

RECOLLECTIONS OF ACTON

BACK IN 1897

Taken from the edition of the Free Press of December 2nd, 1897

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Scott are now comfortably settled in Mr. Firstbrook's house on Bower Avenue.

Miss Daisy Nicklin and the Misses Eyle were home from Guelph Collegiate Institute for Thanksgiving.

Misses Helen Symon and Eliza McQueen were home from Milton Model School for Thanksgiving.

Mr. and Mrs. N. P. McLam and Miss Iottie spent two or three days at Sarnia.

The plant and property of the Guelph Norway Iron and Steel Company were sold at the Mills for \$97,000 to Mr. John Taylor of Guelph.

Messrs. W. H. Storey and Son have added oil tan pines and hunting boots to their other manufactures and have got out a line of superior samples.

BORN
In Esquimaux on Thursday, 25 November, to Mr. and Mrs. James Gibbons Jr., a son.

BACK IN 1927

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, December 14th, 1927

Boaters and school concert are the uppermost diversions these days. The freeze-up made excellent skating on Fairy Lake and Corporation Pond the past week.

The Crober Bros. factory is now manufacturing monuments in the new building here in the most easterly section of the town.

Traffic was tied up on the C.N.R. lines for many hours to-day. Early this morning a freight train took the switch from the main line and about the middle of the train one of the cars jumped the switch and left the tracks. Three other cars piled up and the tracks were torn up for a couple of hundred feet. Traffic was suspended and trains had to be rerouted.

The annual ball and supper of the Acton Fire Brigade was an event that was well attended last Friday evening.

The officers of the Acton Community Glee Club are making arrangements to hold a community Christmas Tree this year.

DIED
WILSON. At his home, last 29. Congestion 2. Nassagaweya, on Monday, December 5th, 1927, John Freeman Wilson, aged 54 years.

AMONG NEW FACES

As the fall terms of colleges and preparatory schools open, many young people have gone away from their homes to take these courses and for the first time are living among strangers. They go out with strong and confident hopes, and face new experiences with the thorough belief that they will make good. It is said many of these young people do not feel it necessary for their parents to go with them on the day when they enter these institutions, and that they prefer to handle the situation themselves and make all necessary arrangements.

Some of them may have homelick days for a time and find a little difficulty in adjusting themselves to unfamiliar surroundings. Youth quickly adapts itself to a new environment, and in a few weeks most or all of them are likely to be happy in their new activities.

A good many young people who finished their education last summer, have been going away from home to take some job. Some may face problems in adjusting themselves to new surroundings. Such an experience is sometimes referred to as a plunge into an unfamiliar world. Some of them may feel that they encounter harsh critics and that the results they get are judged with too little sympathy.

The world may be considered a cold place in some ways. Yet there is an enormous amount of friendliness and there are a great many warm hearts. Many people feel attracted to newcomers who are beginning on some unfamiliar experience and are glad to offer helpful suggestions.

Young people who are starting on some new line of study or some new job, soon make friends. They are attracted to those of similar tastes and ideas, and the people whom they meet are attracted to them. There are new openings for activities that stir a keen interest. When they meet with problems in unfamiliar study and work, their powers grow and their ability to meet situations increases.

MARTYRS TO ILLNESS

Denouncing fear, anxiety and worry ever health as harmful, the Department of National Health and Welfare to illness to battle their ailments. Ottawa, has issued a call to martyrs. Instead of "grinning and bearing it," the person who actually seems to enjoy being an invalid should strive for better health, says a health officer, pointing out that in many cases such fear and worry is a form of self-indulgence.

HOW CAN I?

BY R. J. DEATHMAN

I have a stenographic report of a labor broadcast made over CKEY in Toronto on October 27th last. It's interesting. It shows what the workers want and how they intend to get it. The speakers were members of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America. They wanted higher wages, less work and a five day week so that they might rest from their labors on Saturday and thus be able to enjoy a happier Sabbath Day.

The main protest was against the high cost of living and direct references were made to the high price of meat and, of course, the lack of controls. In one paragraph they make this statement:

"Our fellow union members in Packinghouse (that is the United Packinghouse Workers' Union) just had to go through a 6-day strike to win 10-15c an hour increase that cost the meat producers less than one-tenth of a cent a pound than our government turns around and lifts the controls on meat and up goes prices 2-3c a pound immediately—you would think that after the huge profits shown in that industry—our government in the interests of the people, of you and me, of the thousands of citizens who buy meat would have stood firm and retained the controls."

Facts are stubborn things. I am not going to name this particular firm of meat packers. It's one of the largest in Canada. Its net sales in 1939 were \$77,225,000. In 1947, \$304,068,650. Its profits in 1939 amounted to less than 2 cents per dollar of sales, the exact figure was 1.6 cents. Profits, from operations, rose in the first full year of the war. I mean in 1940, to 1.9 cents per dollar of sales. They have not since passed the 1939 level. In 1944, '45 and '46 they averaged .83 of a cent. Slightly more than half the 1939 level. Is there a living man or woman in Canada who can tell me how higher profits could have increased the prices of the products produced by this company while actually lowering the profits per pound of product produced?

But were total profits greater? They were, sales were greater—more than two and a half times greater. Total profits in 1939 were \$1,328,736, in 1947 they were \$2,059,644, a 66 per cent. over 1939. A business grows because it is efficiently operated, because it treats decently those who purchase its products and those who supply its raw materials. Remember the aphorism of Elbert Hubbard: "A crook can run a peanut stand but a great business must be bound together with integrity."

We have not yet considered the root of the question. We haven't even sought it. All we have done is to show that as profits per dollar of sales declined the increase in prices could not have been due to the processors who changed live hogs into bacon and hams—beef on the hoof to steak on the plate.

What then was the cause. There are two main causes: live stock prices moved up between 1939 and July 1947—they are still going strong. Prices of steers rose from \$6.78 per hundred-weight in 1939 to \$14.47 in 1947, an increase of more than 100 per cent. Hog prices for the same dates moved up from \$12.25 to \$22.01, an increase of almost 80 per cent. The price of lambs rose from \$9.10 to \$17.31—a 90 per cent. rise. Live stock constitutes about 86 per cent of the raw materials of the packing industry. Labor knows quite well that when raw materials have almost doubled in price, the cost of the finished products must also rise. Were the farmers to blame for these increases. No. They hold no monopoly control over prices. Despite the fact that we were in the midst of a world war they accepted a bulk sale of wheat to Great Britain at a price far below the world level. This meant low prices for wheat in the domestic markets. Labor should remember that gift from agriculture.

The farmers accepted without much protest an arrangement between the United States and Canada by which few stopped shipping cattle to the United States during the war. This was arranged to keep food prices high in the United States for the benefit of American farmers and to hold prices of farm products low in Canada for the benefit of labor. Cattle prices in the United States have been double the Canadian level.

Prices are determined by the law of supply and demand. We always write "supply and demand" instead of "demand and supply." Price is determined, in wartime, by an excess of demand over available supply. Labor is busy producing war materials instead of consumer goods. The result is an increased volume of purchasing power and a scarcity of goods. This leads to higher prices. Prices can be controlled during wartime but it is difficult in time of peace. It would call for wage controls this, labor would not for a moment, consent to consider.

What a wealth of creative thought would be turned loose in the world if everyone searched for the real cause of our troubles instead of seeking for goats on which to unload our sins but the rousing of antagonism comes naturally to most people and we continue to move stumblingly along the meander way.

NEWEST

It has been suggested that when the present divorce wave subsides someone should publish a "Who's Whose."

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Golden Text. I thank my God always for your fellowship in furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now. Phil. 1: 3, 8.

Lesson Text. Third Epistle of John Exposition. I. The Christian Walking in the Truth.

The truth the Apostle speaks of is the revelation which God has made to us concerning spiritual and eternal things in His holy Word, and more particularly the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which forms so main a part of that revelation. The term "walking" in Scripture, when used as it is here, is always expressive, not of an act or two, but of a continued course of action. To walk in the truth, then, means more than for a man once in his life to discover and embrace the truth; it implies besides this a daily familiarity with it, having it constantly before his mind, and his mind and his life being as constantly influenced and acted on by it. (1) That we hold fast Christ's truth, having had our minds enlightened to discover and opened to receive it, that we retain it in our mind, and this in its pure, simple, unadulterated form. (2) A continued profession of Christ's truth. (3) To live in the habitual practice of it.

II. The Apostle's Joy. He expresses this in very strong terms: "He does not say that he has no joy equal to this but he does say that he has none above it." "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." And this language plainly shows us two things. (1) The loftiness of his own character. This honored Apostle, with all his remembrances of the past and all his glowing anticipations of the future, with heaven almost opening upon him, says he gets as much happiness from the holy walk of others as he does from any other source. We know where he learned this. We see the Master's spirit shining forth again in the disciple. What was self to the blessed Jesus when the good of our lost souls was at stake? (2) The high importance of this holy walking in the truth. Such a man, we are sure, would never have rejoiced in a trifle. (a) It is important, first to ourselves. (b) It is the best test we can have of our belonging to Christ, of the sincerity and reality of our faith in Him. (c) Our enjoyment of the Gospel, our spiritual comfort and happiness, depends on it. (e) Our sanctification or holiness depends altogether on the permanency of the place Christ's truth has within us. 2. Our continued walking in the truth is important also to our fellow-men. Every undecided, wavering professor of Christ's Gospel among us diffuses a bad influence around him—he does mischief in the world though he may not aim to do it; while every consistent follower of the truth does good in the world, though he may scarcely see it.

III. To Walk in the Truth. An Active Faith. This implies: 1. Sincerity of principle, honesty of intention, in opposition to all dissimulation or guile. 2. Decided attachment to evangelical doctrine. 3. Habitual regard to personal holiness. 4. Progress in Christian excellency. Why this walking in truth should occasion the joy of Christian ministers. 1. In your Christian walk, we witness the reality of your personal religion. 2. Walking as Christians secures your personal happiness. 3. When you walk as Christians, we have evidence of ministerial fidelity—that the truth is spoken to you; that the way of truth is marked down and recommended. 4. In your walk as Christians, we observe the fruit of our efforts for your good. 5. When you walk as Christians, we behold the increase of the Redeemer's cause in the world. 6. Walking as Christians, we see in you the partners of the felicity we hope for in the future world. Conclusion. 1. If such as "walk in truth" are our joy, it is evident who are our grief all they who walk not in truth; who "walk in darkness"; who "walk disorderly"; who "walk in the flesh"; who "walk after their own ungodly lusts." 2. By your walking, not in truth, but in unrighteousness, the cause of God is dishonored. His enemies are triumphant and His friends are painfully affected. 3. Let us all look well to ourselves and take heed to our own spirit and conversation. Walk in truth:—I. The subject matter of the apostolic ministry—it was truth; not only truth in the bare sense of the term, but truth in its highest sense, unmistakable truth. If you have it not, you are a fool indeed, and if you have it, you are made wise unto salvation. It is necessary for us while here, and for our well-being hereafter. II. The manner of that ministry. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." I say that the apostle's ministry was characterized by great earnestness and affection. There is no minister that will ever be useful without it.

IV. Condemned and Commended. Diatribes is condemned because he hoped to have the "preeminence." Love of position and power in religious groups have always been a curse. Too often the unworthy get exalted through their unholiness and ambition. It was what cursed the church in the Middle Ages and made the Roman Catholic Church. Our Protestants, however, are not free from this danger. On the other hand "Demetrius" hath a good report of all men, and of the truth itself. Such is our example. A good report must also include the truth (Jno. 1: 14; Eph. 6: 16, 17; Titus 2: 6-8; Heb. 11: 6).

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TOO SOON
A pink elephant, a green rat and a polka-dotted snake walked into a cocktail bar.
"You're a little early, boys," said the bartender. "I ain't here yet."

YOUR EYES

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