

AN ANCIENT TOAST

At a festive gathering in the age of chivalry each of the knights, except Sir Leon had pledged his lady fair, and now it was his turn to speak.

St. Leon raised his kindling eye, and lifted sparkling cup on high. "I drink to one," he said, "Whose image never may depart, Deep graven on this grateful heart, Till memory be dead."

"To one, whose love for me shall last, When lighter passions long have passed, So holy tis and true, To one whose love hath longer dwelt, More deeply fixed, more keenly fit, Than any pledged by you word, Each guest upstarted at the word."

And laid a hand upon his sword, With fiery flashing eye, And Stanley said, "We crave the name, Proud knight of this most peerless dame, Whose love you count so high."

St. Leon paused, as if he would not breathe her name in careless mood, Thus lightly to another, Then bent his noble heart as though to give that name the reverence due, And gently said, "My Mother."

MILTON

After nearly 32 years as rector of Holy Trinity Church, Hamilton, the Rev. Griffin Thompson will retire next month to live in Milton. Rev. Mr. Thompson has been noted for the faithful service he has rendered to his church and community.

A former resident of Milton for a great number of years, Mrs. Robt. Hill of 38 George Street North, Galt, died yesterday. The former Isabella Fraser came to Milton following her marriage to Robt. Hill. About thirty-five years ago they made their home in Galt where her husband predeceased her three years ago. She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church—Canadian Champion.

The trustees of the estate of Mark Twain, who was a great letter writer, are tracing them for publication.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

There is an arresting thought in a brief interchange between writers. A young writer had challenged the assumption that the major task of the writer was the recreation of human values. That, he thought, was romantic twaddle. He urged that before anything of the kind could occur it would have to be preceded by the recreation of the sure, safe and satisfying life that we once knew.

Mr. J. Donald Adams in his column in the New York Times Book Review challenged this view. "Nothing will save our time," he urged, "except a reawakened sense of individual responsibility. It is sicker than most because that sense has dwindled, as its place has been taken by faith in collective solutions of one kind or another. And the only writers who have anything to say to us now are those who keep that realization at the heart of what they write." J.L.H.

The women of Lebanon are noted for their progressiveness and beauty.

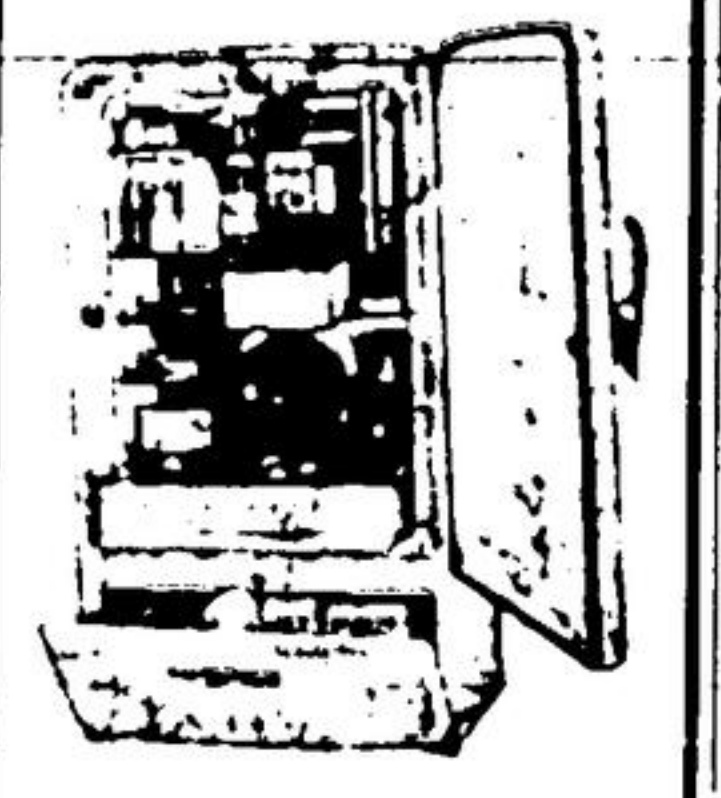
TO HEIR AND ASSIGNS

An Actuary of a well-known life insurance company vouches for the truth of this story. Some years ago, a man took out an annuity with the life insurance company. As the annuitant could neither read nor write, to prove that he was alive in order to receive each yearly annuity payment when it became due, he used to affix his thumb-print to a paper sent to him by the life insurance company.

The other day when the life insurance company was checking over their records they found that the annuitant was now 114 years old. They thought that they should investigate such a remarkable case so a member of the life insurance company went to visit the annuitant. Imagine his surprise on arrival to find the son at home with the father's thumb embossed in a case on the mantelpiece!

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The Sunday School Lesson
SUNDAY, MAY 1st 1949

JESUS ANSWERS HIS CRITICS
Golden Text—He taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. Matt. 7: 29

Exposition—1 By what authority doest thou these things? 11: 27-32
Mere ecclesiastics are always ready to hinder anyone who is doing a real work for God unless he has their official endorsement. It is not enough for them that a man is doing things, they want to know by what authority he does them and who gave him this authority. Jesus instead of answering the questions of the ecclesiastical authorities convinced them out of their own mouth of their unfitness to decide vital questions.

He challenged them concerning the baptism which John the Baptist performed. The chief priests, scribes and elders had never accepted John. His great revival ministry was not done under their auspices. Consequently they, at times, opposed him and at others ignored him. He had not been ordained in "regular fashion" and no matter if God did use him mightily they would have nothing to do with him. They did make an inquiry (John 1: 19-28). It is that way with many of those religious leaders who seem to be more concerned with regularity than they are with the manifest power of God. First, an inquiry, then opposition and sometimes persecution. This was the experience of John Bunyan, the converted tinker and drunkard, who could not be restrained from preaching in the streets and calling the people back to God. When Dwight L. Moody began his evangelistic career one of his main difficulties was his religious irregularity, which professional religionists did not approve. Thus it has been the case with many of the Lord's servants, most surely commissioned by Him. But they walked in His footsteps, for that was the treatment he got from the scribes, priests and elders.

Jesus met the insincere attitude of these religious impostors with firmness. He put them in a difficult situation. Either they must spiritually endorse John or offend the mass of the people. They refused either. So Jesus refused to be caught in their wiles. He who is on God's side does not have to bend his neck to the hypocritical foe. (Eph. 6: 10-18)

II. The First Commandment and the Greatest Sin 12: 29-34
Jesus had silenced both the Pharisees and Sadducees who had sought to entrap Him and confuse Him. A scribe who had listened was deeply impressed by the reasoning of Jesus. Then he asked a question. Matthew tells us that he did it to tempt or test Him (Matt. 22: 35). The question was an important one, the answer thoroughly convincing. Man's first duty is to God. God is infinite and man is finite and no number of finites equals infinity, so if a man should do his whole duty toward every member of the human race and fail in his duty toward the one infinite God, where he failed would be far more important than where he did his duty. Our duty to God can be summed up in one word: love. What is love? To love another is to have a desire and delight in his welfare, it is not a mere emotion or affection but the attitude of the whole man. To love God with all the heart and soul and mind and strength, is to have a supreme desire for and delight in God's glory, so that every thing is secondary to that. To do this is to keep the first and great commandment (Matt. 22: 37, 38).

To have failed to do this is to have committed the greatest sin a man can possibly commit, and at some time in our lives all of us have failed to do this, and thus have broken God's first and great commandment, so there is no difference for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3: 23). If at any time in our life we have failed to put God first in everything then we have truly broken the first and great commandment and there is no hope for us except through the atoning blood of Christ. (Heb. 9: 22; Rom. 3: 22-26).

There is a second law like the first. Its central word too is "love." Its object—our neighbor, our fellow men. This Second Commandment requires that we have the same desire for and delight in the welfare of our neighbor as we have in our own welfare. The Second Commandment is really involved in the first, for if we love God, whom we have not seen, we must love our neighbor whom we have seen. (1 John. 4: 20, 21). It is nonsense for a man to pretend to love God if he does not love his neighbor. The scribe who asked the question was a man of spiritual discernment. He assented to Jesus' answer. There are many today who call themselves Christians, who lack the clear moral and spiritual discernment of this scribe. Jesus pronounced this man "not far from the kingdom of God." To see the truth clearly shows that one is not too far from the kingdom. When one submits to the truth, he is in the kingdom.

NEW PIPELINE

A plan to construct a petroleum products pipeline from Montreal to Toronto is being considered by three Canadian oil companies—B. A. Oil, McCull-Fontaine and Shell Oil Co., reports The Financial Post. The pipeline, about 330 miles in length, would carry the products of the companies' Montreal refineries to Toronto and intermediate points. The three companies have expanded, or are expanding refinery capacity in the Montreal area.

The companies have filed an application in Ottawa to obtain a special act of incorporation under current government legislation dealing with pipeline construction. The proposed pipeline, to be a joint venture, is still in the study stage, however, as far as the companies are concerned.

ADVANTAGES

It was pouring. Two men who had quarrelled went out in the rain to settle their differences. They fought until one got the other on his back and held him there.

"Will you give up?" he asked and the reply was "No."

After a time, the question was repeated but again the reply was "No."

"Then," said the other, "will you get on top for a while and let me get under?" "I'm getting soaked!"

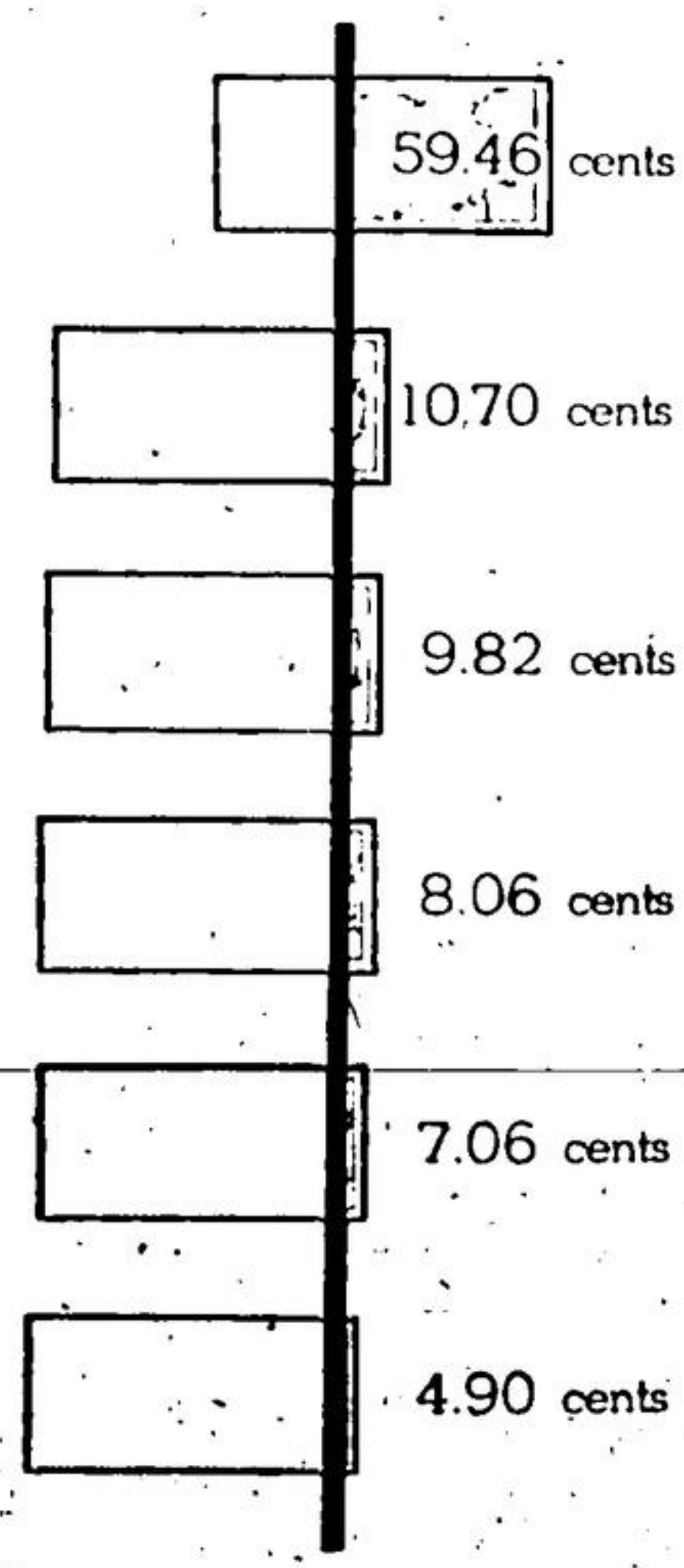
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Just before payday you've probably looked at what's left of your wages or housekeeping money and said: "Where does the money go?" A company must ask itself the same question, and each year provides the answer in its annual report.

The dollars we received last year—for gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil and other products—went this way:



Crude Oil and other raw materials we needed to make the products took the first big slice. Depending on where you live your oil may have come from Arabia, from South America, or from deep in the United States. In Canada only Alberta produced crude in quantity.

Manufacturing and packaging came next—complex and intricate refining operations are needed to make the hundreds of oil products which find thousands of uses in our homes and industries, on our highways, in the air and on the sea.

Transportation was the next big bite—products must move over wide areas to serve all communities in Canada.

Marketing was fourth. Marketing provides the products you need wherever you are—power, heat and lubricants for factory, farm and home. Marketing supplies that local businessman, the dealer; and if you're a fuel oil user, keeps oil in your tank!

Taxes to provincial and federal governments absorbed 7.06 cents. And this does not include gasoline tax, which—depending on where you live—takes from 22 to 35 cents out of every dollar you spend for standard grade gasoline.

Profit was 4.9 cents out of each sales dollar. From this we paid three cents to shareholders as dividends. The rest was used—along with a lot more money we borrowed and still more obtained by sales of investments—to help meet your increasing needs for oil!

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