from bands and matches of songs are wafted ashore, like uneven strings of colored streamers that for a moment pit their poor strength against that of whirling propeller blades and try vainly to hold the ship to shore.

They are not quite gone. Far from out of the harbor, last in line, a yacht-like ship swims by. Her lines are slender, but even a novice, glancing at her, can sense the power and might that lie behind those bulwarks and in her fighting top. From her gaff flies an honored flag and in the lee of her great guns these men of Canada will sail across the ocean to proud service in a land where Canada, not so long ago, won nationalhood.

men and women whose names parade in the paragraphs of the Social Register. Many a romance has blossomed on their decks, under the exotic light of tropical moons and of the midnight sun.

So recently have some of them been impressed into war service that their trappings have not been covered but are strange luxury compared with the drab battle dress of the passengers who lounge in the saloons and press through the corridors. But there is laughter on board yet, and no gayer, braver hearts ever beat between the decks of these giants of the sea than those who now watch with eagerness as the bow of each ship moves slowly into the run of the tide and slips slowly into the misty bank of clouds that shroud the near horizon.

Like ducks dotting the water grimy little trawlers bob about in the swell of the passing ships. There are no saluting bursts of sound from whistles but hands wave across the widening gap of the sea and scattered cheers are muffled in the whirling flakes of snow. One of the great grim ships of the King goes by and moves ahead. A cable length behind her follows a veteran ocean liner which saw stirring adventures in the first Great War. Not far back in the line is a lovely ship whose name, still so long ago, was front page news and back of her, almost without camouflage, comes one whose name would stir memories around the world.

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In a few minutes the fog and the snow have wrapped a mantle around this powerful grey-hound of the sea. And that same snow and mist divides reality and memory.

The Second Contingent of Canada's Active Service Force has sailed.

TRAGEDY IN THE HOME

There was a young woman called Lena Who bought a new vacuum cleaner; But while working one day She got in the way. And since then nobody has seen.

THE NOISE NUISANCE

Brown—What will you give me for my daughter's plan? Naylor—I'll give you \$3 a cord for it. Sawed, split and delivered in my woodshed.

The Sunday School Lesson

FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th

The Kingdom of Heaven: Studies in Matthew

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONFESSION OF FAITH

Golden Text.—Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.—Matt. 16: 16. Lesson Text.—Matthew, 16: 13-24. Time.—Summer, A.D. 29. Place.—Capernaum. Exposition.—I. Peter Confessing Christ, 13-16.

Jesus had been praying in seclusion (Luke 9: 18-23). The time had come to tell His disciples of His approaching death, but as a preparation for this sad information they must first be brought to a distinct apprehension of His Deity. So He put to them the question of v. 13. What men think of Christ is an all-important matter. Jesus followed up His first question with one more personal, "but YE, whom say ye that I am?" It is more important for each of us, whom we think and say Jesus is, than whom men think and say that He is. Jesus wished them to put their conviction about Him into a confession with the mouth (Romans 10: 10).

Peter answered for the company, as usual. He was no quicker to see the truth than the rest, but quicker to put it into words or action (cf. John 21: 7). "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God," cried Peter. This confession had been made before (John 1: 49; Matt. 14: 33; cf. John 6: 69, A.V. and R.V.), but the confession as now made was with clearer conception of its import.

The confession here made is of the utmost practical importance (1 John 4: 15; 5: 1, 5). It contains the fundamental truth of the Gospel (Acts 9: 20). Our obtaining eternal life depends upon our believing it (John 20: 31). Its denial is the supreme lie (1 John 2: 22).

Jesus was pleased with Peter's confession of Him, and He is similarly pleased when we confess Him in a like manner to-day (Matt. 10: 32, 33). This confession made weak Simon, son of Jonah, Petros (a piece of rock). Jesus said Peter had had this great truth revealed to him by the heavenly Father. No one can really know Jesus as the Son of God, unless God does reveal it to him (1 Cor. 2: 14; 12: 3). But God reveals it to any one who wishes to know and wills to do the truth (John 7: 17; 16: 13-15). Jesus said upon this rock (Petros), faith in which made Simon a Peter (a piece of rock). He would build His Church.

Jesus Christ is Himself the chief corner stone of the Church (Eph. 2: 20; 1 Cor. 3: 11; Isa. 28: 16), and all built upon Him become themselves living stones (1 Peter 2: 5, 6, R.V.). The gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Church built upon Christ and faith in Him as the Son of God. Members of that Church will fall asleep, but Hades will have no power over them, they will depart to be with Christ (Phil. 1: 23), and others will arise to carry on their work till Christ come. To Peter as one taught of God and who has faith in Him, as the Son of God, Jesus gave "the keys of the kingdom of heaven," i.e., power to open the door of that kingdom by his teaching; and thus to let men in. We see Peter using the keys in Acts 2, opening the door to the Jews, and in Act 10 opening the door to the Gentiles. As if Spirit-taught man he should also know the mind of God and what he bound (i.e., forbade) would be bound in heaven, and what he loosed (i.e., permitted) would be loosed in heaven.

III. The Cost of True Discipleship

The time was now ripe for Jesus to declare to His disciples His approaching rejection, suffering and death. He tells them He "MUST" go to Jerusalem; "must" suffer; "must" be killed; "must" be raised again. There was an imperative necessity for these things. Why "MUST" He die? (John 3: 14; Heb. 9: 22; Isa. 53: 4-6; 2 Cor. 5: 21; Gal. 3: 13; 1 Peter 2: 24). But there is another glorious "must" must be raised again (Romans 1: 4; 4: 25; 5: 9; John 14: 19). Peter again rushes to the front, but not this time with a God-given confession of faith, but a flesh-given protest against the cross. And now Jesus pronounces him no longer Peter (rock-man), but Satan (an adversary), and "a stumbling-block." All this downfall and humiliation came from his minding not the things of God but the things of men. To face the cross is the mind of God, to shun it is the mind of men. Their follow the wondrous words that

Neighborly News from Ontario Towns, Villages and Farms



A. D. (ANDY) CLARKE

Ontario is a big neighborly community—even in the cities, people are interested in what the folks are doing in the home town and the home township. Starting Sunday, January 7th, from 10:00 to 10:15 a.m., E.S.T., Andy Clarke will bring "Neighborly News from Ontario Towns" to listeners of CBC's Ontario Network each Sunday at this hour.

Many thousands of Ontario listeners remember the friendly voice of Andy Clarke, formerly news editor of The Globe, whose "Good evening, friends" opened The Globe's nightly news broadcast for five years. In this new series, presented through the co-operation of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association, Mr. Clarke will review such weekly happenings in Ontario towns and villages and on the farms, as gleaned from the weekly newspapers of the Province. Mr. Clarke's many years of newspaper experience have given him an intimate understanding of Ontario—its people, and their everyday interests; in "Neighborly News" he will keep listeners in touch with what Ontario people are doing, planning and talking about in that important part of the Province that lies outside of the cities.

"WHISPERING DAN" MAKES LAST RUN

One of the most colorful of the West's railway characters, "Whispering Dan" Cox has made his final run as conductor with the Canadian National Railways. He was retired on pension after years of rail service in the West. A Maritimer originally, Conductor Cox had worked in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. He was noted for his peculiarly hearty but unflattering courtesy, earned the title of "Whispering Dan" among rail passengers because his deep, genial voice could be heard from one end of a coach to the other.

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