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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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**EDITORIAL**

**"Merry Christmas Everyone"**

There have been many ways of saying it and many a novel verse and greeting has been used to express that wish that is on everyone's tongue these days. But summing them all up it always means that all friends are saying in these days "Merry Christmas."

We haven't any new or novel phraseology for that old wish. It may be altered or elaborated but with true sincerity we find the same delight this year as we have had down through the years of using these editorial columns to express our wish to one and all a "Merry Christmas."

We won't attempt to make the classification readers etc., because at this festive season we want all to be included in this old Christmas wish of the editor and the staff of the hometown paper. "Merry Christmas Everyone."

**Newfoundland Entry Completes the Picture**

In welcoming Newfoundland into Confederation The Financial Post states: "Barring some extraordinary and unforeseen event, next March will witness the fulfillment of the plan of the group of statesmen that gathered in the old Provincial Building in Charlottetown in 1864. The objective was a confederation of all the British provinces of North America; their hope, a strong, prosperous and united country embracing the northern half of this continent. Newfoundland's entry into Confederation next spring will complete their work."

"With approval of the terms of union it will be up to every citizen in Newfoundland and Canada to make the new partnership work. And we can make it work if we look forward and not backward, if we regard ourselves as full partners in a joint enterprise, if we recognize this as permanent and inevitable union."

**Substitutes No Competition.**

Not that we anticipate with any great relish the addition of margarine to our menu. We are glad to see the question settled by the courts. We believe that good butter, such as we get in these parts, will always be consumed in preference to the now legal margarine or whatever substitute the butter substitute will be called.

We do believe, however, that the consuming public should have the choice to purchase the goods they desire so long as the goods comply with the pure foods regulations. It is regrettable that it took 62 years to discover that the ban on the product should never have been imposed. People will not soon forget the fact that they were forced to do without butter as a wartime restriction when the butter substitute should have been available to meet the shortage. It is to be hoped there will be no appeals or further attempted restrictions by either Dominion or provincial governments. Good butter has nothing to fear from the competition of a substitute and the substitute will give housewives an option in their buying.

**Unsurpassed Banking System**

The simple straightforward review of Canada's banking system and operations given the Dominion Bank shareholders by C. H. Carlisle in his final address as president is an effective piece of ammunition to counter CCF propaganda for nationalization of banks.

A sound, economical and competitive banking system, he pointed out is essential to the state to all the people who live within the state, to all business activities thereon and to their relations with foreign states. "Canada has such a banking system."

His statement that the chartered banks "give Canada a banking system unsurpassed by that of no other country" cannot be successfully contradicted or undermined by any vague, visionary ideas of state control put forth by the CCF.

Mr. Carlisle insists, however, that if Can-

dians are going to defend their own institutions against the inroads of socialist doctrines, they must have a knowledge of how such institutions operate, of how they contribute to our economic and social welfare.—The Financial Post.

**Down and Up?**

Ottawa may well need the money, argues the Winnipeg Free Press which points to what is happening in the United States. "In round figures the Congress reduced income taxes by \$5 billions last spring. In the fiscal year beginning July 1 next, the Government will require just about this additional amount to cover the enormous budget now being swelled by the cost of American power throughout the world. It will have to undo the work of last spring and put taxes back approximately on their old level. The only alternative is to run the Treasury into huge deficits during an unexcelled boom, the very time when the Government should be piling up surpluses to reduce debt, already at an alarming high level."

**Canada's Birthrate at Peak**

The good times are having an effect on Canada's birthrate which we are told stands at the highest point in the history of the Dominion. The high prices that have prevailed during the postwar period coupled with the high level of employment have undoubtedly made it possible for many young people to marry, who would have found it difficult to do so under less favourable conditions.

Any person who has followed the social columns of the newspapers during the last few years must have been impressed by the unusually large number of marriage notices and wedding reports. These have not been confined to any one district or any one province. They have been general across Canada. With marriages on the increase it is only natural that there should be an increase in the birthrate.

Figures for 1947 released by the Bureau of Statistics show that there were no fewer than 359,303 births during the year, putting the national birthrate up to 28.6 per 1000 population. The previous record was 27.4 which was reached in the years immediately following the First Great War. Ontario and British Columbia lead in the percentage advances. Nova Scotia is in first place with a rate of 36.2 per thousand. New Brunswick follows and Quebec, rather surprisingly, is in third place with a rate of 31.2 which is still higher than the rate for the Dominion. Ontario had a rate of 25. It is interesting to learn that in the matter of infant mortality, Ontario and British Columbia had the best records.

The mortality rate for children under one year of age was 36 per thousand births in these two provinces. New Brunswick had the most unfavorable showing with a death rate of 59 per thousand and was closely followed by Quebec where the rate was 57. The death rate across Canada was 46. It is gratifying to learn that fewer mothers are now losing their lives during childbirth. The maternal mortality rate in 1947 was 1.5 per thousand live births and this too is the best showing in the history of Canada. This may be attributed to the rise in educational and living standards and to the improvement in pre-natal care. The 1947 statistics are encouraging and give reason for the hope that mortality figures may show further decreases in coming years.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

Merry Christmas Everyone from this corner too.

Just another week of old 1948 left and time for the new resolutions and aims for a new 1949.

The snow came in plenty of time in this district and it did add a needed spirit and impetus to the Christmas season.

The Christmas greeting cards are showering their messages of friendship and good wishes and renewing these friendships that have lapsed from last year.

These are busy days at the Post Office and with the Express companies. If you think truck deliveries are slow take into consideration the extra volume of material to be delivered this week.

Use care in your driving habits over the holiday period. If you drink don't drive. If you drive soberly take your time and remember winter road hazards are here. Don't have a lifetime of regret as a remembrance of Christmas, 1948.

The natural ice-arenas have not had a very early season this year. However, the artificial surfaces in the district are numerous enough to give all the opportunity for early winter skating and hockey.

**BURLINGTON**

The executive of the Burlington Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, at a specially called meeting held last Thursday evening in the council chamber, decided to undertake a survey in the Burlington and Nelson area with a view to ascertaining the need for a Visiting Home Maker's Service. This service is one of the fine peace time activities of the Red Cross and is growing rapidly in Ontario. Primarily it is designed to place a qualified and trained housekeeper in the home when the mother is laid aside by illness and where there is family to be cared for.

St. John's Church held its first annual silver tea and Christmas bazaar on Friday afternoon, under the general sponsorship of Mrs. J. R. Maynard, assisted by Mrs. W. Carroll.

Mrs. A. W. Milligan, president of the W.I. presented the annual prize for spelling to the winner, Darrell Ironside, at the East End school last Monday morning.

At a double ring ceremony in St. Jude's Anglican Church, Oakville, last Saturday afternoon, Grace Irene French, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. French, Oakville, became the bride of Robert Austin Stalner, son of Mrs. Stalner, Burlington, and the late E. M. Stalner, Gazette.

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**Business Directory**

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**DR. W. G. C. KENNEY**  
 Physician and Surgeon  
 (Successor to Dr. J. A. McNiven)  
 Office in Symon Block, Mill St.,  
 Acton  
 Office Phone 78—Residence Chatham  
 St., Phone 158

**DR. D. A. GARRETT**  
 Physician and Surgeon  
 Frederick Street, Acton  
 Formerly Dr. Nelson's office  
 Office Phone 238 Residence 248

**DENTAL**

**DR. A. J. BUCHANAN**  
 Dental Surgeon  
 Office—Leishman Block, Mill St.  
 Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**X-RAY**  
 TELEPHONE 148

**DR. GEORGE A. SIRRS**  
 Dental Surgeon  
 Mill St., corner Frederick, Acton  
 Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 TELEPHONE 19

**L. WILSON**  
 Doctor of Chiropractic  
 Electro-Therapist  
 Bell Telephone Building  
 Phone 303  
 Hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**LEGAL**

**C. F. LEATHERLAND, B.A.**  
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 Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public  
 Office 22 Phone Residence 133

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**VETERINARY**

1305 Metropolitan Bldg.  
 44 Victoria St., Toronto  
 Elg. 9131

**B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc.**  
 Veterinary Surgeon  
 Office: Brookville, Ontario  
 Phone—Milton 1464

**F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc.**  
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**Eastbound**  
 6:41 a.m.; 8:11 a.m.; 8:56 a.m.;  
 11:36 a.m.; 2:06 p.m.; 4:41 p.m.;  
 6:31 p.m.; 8:26 p.m.; 10:56 p.m.

**Westbound**  
 To Stratford—10:44 a.m.; 12:44  
 p.m.; 2:59 p.m.; 5:29 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.;  
 8:14 p.m.; 11:34 p.m.  
 To London—10:44 a.m.; 2:59  
 p.m.; 4:59 p.m.; 7:24 p.m.; 8:14  
 p.m.

a Except Sundays and Holidays.  
 b Sunday and Holidays.  
 c Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.  
 x To Kitchener daily, to Stratford  
 on Sunday and Holidays.  
 y To Kitchener only.

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(Standard Time)

**Eastbound**  
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 day only, 8:19 p.m.; Daily except  
 Sunday, Flyer at Georgetown, 6:57  
 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown,  
 10:11 p.m.

**Westbound**  
 Daily except Monday, 1:17 a.m.;  
 Monday only, 12:09 a.m.; daily ex-  
 cept Sunday, 8:49 a.m.; 6:50 p.m.;  
 7:44 p.m.; Saturday only, 2:36 p.m.;  
 Sunday only, 9:41 a.m. flagstop;  
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