

EDITORIAL

Half Century Premiere

Bearded and gaunt with a year of life behind him, old 1950 will be stopping soon at the door of time to reflect before he passes into history and before he makes way for the last half of the twentieth century and all it holds in store for the people of the world.

Old 1950 has a lot to look back on. Think of those resolutions that were made as his reign began and how many of them we carried out. Think about the threat of a third world war and the possibilities that such a conflict might have. But old 1950 hasn't been all trouble and heart-ache. It meant a lot to this town with improvements in sewerage conditions. It meant a lot to each in his own way for the benefits and improvements that have come our way in the year gone by.

Young 1951 will mean a lot to a lot more people. It is the premiere of a new half century. During the year a lot of questions will be answered about the peace of the world, the future of the nations and the part each one of us is to play in this act called life.

We pause just before we bid adieu to the old year and pass on our wish to readers, advertisers, correspondents and all our faithful news gatherers a happy, healthful, hopeful New Year.

No one knows what the new year and the new half century may hold for us. We can only wait and see. But whatever it should bring let us accept and carry out our responsibility toward it.

And as the clock tolls twelve and the old year passes to history and the New Year romps in, let us make one resolution as an individual, as a town, as a nation, a resolution to make this world a little better for our having been here.

Day After Christmas

Christmas has been carrying along a custom for some years now that seems almost unexplainable without an encyclopedia. Each year the question arises as to whether or not Boxing Day should be a holiday.

Boxing Day falls on the first week day after Christmas and the holiday was apparently originated in Great Britain. It is possibly a survivor of the Roman Saturnalia which was a festival held by the Romans in honor of Saturn during which the citizens, with their slaves, gave themselves up to unrestrained freedom and mirth. It lasted seven days under the Caesars. During its continuance, no public business could be transacted, the law courts were closed, the schools on holiday and slaves were free from restraint. Masters and slaves even changed places so that while the servants sat at table they were waited on by their masters. The last days of the festival were spent visiting and giving presents. Little clay images were the principal gifts.

Boxing Day in Britain was marked by the custom of giving presents, usually of money but known as Christmas boxes to servants, policemen, postmen and others.

Election Hang-Over

Election time has come and gone again but there are still a few hang-overs as far as conservation goes. A thing that is often heard of around the street corners is the practice of plumping votes.

This is nothing new in the election world and yet it is something that could stand a little explaining. People speak of plumping their vote for one or two persons on the ballot. This has the effect of giving that person a great deal more votes over the number acquired by his opponents. It is a means of voting against all others on the ballot.

One of our fellow editors reports that at least one municipal council is thinking seriously of ways and means of combatting this practice. Their suggestions range from compelling voters to mark their ballot for the full number of names required to making them choose at least a majority, that is, if six are to be elected the voter must vote for at least four.

There is a serious objection in this because if too many restrictions are put on the voter and what goes on between he and the ballot it makes it rather hard for the majority of voters to keep up with all the regulations imposed. The idea may be a good one, on the other hand, and deserve some consideration.

Every voter should know, however, that he can not vote for one candidate more than once. That is if there are six to be elected the six X's cannot be placed for one candidate. Only one vote may be polled for each candidate on one ballot. Voters should keep these things in mind for the next election and make sure their ballot is correctly marked and their franchise properly exercised.

No Further Delays

Five years and nine months since its appointment the Hope Royal Commission has made a voluminous report on education in Ontario and presented it to the government. First glances show that it is wide in its scope and will take a great deal of consideration. However, it should also be realized that the Commission has already given it much consideration before presentation. It is now up to the government to decide what measures shall be initiated. It is certainly evident that a report of such scope must receive consideration and it is also realized that Ontario's educational plans do need clarification, leadership and definition and many changes.

There can be no objection to the recommendation that a full time Minister of Education should be appointed and that the provincial Department of Education should be re-organized. Anyone who has endeavored to get guidance from this Department will bear out this recommendation.

It would appear that the three level system of education with elementary schools to age 12, secondary schools to 16 and junior colleges with two and three year courses would provide a means of dropping the "hot potato" of High School Districts that has proven difficult to handle to the satisfaction of everyone and has been given no guidance from the department since it was dropped in the laps of the local boards.

There are many phases of the report which will meet with general approval. Premier Frost has said "obviously the government and the people are not bound by the report, nor are they bound to implement the report in whole or in part." The premier, and government, no doubt will also agree that a report prepared at such expense, time and effort, cannot be ignored and that Ontario's educational program does need many changes and clearer definition. The people will await with some anxiety the action of the government on the report and the hope that implementation of the program will not be unduly delayed.

Building programs are proceeding, today's needs will not wait forever. The government does not lack a majority to implement the needs of the province. We hope along with other citizens of the Province that action will be considered promptly and administered with a clear program. We have waited long for the Hope Commission report. Let not the program be further unduly delayed.

Who Wants What

The international situation is one that is certainly hard to follow and a lot harder to understand. By following and studying the news reports on the United Nations in Korea and the numerous other reports that appear daily some very interesting points are uncovered.

On November 3 Russia proposed that the Big Four powers get together again to discuss unification of divided Germany. It is common knowledge that Germany need never have been divided. During the Russian attacks and the other Allies' attacks in the last world war it was the allies who waited for Russia particularly outside of Berlin.

Just what bearing these proposed talks of the Russians might have on the Korean situation is hard to say. But would it not be a fine time for the Russians to say, "We'll pull out of Korea if you'll give us your share of Germany?"

From another article on the editorial page of one of the dailies, we find a writer who says, "Once Russia controlled the mines and factories of Germany, France, Italy and Belgium, the odds would shift in favour of an ultimate Communist triumph. If the Communist world has a plan for world Communism it will be a long range one and this might easily be one of the first steps in that direction."

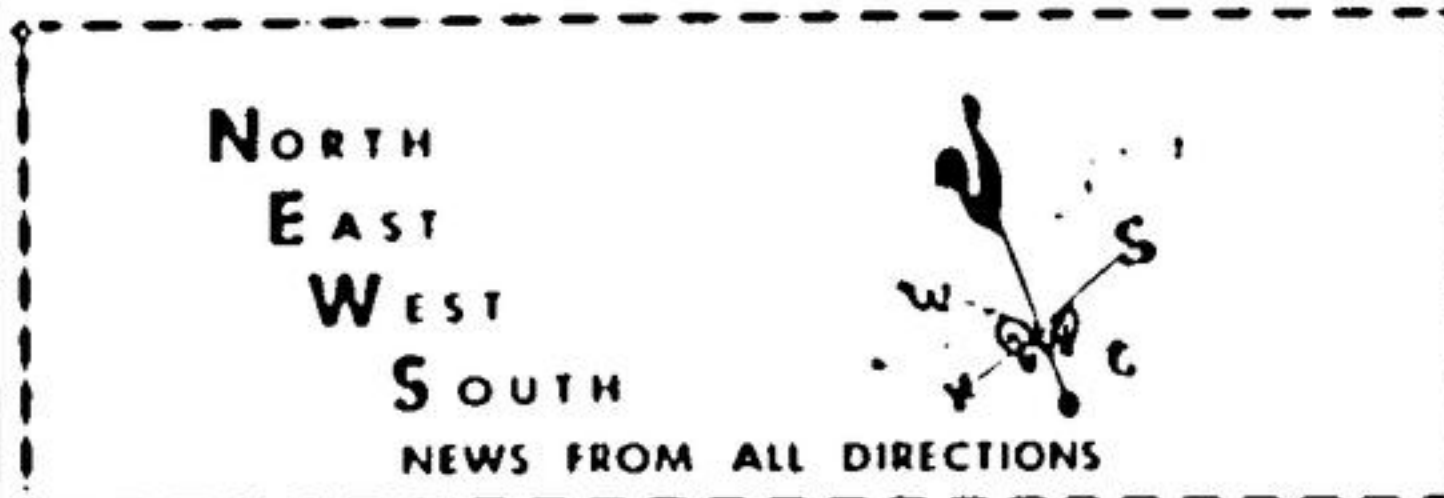
The United Nations is dealing with tricky diplomats and a well-laid plan when they tackle the Communist bloc.

Editorial Notes

Rodney Adamson, M.P. for York West told a political meeting that people were more interested in comic strip characters than they are in politics. He felt sure if a poll were taken to learn of people's comparative knowledge of the activities of a favourite comic character and politics "the former would win hands down". That reminds us of a visit to the Ontario house to see the government in action. The few members present read papers, comic-strips included, while some member delivered a lengthy report on something in which a minority were interested. The uninterested politicians are not all among those outside government houses.



"I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL."



NEWS FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

Georgetown Fire
The whole business of a fire in Georgetown was this strange one. On December 22 when a fire of this kind was reported, two boys and two apartments. The loss was estimated at \$15,000. The fire started in the back of a butcher shop and spread to a grocery and two apartments. With all their Christmas presents but ten are homeless. Guests in a nearby hotel were alarmed by smoke but the flames were prevented from spreading.

From All Hours
Exchange newspapers are filled with accounts of office and factory Christmas parties, special meetings, fine seasonal services in the churches and lists of holiday visitors. A feeling of good will pervades the weekly papers which new is to cherish this week.

Diamond Anniversary
The two couples in Cambridge who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary recently can look to the example of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Albertson. Dunda Highway East. The Oakville Telegram reports that Mr. and Mrs. Albertson were married exactly sixty years on Christmas Day.

Burlington Hoop
The salary dispute between high school teachers and their Nelson District High School Board was settled just a week before Christmas with the pay-out for the teachers being a bonus in pay, according to the Burlington Gazette. Resignations which had been tendered were withdrawn after the negotiation. Teachers in Georgetown, Acton and Milton have also asked for salary increases.

Over Enthusiasm
A woman was trampled into an unconsciousness and eight were arrested as the result of a fight during a hockey game in Walkerston recently. The Georgetown Herald carries a report of the display of dubious sportmanship. Walkerston was playing Bradport when the fight broke out near the end of the third period. The unconscious woman from Bradport was taken to Walkerston Hospital for treatment and five spectators and three players were arrested.

The term poster deal came from the 1800s when the boys were appointed to deal in the covered walkway they were to deal and called deals.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1900 BACK IN 1930

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press of Thursday, Dec. 27th, 1900. Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1930.

The new century next Tuesday morning.

The tannery's Christmas boxes were generous and practical.

Mr. J. H. Matthews has dropped out of the race for the Revesby and it looks as if Street Commissioner Williams could have it for the taking. If elected he will certainly do his best to fill his office satisfactorily.

Rev. H. A. Macpherson and family had a very narrow escape on Sunday morning last. Owing to some disarrangement of the furnace the furnace allowed a large amount of gas to escape during the night and when Mr. Macpherson awoke on Sunday morning he found the house filled with gas and him and family sick from the result of its inhalation.

A very quiet but most enjoyable wedding took place at noon on Christmas day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Masales when Mr. E. F. Gamble and Miss Bessie G. Masales were united in holy wedlock.

The members of the Epworth League met on Friday evening last at the home of Mr. Wm. Guernsey, Church Street, to spend a social evening with the three members who are about to leave Acton for other scenes. Mr. Fred Nixon, who has been teacher at Dublin the past four years goes to Normal School, Toronto; and Messrs. J. Chester Matthews and Ed. J. Moore leave on the 3rd of January for Alberta College, the former to take a commercial course and the latter to complete his course in arts.

AT THE Churches

United Church of Canada
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A FRIENDLY CHURCH
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Phone 61
Rev. E. A. Curry, B.A., B.D.
Minister
Miss O. M. Lampard, A.T.C.M.
Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st 1950
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

Baptist Church
ACTON
Mr. Stanley Woodcock
Student Pastor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st 1950
10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
11:30 a.m. Morning Service
7:00 p.m. Young People's Evening Service—Two socials from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. HYFU

Methodist Church
ACTON
Rev. J. A. McLean
Minister

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st 1950
9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer—A Welcome Awaits You

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Eastbound
10:12 a.m., 12:42 p.m., 1:21 p.m., 2:42 p.m., 5:01 p.m., 6:31 p.m., 8:33 p.m., 10:06 p.m.

Westbound
10:12 a.m., 12:42 p.m., 2:47 p.m., 5:07 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:12 p.m., 11:32 p.m., 1:12 a.m. (Stn. to Kitchener only)

Daily except Sunday and holidays
Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Eastbound
Daily 6:44 a.m., Daily except Sundays 9:54 a.m., 7:10 p.m., Sunday only 6:16 p.m., Daily except Sunday, Flvtr. at Georgetown 9:02 a.m., Daily Flvtr. at Georgetown 10:11 p.m.

Westbound
Daily except Sunday and Monday 1:06 a.m., Sunday and Monday only 12:35 a.m., Daily except Sunday 4:16 a.m., 6:50 p.m., 7:44 p.m., Daily except Sat. and Sun. 6:10 p.m., Flvstopt. Saturdays only 2:36 p.m., Sunday only 9:43 a.m., Flvstopt. Sunday only Flvtr. at Geograph. 7:05 p.m.

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Happy New Year From All Of Us To All Of You