

IF SOMEONE UNDERSTANDS

When troubled times, with doubts and fears,
Cast shadows at your feet,
When at the dawn you cannot smile
The coming day to greet,
When with a heavy heart you go
The way your path demands,
Is there not comfort if you know
That someone understands?

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, January 15th, 1922

Sugar at 16c per pound has surely gotten into the luxury class.
The ice men commenced their annual harvest here last week.
Noble's elevator narrowly escaped destruction by fire on Friday.

Mr. Thomas Gibbons and family arrived the first of the week from Oxbow, Sask., to settle in Acton. Mr. Gibbons has been in the harness and shoe repairing business in the West and will resume his business in the home town.

BORN
KENNEDY - At 372 Banning Street, Winnipeg, on Monday, December 29th, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. William Kennedy, a son.

MARRIED
SMITH-BENTON - At St. Joseph's Church, Acton, on Wednesday, January 10th, 1920, by Rev. W. G. Goodrow, John J. Smith, to Ethel Florence, daughter of George Benton, all of Acton.

DALE-GLASSEY - At the home of the bride's mother, Georgetown, on Wednesday, January 17th, 1920, by Rev. Wray L. Davison, Ella Gertrude, only daughter of Mrs. John Glassey, to Leroy Dale, youngest son of J. C. Dale, of Colgate, Sask.

CANADA'S CALL TO SERVICE

Ottawa, January 5th, 1940 - In preparation for Canada's first war loan effort of the new world war, a National War Loan Committee and a National Subscription Committee are in process of formation across Canada, and will be organized in time for the initial effort on the economic war front.

The National War Loan Committee, under the chairmanship of the Hon. J. L. Ralston, K.C., M.P., Minister of Finance, will be composed of five former Ministers of Finance, Canada's nine Provincial Treasurers, and more than 200 representative citizens, resident from coast to coast. The five former Ministers of Finance are: the Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas White, the Hon. Sir Henry Drayton, the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, the Hon. E. N. Rhodes and the Hon. Chas. A. Dunning. The nine Provincial Treasurers are: Hon. Thas. A. Campbell, P.E.I.; Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Nova Scotia; Hon. C. T. Richards, New Brunswick; Hon. J. A. Mathewson, Quebec; Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn, Ontario; Hon. Stuart S. Garson, Manitoba; Hon. W. J. Patterson, Saskatchewan; Hon. Solon E. Low, Alberta; and Hon. John Hart, British Columbia.

Dr. Dunning has also accepted the chairmanship of the National Subscription Committee, which will assist the National War Loan Committee, and will be concerned with the securing of larger subscriptions of a national character. It will be responsible for organizing the work of canvassing the larger institutions and corporations, in addition to stimulating the broader sale of the bonds to the public. This committee will have dealers throughout Canada, a number of the active co-operation of investment whom have already done considerable work in the preliminary organization.

The First War Loan will provide Canadians, as a whole, with their first opportunity to participate in Canada's war effort. To enable everyone to subscribe, it is indicated that bonds will have denominations as low as \$50 each for smaller subscriptions.

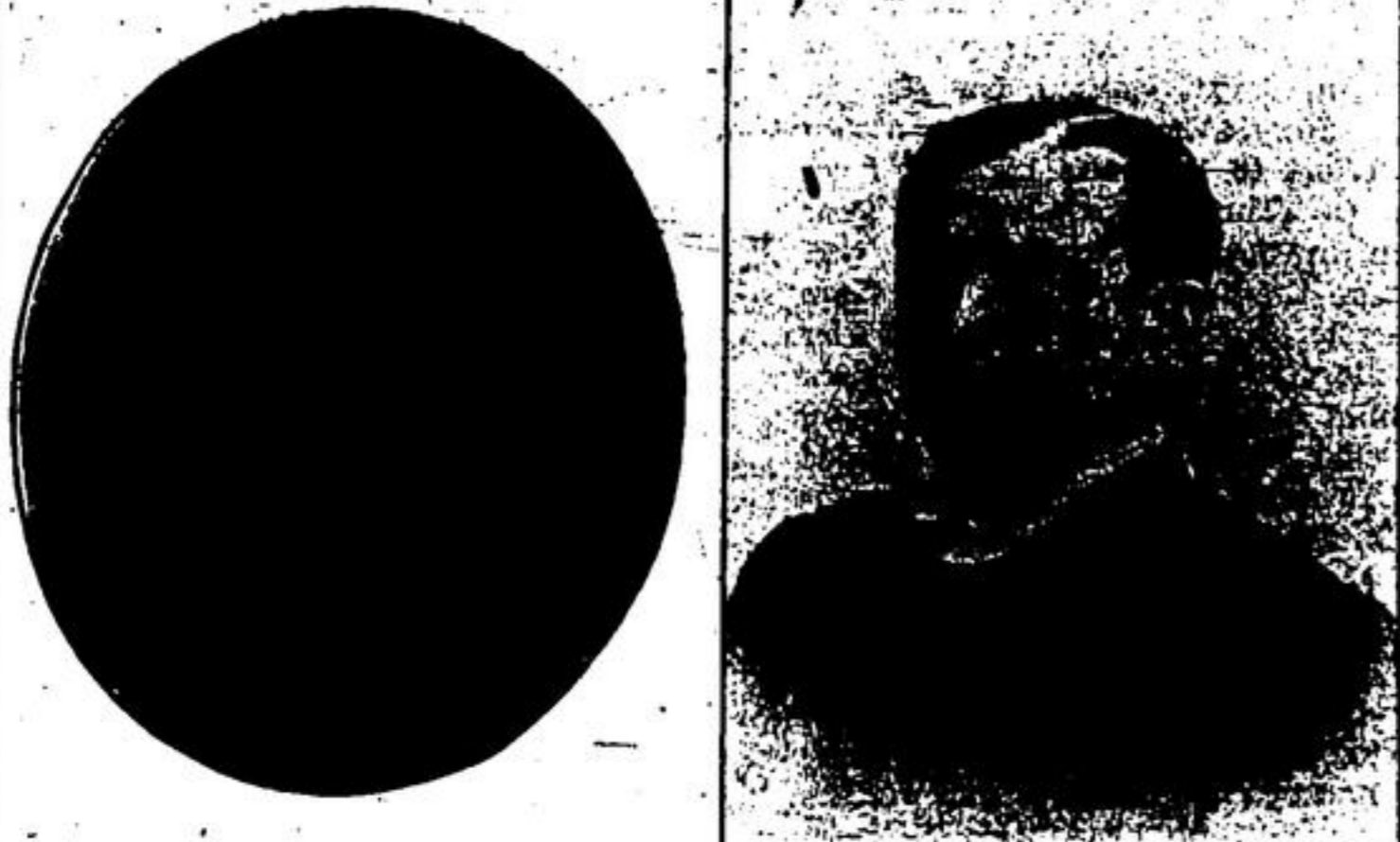
In announcing the acceptance by Mr. Dunning of the chairmanship of the National Subscription Committee, Mr. Ralston said, "Canada is indeed fortunate that Mr. Dunning has agreed to undertake this important task. His experience as Minister of Finance and also in connection with the Victory Loan campaigns during the last war make him the ideal man for the job."



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?



NOT SO LONG AGO

Last week's picture was a scene on Fairy Lake, possibly twenty-five years ago. We do not know the occupants of the two boats shown in the picture.

IT ALL DEPENDS

Have you ever been astonished? Really astonished, I mean. So often we use this word and that without paying particular attention to their real meanings. For instance, we sometimes call things "astonishing" just because they happen to be a little outside of our customary orbit.

This time, though, I use the word astonished advisedly. I was astonished the other day to hear a woman, whose opinions I have long valued, state quite earnestly that she thinks men are more patient than women. To be fair I should point out that this was not an unprovoked statement. It was an unexpected and really astonishing agreement with me.

Until then I had not been sure, myself, that I really believed myself when I claimed that men are more patient than women. Now, astonished to find that she agrees with me, I'm sure I'm right—but a whole new avenue of speculation has opened up.

It is only natural, having satisfied oneself upon one point of male superiority, to be magnanimous in one's own mind and look for some little thing in which the distaff side is superior. But this, I warn you, is dangerous. That is what I did. And I discovered—once again I was astonished—that instead of the "little things" I had complacently envisioned, the measure of women's superiority is so great as to be dazzling and so close as to be astonishing when the discovery is made.

Women are better organizers than men! Which means that they would probably run our businesses, public utilities, armies, navies, air-forces, and parliaments better than we do.

Wait a minute! It all depends upon the kind of woman you are talking about. I mean housewives. Not clubwomen, not the few women members of parliament I have met; housewives!

Your outstanding business man is no more capable of organizing his business as efficiently as a real housewife organizes her house than he would be of running the house itself. Unless, of course, you let him clutter up his house the way he clutters up his pay-roll with a lot of deadwood to sub-divide and re-sub-divide his organization until eventually he needs a special sub-divider or sub-dividers.

What business has only learned to do in recent years, years so recent that it still peeps itself on the back for its astuteness—the utilization of waste products—every housewife has been doing from time immemorial. Do you know any business man—I speak of big business—who, from year to year can lay his hands at the first smell of Spring, or Winter, or Summer, on the material or commodity that annually is required at that particular season?

The answer is "no." Of course the material will turn up because storemen and perpetual inventories will take care of it for him. But what housewife needs

a perpetual inventory or has a stores department?

Yet everyhouse wife, quite undismayed, regularly produces ski-pants, socks, heavy underwear, bathing suits, shorts, skates, tennis rackets—a thousand and one things the minute they are sought. More than that, should there be a demand for a fancy dress costume for the skating carnival or high school dance Mother knows just where the "remnant of blue silk left from Barbara's last year's evening dress" or "that piece of taffeta from the dress I wore to the wedding in 1932" is and what to do with it.

And in the commissariat department mother can give your big business man "cards and spades" and still have a comfortable margin. For comparison let's liken the serving of meals to the production of goods. At home, if Uncle John, Aunt Mary and their two children drop in unexpectedly at supper time, what happens? Nothing, apparently! Four extra places are set at the table, sufficient food for eight magically appears when only four had been expected—and unfortunately, everyone takes this piece of super-organization for granted.

Give a business man a sudden double-order and see what happens? The comparison is astonishing, isn't it? But it all depends on what the test consists of. Now, there are some things at which men excel and—perhaps this will astonish you—the making of tea is one of them. Home-cooking is what it is because every woman has her own ideas about recipes, and that's all right. But when it comes of tea, temperance and fair have no place in the scheme of things. Tea, if you are going to get the last word-in-flavor, body and just the right strength, should be infused as carefully as a chemical formula is followed—and women are not patient enough.

Men are. A man will not change from a tried and true brand of anything just because a girl salesman says something else is "just as good." A man, finding that a good grade tea will make more cups of better-flavor than a cheaper variety will realize that he gets a better quality, at the same price per cup. He will also take the trouble to infuse his tea the right length of time and then remove the leaves. He has patience.

The two preceding paragraphs should put me in right with the men if my earlier remarks about organizing ability have rubbed them the wrong way. Anyhow, there will be no retraction of either argument!

MAKING IT WORSE

At a dance the young lady had just been introduced to her partner. By way of making conversation, she said as they walked around the floor:

"Who is that terribly ugly man over there?"

"That's my brother."

"Oh, you must excuse me," said she, in embarrassment, "I really hadn't noticed the resemblance."

The Sunday School Lesson

FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th

THE PROBLEM OF FORGIVENESS
Golden Text.—Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.—Matt. 6: 12.

Lesson Text.—Matthew 18: 21-35. Time.—Autumn, A.D. 29. Place.—Capernaum.

Exposition.—I. Seeking Forgiveness for Self, 21-27.

Peter's question is exceedingly important and practical. It is a question with which we are all confronted experimentally. We all have those whom we forgive, and scarcely have forgiven them before they offend again. How long shall they be permitted to keep this up? Peter suggested seven times as a possible outside limit. That is far higher than most of us go, but Jesus multiplied Peter's high figures by seventy, and said there is where you ought to go "seventy times seven." Here we have the perfect number, multiplied by the number of completeness, multiplied again by the perfect number. In other words, never cease forgiving.

At the first glance it seems a hard saying, but as we continue to look at it, we see it is a most sweet and gentle saying; for if He bids us do this to others, He certainly will Himself do it to us. The parable that follows emphasizes this gracious truth. I need never fear again to go to Him, saying, "Forgive me," no matter how often or how seriously I have sinned. If my heart hesitates, I hear Him whispering, "Until seventy times seven" (Col. 3: 13; Eph. 4: 32; 5: 1). The form of Peter's question suggested that Peter took it for granted that he would have to forgive others, but that it did not occur to him that he himself might be the offender and that others might have to forgive him.

Reckoning a talent roughly at \$1,200, the king's debtor was twelve million dollars in debt. And this is a picture of each of us. We are hopelessly in debt to God and we have ought to pay (Luke 7: 32; Ps. 130: 3; Ez. 9: 6; Ps. 40: 12). It is not before an abstract law, but before a person, that we are guilty (Ps. 51: 4). If we could only be brought to realize how great our unpaid debt is that is freely forgiven us, we would surely not find it hard to forgive others. The greatest wrongs done us would seem small indeed compared with the wrongs that we have done Him. It would be well if every time a wrong is done us, we would read this parable.

The debtor was "BROUGHT" to the king: We as sinners do not come into the Spirit's presence of our own accord, the Spirit brings us there (John 16: 7-9). Verse 25 pictures God's dealings with us on the ground of law (Gal. 3: 19). But it is only to bring us to see for mercy and grace (Rom. 3: 19-24; Gal. 3: 22-24). The demand of just payment brought this debtor down upon his knees, and that is where the full demand of law brings each of us if we are wise. And yet this debtor fancied he could ultimately pay his debts if he only had time. This is true to human experience. When first awakened to a sense of our sins, we still fancy we can pay some of them by future good works. It is only after a while that it fully dawns upon us that we can do nothing at all, that salvation must be not only partly but wholly of grace (Eph. 2: 8, 9). When we do realize that, and that God does not ask us to do anything (Rom. 3: 24; 4: 5), our consciences are purged from dead works (delivered from the burden of our self-efforts to atone (for sin) to serve the living God (Heb. 9: 14). In verse 27 we have God dealing in grace. Now it is all grace, just as it was before all law. "The Lord" does not extend the time of paying the debt, but fully remits it. God never mixes law and grace (Gal. 5: 2-4; 3: 10; Rom. 3: 28; 11: 6). The basis of grace is nothing in us, but something in God. His own compassion is the CONDITION upon which God deals in grace to us, viz., that we acknowledge our hopeless indebtedness and sue for mercy (cf. Luke 18: 13, 14; Rom. 10: 12, 13).

II. Refusing Forgiveness to Another, 28-35.

The one who had just been forgiven a twelve-million-dollar debt went right out and tried to violently exact a debt of seventeen dollars from another. That seems incredible, but it is a scene enacted every day. God has forgiven you debts whose greatness defies compari-

son, and you go out, you exact the paltry debts your fellow-men owe you. How many are harboring grudges over some petty slight or offence. We should all meditate long and deeply over this parable. His debtor acted toward him as he had acted toward his own creditor, but he remembered nothing and had no mercy. This is true to life. Others sue us for mercy as we have made our suit to God, but we have no mercy for them. The outcome is startling. "His lord called him." If we will not listen to the cry of our debtors, then we shall hear the voice of our creditor. God freely offers forgiveness for all our indebtedness, but if we truly accept it we will prove it by freely forgiving others. If we do not forgive others it proves that we have despised the proffered mercy of God. We are now back on the law book, and we shall be delivered to the tormentors till we pay "ALL THAT IS DUE." That we can never do, so our torment will be everlasting. There is no mercy for the man who shows by refusing mercy to others, he has despised it for himself (Jas. 2: 13). The only way to learn to be merciful is by believing in the mercy of God revealed in Christ toward us (1 John 4: 19, R.V.).

FOR GRADED AXES

One of those practical farmers who supports, by means of a city income, a farm in the style which it deserves, urges that axes should be graded like eggs and beef and butter.

The plaint arises from an incident in the woodlot the other week. Our innocent city friend had acquired a dull axe along with the chattels on the farm. He and the hired man spent an hour or two with the grindstone getting as true an edge on the axe as ever graced a political editorial. And, after a modest noon meal of soup and roast pork and potatoes and squash and carrots and pie and strong coffee, axe and muscles were taken to the woodlot. In less than ten minutes' application of the axe to the trunk of a maple the edge had turned and for the rest of the short day it merely chewed at its work.

What grieves our friend, (who can discourse by the hour on labor and factory costs) is that there was nothing on the axe, either handle or head, to indicate that it was originally a cheap one, suitable only for the tasks of an amateur summer cottager and not for the skilled attention of a man who grew up near woodlots and only deserted them temporarily for the benefit of a bank account. Why, he asks, when a farmer is being daily adjured to grade every one of his products from apples to rutabagas should there not be a grade marked permanently on an axe-head so that, years hence, a new owner can decide whether ministrations with the grindstone will pay?—The Printed Word.



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You can choose from such Dried Fish as God, Haddock, Hake, Cusk, and Pollock, and such Pickled Fish as Herring, Mackerel and Alewives... and every one of them can be served in tasty, different ways.

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Strangling Economic Rope Tightening on Germany



Here is a map-digest of the current situation in Europe, showing how the British-French blockade is slowly, but surely, drawing a strangling economic rope around the throat of Germany. Gradually the Allies are either buying up materials which would normally be exported to Germany, or they are making the blockade,

so tight that the exports could not get through, anyway. Since Russia has more trouble with Finland than she has any use for, Moscow is not being the "great help" to Germany that Germany expected when that famous pact was signed.



By WALLY BISHOP