

Ant heap or free society

We sometimes take for granted the society we have inherited from past generations. Over the centuries men in community have achieved a certain measure of civilization and culture. But progress has not been uniform.

Of existing social orders, we have our definite preferences. Some have degenerated into authoritarian and totalitarian systems, characterized by regimentation, suspicion, and terror. In others the winds of freedom are relatively strong and the range of individual choice wide.

Our awareness as to what our own society has accomplished, despite its urgent unfinished business, was heightened when we happened to run across some references to the social systems developed by various species of ants. They bear striking resemblance to some human (or should we say inhuman?) social orders.

Ants, like men, are socially inclined. They are well organized, have a remarkably effective communication system, and undertake elaborate construction projects. Different species run grain, "mushroom", and "cattle" farms. They cultivate, store, and distribute their produce. Within each ant family, or colony,

which sometimes has a population over 100,000, all is co-operation and harmony. So far, so good.

But their loyalty extends only to the colony. They raid, pillage, plunder, and engage in bitter warfare with other colonies and species. Some practice a system of slavery. Parasitic ants subvert other colonies, killing their "queen" and installing in her stead their own.

The ant is born into a rigid caste system "in which individuals are bound to permanent, monotonous conditions of servitude." Some do nothing but weed "the garden", some feed the young, some guard the gates, some scout or forage for food, some do battle.

To the extent that men in their societies still wage war, plunder, enslave, subvert and divide themselves into rigid castes, they bear an uncomfortable resemblance to socially organized insects such as ants and termites. But fortunately, men have remarkable capacity to progress morally and spiritually. As they acquire a greater moral sensitivity and genuine spiritual maturity, we may expect freedom, order, justice, and equality to increasingly characterize human society. Men will eventually leave the ant far behind.

—Leamington Post

Who are we kidding?

The hard-headed, rational, scientific generation — that's what we are. At least so we think. Let's stop kidding ourselves and get the picture clear; almost all of us act on what we feel, rather than on what we know.

Consider two problems, constantly recurring, widely publicized — the appalling number of fatal highway accidents and the rising incidence of lung cancer.

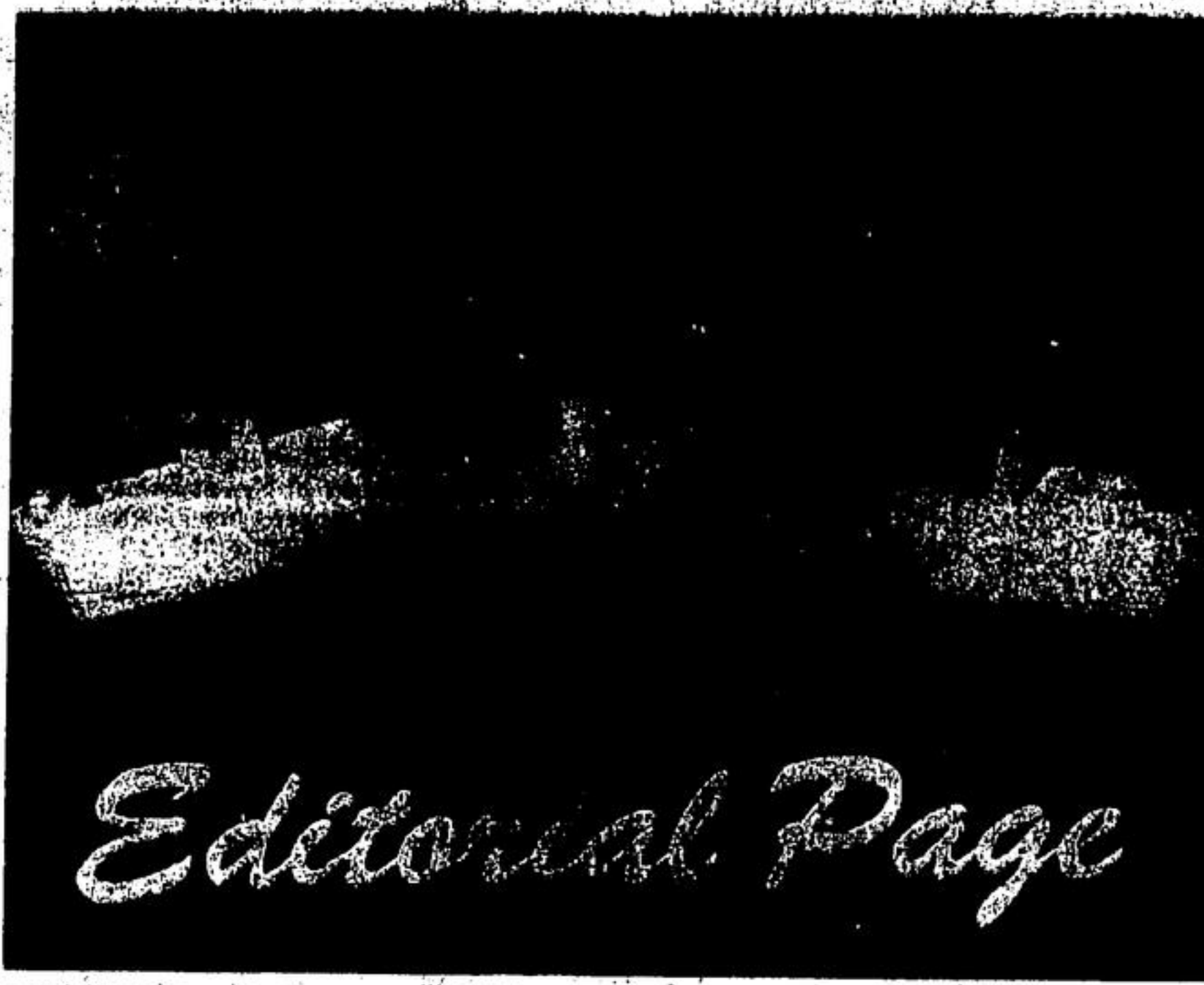
Last year 4,879 people died on Canadian roads. Every holiday, every weekend increases the toll. The major culprits in this slaughter, speed, reckless driving, alcohol, carelessness, mechanical failures, have been pinpointed again and again. But what do we do? NOTHING — except more of the same. We fight every device and restriction that would put a brake on our bad habits even though we know (intellectually) that we may kill or be killed ourselves.

We are just as stubborn when it

comes to lung cancer. It has increased here 10-fold for men and two-and-a-half times for women since 1931. The major cause has been thoroughly established — cigarettes. Sir George Godber, chief medical advisor to the British government, estimates their death-rate will continue to rise steadily as long as, in his words, "cigarettes are sold to a gullible public". Yet they (and we) go right on buying them; even a hefty jump in Canadian prices, and news that the retail markup is more than 100 per cent has done nothing to slow sales. He also reports five times as many lung cancer deaths annually, as from road accidents.

Every smoker has heard these facts. He knows he should cut the habit, but he has no intention of doing it.

If we don't want to go on killing ourselves in cars or in our own homes we'll have to internalize our information; get from the mind to the emotions and will. Religion does this for a good many people.



Editorial Page

BOY SCOUT apple day was held Saturday and scouts and cubs swarmed all over town selling apples. Left to right are Gordon Gibbs, Terry Slaven, Jeff

Patterson, Robert Gibbs and Kenneth Esch. After the youngsters returned to the hall they were served hot chocolate.

—Staff Photo

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

What is the most difficult thing in the world to do? Climb a mountain? Swim Lake Ontario? Get through to a teenager? Face death with poise? Be a real Christian?

None all of these can be done, if you have been trained long enough and hard enough to prepare yourself for them; or if you have certain qualities of character.

Hilary climbed Everest. Marilyn Bell swam the lake. They began by climbing small mountains, swimming little lakes.

There are a few recorded cases of adults with great patience and insight getting through to teenagers. But they probably practiced on little teenagers, the 13-year-olds, not yet battle-hardened.

One can face death with poise, if one has learned to face with poise all the little deaths that make up life.

One can even become a good Christian by starting on the little things like generosity and forgiveness and working up to the big hurdles, like humility and love.

The most difficult thing in the world today? To make and maintain a good marriage.

There's no place to train, for one thing. How do you get in shape? You can't start having little marriages in preparation for the big one. At least not around these parts you can't. Although some people try. I know one bird who says he has been happily married three times. All his wives are alive, not to mention kicking.

And it doesn't matter how many fine qualities you have. A veritable saint, of either sex, can have a rotten marriage; and a veritable bum, of either sex, can have a good marriage.

You might be better to read a good book about it, but after 20 years of advancing and retreating in that blood-soaked no-man's-land between husband and wife, I think I have a right to be heard.

There's nothing wrong with marriage itself. It's a venerable institution. And some wag will interject here, of course,

"So is Kingston Penitentiary." But let's not be cynical.

No, it's our modern conception of marriage that's all wrong. We laugh at the Victorians. Prudish stuffed shirts. But they were on the right track. For them, marriage was a serious business, evolved to meet specific needs in their society. For them, romantic love was usually tragic. There are no illusions about marriage in Hardy, Thackeray, Galsworthy.

We are the one with the illusions. And delusions. For us, marriage is like cotton candy you buy on the midway. It's whipped together out of hot air and sugar. It's pink and fluffy and you can hardly wait to get your teeth into it. And the first mouthful is sweet and delicious.

But pretty soon it's gone, and you're a little sick, and it's all over your face and in your hair and your left with a little roll of gooey paper. That's when marriage really begins.

Well, Mr. Diefenbaker has a favorite saying: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." And that's what marriage is like. Those who just think they're tough get going and keep right on going. But we really tough ones dig in our heels and stay with it.

And stay and stay and stay. According to all the propaganda from movies, television, and Ladies Home Journal, marriage is one big wonderful miasma of giving and taking, of sharing, of total togetherness.

Oh, those things are there. You give and your wife takes. She's willing to share everything you have, from your bank account to your booze. Not necessarily equal shares, but shares. And togetherness? You'll get total togetherness until you look in the mirror some day, when you're 65, and realize with shock that you look more like your wife than she does.

But according to our old sweats, marriage is mostly a matter of staying power. Stay out of jail, stay on the job, stay away from other women, stay on the wagon, stay healthy until your pension begins, and stay out of her way when the old lady gets steamed up.

Which I plan to do when mine reads this column.



Harley to Halton

by harry harley m. p.

The House of Commons has been continuing to debate detailed spending of various Government Departments. It is expected that all of Government spending will have been dealt with by Friday, November 25, 1966, and that the House of Commons will then devote its full time to legislation. It is anticipated that the following matters will be dealt with and probably in the following order:

1. Medicare.
2. Guaranteed annual minimum income for senior citizens.
3. Transportation Bill dealing with the railways.
4. Armed Forces Unification.
5. Collective bargaining for the Civil Services.

I would like to outline some of the features of the White Paper on Immigration recently tabled in Parliament. The three main features of the Government's policy proposals in the White Paper are: that it is expansionist; that it is non-discriminatory; and that it establishes a new balance between the claims of family relationships and the economic interests of Canadians as a whole. These features are not distinct from each other; there is a great deal of interdependence among them.

The White Paper restates Canada's need for immigrants. Our experience of the last four years, when the numbers

of immigrants have risen steadily from some 70,000 a year to possibly 200,000 indicates the size of the need of our capacity to provide a wide assortment of employment opportunities. The White Paper stresses the importance of an immigration program that is consistent with the rapid sophistication of our Canadian economy and the paramount need for upgrading the skills and productivity of our labor force. Therefore such an immigration program, while continuing and indeed improving the scope given to humanitarian considerations, ought also to recognize fully Canada's need for immigrants who have the qualifications to establish themselves readily and steadily in this country.

Some of the features of immigration legislation and procedures do result in the nationals of certain countries having greater advantages over others in their ability to qualify as immigrants to Canada. An example is the restricted ability of people in Canada to sponsor certain relatives in Asian countries as compared to the position of those sponsors who wish to bring relatives from European countries. Another example in practice is the provision of relatively few immigration offices in countries other than Europe, and therefore the greater handicaps to immigration borne by those who could qualify but have to wait for lengthy periods to be interviewed and accepted.

Free Press

Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 28, 1946.

Over four hundred people filled the Brookville Hall Saturday night in honor of the boys and girls who served with the armed forces in the Second World War.

An engraved gold watch was presented to each of the 113 men who served and army watches to the three women who enlisted. The next of kin of the five boys who lost their lives during the conflict were presented with suitable mantle clocks.

Tenders for sewage system are to be called immediately. The tenders call for two contracts. One contract is for laying 8 miles of sewer pipe from 8 to 15 inches in diameter and 1300 feet of 6 in. iron pipe with house connections and 137 concrete manholes.

The second contract bid calls for construction of the sewage treatment plant, pumping stations and mechanical equipment.

A new hydro line was connected up last week at Campbellville which gave modern lighting to the following farmers: Messrs. Robert Laking, Donald McDonald, Nicholson and Charlie Ingles.

When Ross Shaven of Burlington and his party of hunters returned last Saturday from a hunting trip in the Wilberforce area, they brought with them a full quota (17) of deer and one bear. They reported the deer as being very numerous in this section of the country this year.

Born: Wright — Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Wright are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter, Carolyn Patricia, at Guelph General Hospital, November 24, 1946.

Ryder — Sgt. and Mrs. Earl Ryder are happy to announce the birth of their daughter on Tuesday, November 26, 1946, at Toronto General Hospital.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 14, 1916.

Sgt. W. J. Gould arrived with the invalided soldiers at Quebec on Sunday. He is expected home any day now.

Three new transformers are being installed in the Hydro Power Station on Willow St. this week to replace smaller ones which have done duty there since Hydro current was introduced.

Mrs. Malcolm McDougall has moved from the farm to the brick house on Frederick St., which was recently purchased from Mr. Cecil Brown.

High prices were received from seed grain at the Winter Fair, Guelph, last week, sold by auction with R. J. Kerr wielding the hammer.

Reeve Hynds received a letter from Hon. T. W. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, thanking the people of Acton and vicinity for the cheque for \$2,152.75, covering recent subscriptions here to the British Red Cross Fund.

The members of Acton Platoon of the 164th Battalion were home on four days' leave this week.

Mr. T. P. Watkins is to be congratulated on the fine new cement block residence on his farm which will be finished and ready for occupancy this week.

Free Press

Church Notices

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk. Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
10.00 a.m.—English Service.
2.30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3.45 p.m.—Sunday School.

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
CHURCH SCHOOL
Church School—Juniors (up to Gr. 4) at 10 a.m.
Seniors (Gr. 5 - Gr. 8) at 11.15 a.m.

DIVINE SERVICES
10.00 a.m.—Trinity Church (Nursery service provided.)
11.15 a.m.—Churchill (Churchill Rd. N.)
Sermon Title: "Brass Tacks".

Sunday, 8 p.m. — Classes for adults for church membership or learning about:

- Biblical Interpretation
 - Church History
 - Denominationalism
 - Doctrine
 - Morality
- Tuesday, December 6, 7.30 p.m. — Session meeting.
All Welcome

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tides Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "The Blessed Man."
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service. "Prayer in Worship" (6th in a series on worship).

Wednesday — Prayer and Bible Study 7.30.
Thursday — Choir Practice, 7.30.
Friday — B.H.F. 7.00.
Text: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name (but Jesus) whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

Advent II
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School.
10.30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
1.30 p.m.—Children's practice for Christmas concert.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D., Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.
9.45 a.m.—Teenage Church Membership Class.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship meeting. Topic: "Fluke Chance or Miracle".
Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m. — Christmas Program for children and friends. Everyone most welcome.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 — Georgetown 877-6665

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1966
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.

Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday, 8 p.m.—C.A. Service.
Friday, 6.45 p.m.—Crusaders.



KELLYBETH MANES, two and a half year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Manes, appears to be well on the way to a tummy ache. She was on hand

Saturday at the scout hall when scouts and cubs headed out on apple day. The youngster had her pick from a whole bushel full of apples.

—Staff Photo