



The Acton Free Press

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Merry Christmas

Shorn of the rebuke inherent in a world at war, the traditional Yuletide greeting will be given this year with a spontaneity and sincerity that has been absent since 1938. Throughout the world millions of fighting men have cast aside the uniforms and equipment that made the ancient Christian salutation something of a mockery.

Forebodings stirred by controversy regarding the atomic bomb, the chaotic state of Europe and the Far East, and labor and other problems closer to home fade against the over-all picture of a world released from the evil shadow of war and the constant harrowing fear for the safety of loved ones on battle-fields thousands of miles away.

Thousands of young Canadians for the first time in years will spend Christmas surrounded by their families and friends. Behind them lie the destruction and all the horrors of war and for them it will be a merry Christmas in the truest sense. Again the spirit of the Christ child and the angelic message of goodwill will find expression in old-time carols, gifts and a friendliness that transcends everything else.

The challenge of the Christmas message comes with greater force than at any time since the birth of the Saviour nearly 2,000 years ago. If at that time there was need for peace on earth and goodwill to ward men, how great is the need this Christmas of 1945. The development of the atomic bomb and other agents of destruction, coupled with mounting evidence at the war crimes trials of almost unbelievable inhumanity, give the angels' message a frightening urgency.

A chastened world rests in the belief that wise and just counsel will prevail at forthcoming peace conferences in order that the happiness of this, our first merry Christmas in six years, may not prove a delusion.

The Senate Dips In Too

That saw-off between the House of Commons and the Senate was a division that the taxpayer will have to meet and brings on the argument of the uselessness of the Senate. The House of Commons couldn't raise their own indemnity without the approval of the Senate. Welding the big stick the Senate refused to pass the \$2,000 additional salary unless they were given a similar increase, only not tax free and now they all get another \$2,000.

As we have said before, we do not believe \$6,000 is too large a salary for an efficient Member of Parliament, but most everyone will agree that the Senate has shown no justification of a similar increase.

In these days when taxes are being levied for wage adjustments on people in the low income brackets, whose total salary often does not amount to \$2,000, and the reason of such control is given as fighting inflation, these increases by those who make the rules doesn't seem justified. There's at least been another argument added for that growing majority who would abolish Canada's Senate.

What is Democratic?

Newly-formed governments, these days, are not acceptable to us if they are not "democratic." But what is "democratic"? Can we demand democracy in other countries? Or is it something that can only be inspired?

To many Canadians, democracy means simply the privilege of voting for the leaders they would like and then criticising what they got. This is not very inspiring to other countries. They may envy us our food, electrical gadgets and our comforts, but what is there to make them want our "democratic" government?

True democracy, of course, is more than a form of government, more even than the privilege to

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choose and criticise. It is the full expression of men's caring for each other.

It is a matter not simply of electing our leaders but of caring enough for them to see they grow in moral, spiritual and intellectual stature and are really fit to lead. Then to help them do their job by the way we do our own. "You have made my work of government easier," said one national leader to a group of patriots who were living their lives and doing their work by the highest moral standards.

Democracy is also an expression of our caring for the ordinary man. It is the responsibility we take for our children and for the whole problem of juvenile delinquency. It is what we as individuals and families do for the unemployed and for unemployment for the unhappy and for the broken homes and strained relations that have made them so. It is how we change so that we can get along with the fellow we couldn't get on with before.

The collectivist idea is to have such matters to the cold and mechanical handling of government. This lessens individual capacity for caring, robs us of the exercise of heart which is as necessary to the growth of human beings as exercise of body. Were we to turn again the early pioneer spirit of caring for and sharing with each other, we might still in spite of the uncertain countries to be democratic. To demand it of them simply breeds resistance or protest.

Wage Rates Show Big Increase

Wage rates in Canadian industry by the end of 1944 had risen 35 per cent over 1939, according to new Department of Labor figures. Against this general average increase rates in manufacturing have risen 44 per cent. The largest percentage increase is in coal mining where the gain following the retroactive NWLB award of 1944 amounted to 46 per cent. Other groups to rise more than 40 per cent are water transport up 40 per cent and logging up 44.7 per cent.

Total salaries and wages paid in Canada in 1944 are now estimated at \$4,810 millions. This is almost 90 per cent greater than the corresponding figure of \$2,555 millions for 1939. It is 3.5 per cent above the 1943 total of \$4,654 millions.

It is officially announced that on the basis 1943 = 100, wage rates in 1944 rose to 144.9. The 1939 index on this basis was 105.3.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Merry Christmas, Everyone

To have the secret of a sound home, have no secrets.

Children are the product either of our time or of our spare time.

Don't talk over the heads of others—it gives them a pain in the neck.

Christmas is next Tuesday. May it be the merriest you have ever had.

To look over the news at breakfast is bad news if you overlook your wife.

Looks as if the boy who gets skates this year for Christmas will really have an opportunity to enjoy them.

These are the days when motor driving ideas have to be altered to meet slippery pavement conditions.

Just another eleven days of 1945 left—the year in which peace came again after six years of world warfare.

Buffalo folks with their forty-eight inch snow-fall over the week-end will not be convinced that this is an open winter.

The Summerside (P.E.I.) Journal comments: The modern home is one in which everything is controlled by a switch, except the youngsters."

Family reunions will be more complete this year than for the past six years. But there'll be empty chairs too, about many a family gathering that will never be filled again.

"Fifteen billion dollars of national income goes into the garbage pail in the form of liquor, narcotics, gambling, sex magazines and other things which underline the health and the employability of our people."—Roger Babson.

Latest Labor Dept. job reports shows that a slow-up has developed in absorption of approximately 240,000 discharges and 350,000 laid-off war workers. Seasonal business declines and accelerated discharges are said to be chiefly responsible, but shortage of skilled men still exists.

The C. C. F. may deny that it has any connection with the C. I. O., but the Port Elgin Times points out at the recent C. C. F. convention, the leader, E. B. Jolliffe, was re-elected on motion of Chas. Millard, C. I. O. director, and a collection was taken up to help the striking C. I. O. Ford employees.

BOY SCOUT HANDBOOKS

The Boy Scout Swimming Club of Hamilton, Ont., has made possible the gift of 200 Scout Handbooks for former occupied countries through its gift of \$300 to the China-U.S. Fund, the Canadian Scout Fund which is helping in the rehabilitation of Scouting in Europe.

INDIAN SCOUTS

PREVENT WASTE

The Boy Scouts of India, at the request of the Director General of Food, will assist in the campaign to prevent wastage of food. It is estimated that three to five million tons of food is wasted annually because of rats, insects and the humid climate which prevails during some seasons.

COOKING

"What are you doing with your socks on the wrong side out?"

"My feet got so hot I decided to turn the hose on them."

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 1945

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Office in Symon Block, Mill Street,
Acton
Office Phone 18—Residence Church
St., Phone 150

DR. H. G. JOYCE
Bachelor of Medicine
Office at R. H. Elliott's Residence
Formerly Dr. McNiven's Office
Eight Street, Acton
PHONE 222

DENTAL

DR. HUGH S. AUSTIN
Dental Surgeon
Mill Street, Corner Frederick, Acton
Office Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Evenings by Appointment
Telephone 18

DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
Dental Surgeon
Office, Lehman Block, Mill Street
Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
X-RAY — GAS
TELEPHONE 148

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Eig. 9111

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Phone Milton 146-4

F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc.
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Georgetown Representative
Tom Hewson — Phone Georgetown 332

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PHONE 26 — ACTON, ONT.

TIME TABLES

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Going West	
Daily, except Sunday	9:41 a.m.
Saturday, only	2:35
Daily, except Sunday	7:48 p.m.
Monday, only	12:08 a.m.
Daily, except Sunday	1:24 a.m.
Flyer, at Georgetown, daily except Sat. and Sun.	6:35 p.m.
Flyer, at Guelph, daily except Sat. and Sun.	7:12 p.m.

Going East	
Daily, except Sunday	6:49 a.m.
Daily, except Sunday	9:50 a.m.
Daily, except Sunday	6:50 p.m.
Sunday, only	8:19 p.m.
Flyer, daily, Georgetown	9:25 p.m.
Flyer, daily, at Guelph	8:59 p.m.

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON

Eastbound
x6:31 a.m.; 6:46 a.m.; 9:16 a.m.;
11:51 a.m.; 2:06 p.m.; 4:58 p.m.; 6:38
p.m.; 9:06 p.m.; 11:11 p.m.

Westbound
x10:38 a.m.; x11:43 a.m.; 2:35 p.m.;
x5:13 p.m.; 7:33 p.m.; 8:38 p.m.;
x9:23 p.m.; x11:28 p.m.

a—To London.

b—Sundays and Holidays only.

x—Daily except Sundays and Holidays.

y—To Kitchener.

z—To Stratford.

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