

EDITORIAL

Christmastide

CHRISTMAS IS THE time for memories. It is the time when differences are forgotten and friends are reunited. It is the season of snow and sleigh bells, carol singing and the aroma of Christmas turkey. It is the scene of frantic last minute shopping and furtive wrapping behind closed doors. It is the time when the sound of excited, yelling children is a familiar, pleasant sound. It is the season of peace on earth and good will toward men.

You can't escape this Christmas feeling. It pervades the atmosphere making all the world seem good and fine and right. But our world is not necessarily good or fine or right. We are inclined to overlook going to God in the highest in the haste of our everyday routine. It is so easy to forget the wonders which surround us as a divine gift.

Our quest with weary feet is remembered for a brief period during the season only to be soon lost away for next Christmas forgotten in daily round of petty dissensions and arguments. If we aren't a part of these dissensions, we form our heads, pretend not to notice when we see them being carried on around us. We do not want to acknowledge the fact that they are going on.

On earth we have no true peace. No peace among the great world powers, no peace among different racial and religious factions. We shrug our shoulders and say: "But what can I do about all this?" We relieve ourselves of the responsibility by placing it on the shoulders of others.

At this Christmas season, let us resolve to respect our fellow man and his beliefs. Remember whether uttered in English, Latin or Hebrew, our prayers are directed to One God in one spirit.

Long ago penned these beautiful words when he wrote his poem "Peace on Earth Good Will to Men":

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Telling of old familiar ways
And old and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth and good will to men
And in despair, I bowed my head
"There is a power that has no fear,
I date its birth,
When some great soul
Of peace on earth and good will to men
Deceived the evil one,
And made him bleed,
The Word became
The Word became
With man's word,
The Word became
The Word became

In Different Lands

IN EACH COUNTRY, the Christmas season means something special and in these times of strife between nations, it seems a good time to think of the universality of the season and the possibility of good will between nations by the common understanding of the variations of the festive season.

To the ancients goes the credit for the lovely tradition of having greens in the house at Christmas. Holding nature in reverence, primitive man sought to bring a blessing into his home through the woodland spirits which he believed dwelt in all growing things, a custom which has resulted in the popularity of using evergreens of all kinds at Christmas.

In Norway, families arrive at church on Christmas Eve in sleds, each carrying a flaming torch. These are stuck upright in the snow while the good folk attend services, bathing the outside of the church in a warm glow of light.

It is an old Irish custom to place a candle in the window on Christmas Eve to light the Christ child on his way and the use of a candle appears in many other lands and in many different ways. In Armenia, myriads of candles are used in the Christmas celebrations and in Czechoslovakia tiny candles are set upright in nutshells and floated in pans of water. At church services in Labrador, each child receives a little lighted candle standing in a turnip which is eaten later by the youngster.

In England, the Wassail Bowl is a traditional spreader of holiday joviality. From Greece we learn of the custom called the Luck of Christmas. Greek youngsters go out on Christmas morning to collect the same figs and raisins and walnuts and sweets that crown our holiday tables.

The customs that surround the Christmas season are indeed many and varied. From one Christian country to the other the spirit of the event is carried and in so passing the various adaptations bring a new tradition to the festive spirit of the year.

Christmas Music

CHRISTMAS MUSIC is as much a part of this traditional season as the tree in the living room. The well known carols that never grow old are always a delight as voices ring out with as grace to the familiar tunes of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "The First Noel," "Silent Night", and all the others whose beauty increases with age.

The carols, so fundamental at Christmas, transform the holiday that is in danger of losing its original significance, to the true Christian festival that it should be. Those who sleep in almost every other Sunday of the year, count on the Christmas and Easter services in local churches to reaffirm their faith in the Christian religion. Those who attend regularly find the solemn significance of the Christmas message an annual inspiration. And certainly the seasonal music has much to do with the realization that Santa, the jolly figure, is only recently depicted in the carols. Through the music, the glory of Christ's birth becomes impressed upon us by the beauty of the words intermingled with the beauty of the music.

What a contrast between the hymns and the carnality. Xmas tunes that give the whole meaning of Christmas. Santa himself is quite acceptable as the symbol of the Christian spirit embedded in a jolly old soul so that children can understand. But for adults, the commercialization, Santa and the reindeer, (the red nosed one and all) should be superseded by the spirit of Christmas itself.

The churches in town will have an atmosphere of good will this next Sunday that is unique. The carols sung on the radio and by merry groups from door to door will instill the peace, friendliness and unity that transforms this season.

Not A Selfish Christmas

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON is at hand when all should be joyous and happy. It is a time when we all wish to see our friends and family and wish to give to them. We often think of the party as not for them. Consider the cars that are driven by those who have been drinking at Christmas and are a menace to everyone on the road or sidewalk. Take the homes where parents think only of booze and take no consideration for the family whose Christmas is shattered. Booze this year and every year spoils many a Christmas for a lot of folks. Don't be selfish in your enjoyment. Be sure your Christmas is the kind that brings pleasure to all.

With Christmas Greetings

BEST WISHES ARE stuffing the boxes at the post office, greetings tumble off tables and piano tops and mantles, and a chorus of "Merry Christmas" are released every day when the mail is brought home.

So another wish for a very happy festive season is extended with this edition of the paper, this is our Christmas card to you. To all the subscribers in town and in the immediate district, our sincere best wishes. To those in other parts of Ontario in other provinces, in the United States and overseas who receive the paper, seasonal greetings!

To the advertisers and to the commercial salesmen: Merry Christmas! A joyous Christmas is our hope for the correspondents too, who share their items of interest with everyone through these columns.

We bring you news each week. Next Monday is the anniversary of the greatest news the world has ever known, the birth of a Saviour.

Editorial Notes

Just four more days to wait for the greatest season of the year—Christmastide.

Merry Christmas to everyone and may peace to the world and the spirit of Christmas prevail everywhere.

NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH

NEWS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Don't Blame the Kids
In Burlington a laboratory is investigating problems created by minerals and gases in industrial water has disclosed that Junior may not be altogether to blame for the ring around the bath tub. His excuse from now on can be that there are minerals in the water. Water samples from all over Ontario are sent to the plant in Burlington to be tested, being processed at often as 14 times before the mineral content and degree of hardness are finally registered.

No Pansy
Despite the cold winds and snow, half a dozen hardy panthers were tucked on December 10 in the garden of Mrs. A. J. Griffin from the Elm Advocate reports. The blooms developed under a heavy cover of snow which later disappeared with the thaw. And some days it seems too chilly for humans to be out, these flowers were no pansies.

Antidote for Celebration
In Burlington, according to the Gazette, underprivileged children will be provided for this year by members of the St. Thomas Baron Lodge of the Royal Antidote Order of Buffaloes. Most children only have Santa Claus.

Shatters Kilp
A few doubts have crept into Oakville's optimistic campaign to raise funds for the new arena. Although it is feared now that there will not be skating in time for Christmas, the skater should not be held back long officials say. Pleas difficulties account for the fact that this year's objective was not reached.

Lucky Teeter II
Talk about the luck of the Irish, it has nothing on the luck of Georgetown Allan Teeter. For the fourth time this year he won another lucky draw on Dec. 15 at a social evening held by the Anglers and Hunters Club in the Odd Fellows Hall, Georgetown. He had his choice of a rifle, shotgun or fishing equipment for his prize.

Future Protection
There are hopes for future protection for Crescent and Van Way near Beaches. A four man committee has been appointed from the Hamilton-Lake County Council to determine the city's action.

Smith and Stone employee
Mr. Teeter won \$50 cash in a Brampton draw and \$0 in another draw. His fourth prize is a little embarrassing. Lucky Teeter sold himself the winning ticket on a television set raffled off by the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band not long ago.

VIRUS RESISTANT POTATOES
Potatoes resistant to virus are reported to have been developed after four years of research by the Swedish Institute for Plant Research and Cold Storage. A shipment of these potatoes was recently forwarded to Buenos Aires and further experiments are being carried forward to increase the use of virus resistant seed in Sweden.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1900
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thurs., Dec. 20th, 1900.
The annual meeting of the Methodist Sunday School was held on Monday evening at the home of the superintendent, Mr. H. P. Moore. The officers and teachers for 1901 were elected as follows: Superintendent, J. S. Gilmour; A. E. Naylor, superintendent; William J. King, secretary; J. R. Gilmour, treasurer; Y. F. Gilmour, H. J. H. Boyd, organist; Mrs. M. H. Naylor, chorister; Miss L. E. Naylor, soloist; Miss A. Glover, and C. Ranshaw.
S.S. Naylor, organist, has been awarded a diploma for the nearest and best kept school in the county.

BACK IN 1930
Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thurs., Dec. 18, 1930.
The annual fair has added the touch of a new year to the city's life.
The Wagon, Toronto, which is a part of the fair, was held at the fair grounds on Sunday.
The most popular of the fair was the play "The Christmas Toys Wake Up" which was well presented and gave a place for a good majority of the children of the Sunday School.
At the final session of the School Board for the present year Inspector Denyes complimented the Board on the efficiency of the staff.
Acton's Community Christmas Tree will be held on Christmas Eve at Mill and Main Streets. The Acton True Blue Lodge have arranged this event and provision is made for all children to receive a treat. The play "Tea Taper Tavern" by all local cast was presented in the hall under the auspices of St. Alban's church. It will be presented again December 29 with proceeds to go to charity work in Acton.
ROSE MOWAT At the Private Patients' Pavilion, Toronto General Hospital on Saturday, December 13, 1930 to Dr. and Mrs. Harold F. Mowat, a daughter.

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Organist and Choir Leader

Presbyterian Church in Canada
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
M.A., Minister

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
DECEMBER 24th, 1950
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship, Music from 6:15. Come early! Candlelight Service, Junior and Senior Chorus.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
DECEMBER 24th, 1950
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
For half an hour before each service, Mr. Harston will play Christmas music on the piano and this will be broadcast over the radio.

A Thought for the Season
I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.
(Charles Dickens)
Our Christmas Wish To All
We hope the peace of Christmas, its joy and beauty, may last longer on your heart and life than on this page.

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector: Rev. W. G. Easton, B.A.

Baptist Church
ACTON
1000 - 11th Street
Phone 150
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 1950
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship of the Six Hours Bible
Friday, B.Y.P.U. cancelled this week.

CHRISTMAS DAY
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
A Welcome Awaits You
OF Canada's later days of five million people, probably more than a million are members of trade unions.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLER'S GUIDE

MEDICAL
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 Church St. Phone 150
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TELEPHONE 148
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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
TELEPHONE 19

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Acton, Phone 130

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Chartered Accountants
Successors to
JENKINS & HARDY
1305 Metropolitan Bldg
44 Victoria St., Toronto
Rg. 9131

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
Eastbound
6:58 a.m., 8:58 a.m., 11:23 a.m., 2:03 p.m., 3:43 p.m., 6:33 p.m., 8:33 p.m., 10:58 p.m.
Westbound
10:17 a.m., 12:52 p.m., 2:57 p.m., 5:27 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:12 p.m., 11:32 p.m., 1:12 a.m. (Sun to Kitchener only)
Daily except Sunday and holidays
Saturday, Sunday and holidays

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Acton, Ont. Guelph Ont.
Phone 95 Phone 4915W
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Member Appraisal Institute of Canada
Members Guelph & District Real Estate Board
Members Guelph & District Insurance Agents Association

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
STANDARD TIME
Eastbound
Daily 6:44 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 9:54 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Sunday only 8:16 p.m.; Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:02 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown, 10:11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily except Sunday and Monday 1:56 a.m.; Sunday and Monday only 12:38 a.m.; Daily except Sunday 8:48 a.m., 6:50 p.m., 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 6:10 p.m. (flagstop), Saturday only 2:50 p.m.; Sunday only 9:43 a.m. (flagstop), Sunday only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 p.m.

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