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The Busybody

SARAH E. MCCABEY
McClure Newspaper Syndicate, WNU Service.

A NATTY salesman strolled up the walk of No. 46 Highgate street, spread out a sample case of asphalt roofing on the top step of the piazza, approached the door, and rang the bell.

SHORT STORY

The whole Wilson family came out to decide the color and texture of the shingles that were badly needed for their roof.

"That rough kind with the red gravel sprinkled over it would make a stunning roof," said the family flapper, with an eye to the artistic, as she squinted a beautiful blue orb to get the proper effect.

A head suddenly appeared over the dense privet hedge which separated their yard from No. 48 next door, and a meek voice said:

"Don't select the gravelly kind—birds will get at it and peck holes in your roof."

"There he goes again—minding our business," whispered Edith to her brother. "Did you ever see anyone so fond of giving advice as he? Whose roof is it, anyway, I'd like to know?"

The next day Miss Edith, the family exemplar of modernism in its relationship to dress and conduct, was hanging out her "to be laundered carefully" lingerie when No. 48 spoke up from over the hedge:

"If I were a young girl, I wouldn't drive around so much with that young Grinnel. I knowed his folks away back, and there never was a right good man among 'em!"

"Do you know," said the little meek man one day, straightening up from his task of thinning out his too flourishing hedge to look over at his neighbor reading his paper at the piazza, "do you know that there is money in the land around here?"

"Maybe there is!" said Mr. Wilson, rattling his paper as he turned to the sporting news. "Maybe there is!"

"You know that spur track at Barrington that the United Railway used to take the help to the mills during war-time? That track could be run about a mile into the country and bring folks right to Barrington Beach."

"Uh-huh," answered Mr. Wilson, intent on his paper.

"You could build up a regular all-the-year-round colony—restrict buildings to bungalows, no shanties, no tents; cinch! Wish I had the money!"

He invited them all over to see his century plant blooming in all its splendor in the light of an August moon, but they declined; and that same night, when he was covering his precious bloom about midnight, he heard a strange sound at his gate, and, hurrying down to it, he found Edith lying prone on the grass of his lawn where she had fallen just before reaching her own house.

He raised her tenderly and quietly helped her to his piazza.

"I should have listened to you—you were right. His wife came home from Europe today."

The next week nobody saw anything of the little meek man—somebody belonging to him had died and he had gone out of town.

But soon he came back and looked over at Mr. Wilson, who was occupied, as usual, with the sporting news of his paper.

"My old uncle left me some money and I bought that Barrington tract of land, and the United Railways are going to run a track there if I can start sufficient building to warrant it. I've sold 10 restricted lots already."

And then one day the little meek man at No. 48 moved away.

One hot Sunday afternoon of the following summer, the Wilson family were undecided where to go in their car to spend the afternoon, and were surprised when Edith said she wanted to go to Barrington Beach.

When they reached the already populous little colony, Edith got out and looked around and presently she found what she sought.

It was a little combination drug store and soda fountain on the main road, and she entered quietly and seated herself at the corner on one of its high stools—and then No. 48 turned and saw her!

Without a word he selected his tallest, shiniest drinking glass—he held it under the syrup faucet, then under the milk faucet, then he slipped in a fat ball of luscious ice-cream and fixed in the soda.

Daintily, Edith began to sip the frosty concoction.

"I saw you out riding with Jimmy Harrison last week when I was in the city," said the little meek man. Edith nearly choked.

"You know that? And do you know that is the reason I came out here to see you today—you—'busybody'?" and she shook her silver spoon at him. "You know Jimmy, too?"

He chuckled.

"I know him, and there is nobody finer than he is—and when the right time comes, you tell him for me that I am saving a couple of my choice lots down here for first class bungalows, and I'd like nothing better than to have him for my neighbor."

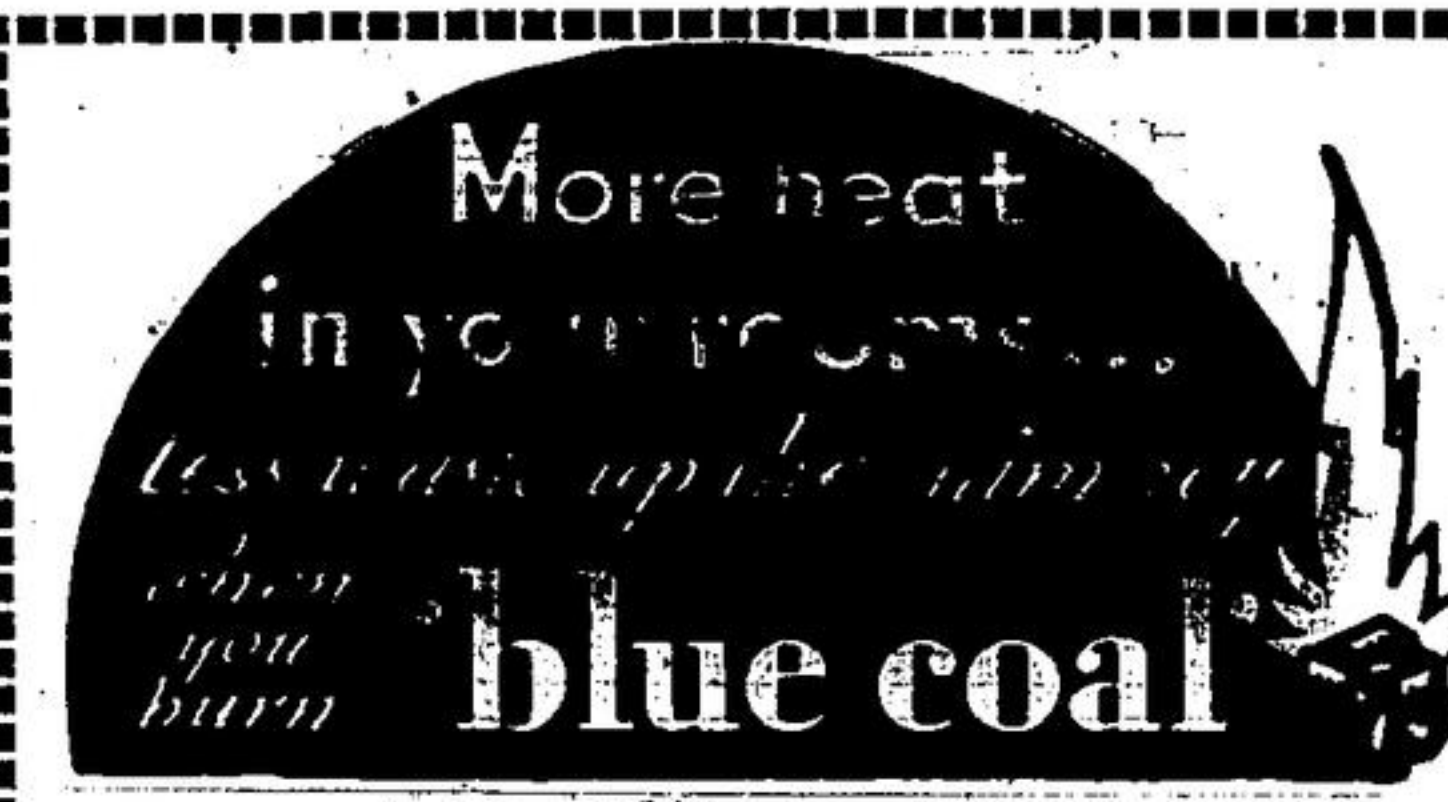
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PRINCE RUPERT IS NOW THE "TOWN OF TOTEMS"

This northern seaport on the route of the Canadian National liners cruising the inside passage is rapidly becoming the city of totems. To the many splendid specimens already erected, fourteen more are being added and placed at various strategic points to be seen by summer visitors. Three have been placed in the Canadian National Railways park adjacent to the rail terminals and steamship dock in addition to those already there. This park and its totems have been photographed by tourists from the four quarters of the globe.

Nothing The new reporter wrote his concluding paragraph concerning the murderer as follows: "Fortunately for the deceased, he had deposited all his money in the bank the day before. He lost practically nothing but his life."

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Serving Through Christian Stewardship

International Uniform Sunday School Lesson, May 22, 1938

GOLDEN TEXT: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Mark 12: 31.

LESSON PASSAGE: Mark 12: 13-17, 28-34.

"Service! Hear that word! It holds the hope of all the world. It means ten thousand clean, young lives.

Given along with countless tithes; Hours of prayer and years of toil. But a steadfast faith that none can foil."

—Charles D. Spotts

Party Men, 13.

Party feeling ran high in Jerusalem. The Pharisees and Herodians felt that his teaching endangered their point of view. How frequently we hear someone described as "a strong party man." Should we regard this as a compliment or a limitation? We say very little about anyone if we describe him as a liberal or a conservative. The resemblance in the parties are much more numerous than the differences. We need to be on guard against placing party before patriotism. An Ex-Premier said recently that there had never been so much disunion in Canada. If this be true, part of the blame must be placed upon the misrepresentation inspired by party politics. We also have parties in the church, high and low, broad and narrow. We say very little about anyone if we describe him as a fundamentalist or a modernist; this may be a clue rather to a temperament rather than to basic belief. In any community the duties of citizenship and the standards of religion are very much the same for people of every shade of politics and every shade of belief in religion. Good citizenship is guided by sympathies more than by antipathies.

Taxes and Tariffs, 14-17

In Canada taxes and tariffs remain permanent political problems. Since the War taxation has become excessively high. People are being discouraged from holding property because of increasing taxation. An 8 percent sales tax is a restraint to trade. Tariffs give rise to many ethical questions. Is it right to exclude the commodities of another nation? Do tariffs work out as class legislation? Has any one nation ever demonstrated permanently the success of a high tariff policy? Are high tariffs Christian? Do they square with the Golden Rule? In the sphere of practical politics there are varying opinions about taxes and tariffs but both are fundamentally religious questions. Taxation can easily become a method of oppressing the poor and tariffs by causing international rivalry and jealousy may lead to war. Christians need to take their religion right into politics, to prevent injustices arising through excessive taxation and too high tariffs.

The Great Commandment, 28-31

Years ago when it was announced that a committee of jurists had been appointed to simplify the law, the late Goldwyn Smith remarked, "Imagine the tigers clearing out the jungle." Yet this is just what Jesus did in the realm of ethics. The Jewish legalists had hundreds of laws and by-laws. To obey the law was a very complicated task. Christ came and gave two great commandments, love to God and love to our fellow men. This simplified conduct, but did not make it easy. It is much more difficult to live by the law of love than to follow a code book, yet love is a sure guide. It would even make many traffic laws unnecessary. Many highway accidents are due to selfishness and thoughtlessness. Motor car drivers need to love their passengers and other drivers, giving them the protection they seek for themselves. When we test our own conduct by the law of love we find that it has the keenest cutting edge. Many social practices, which are within the law, cannot stand the scrutiny of Christ's law of love. It is the royal law far

above the statutes of men.

Sacrifices and Service, 32-33

We learn by contrast. We see clearly by comparison. This scribe who came questioning Jesus was familiar with the Jewish sacrificial system. He knew its history, its regulations and its practice. The Jewish sacrificial system provided a colorful religious ceremony. The priests in their robes, the altar with its fires and the people seeking deliverance from their sins made the sacrifice concrete and objective, yet Christ turned away from this sacrificial system and taught the inwardness of righteousness. He knew that a change of heart could accomplish more than the sacrifice of a beast. Religion is a matter of the inner life, of the thoughts, desires, purposes, and these cannot be changed by external sacrifices. To swallow our pride and apologize to a neighbor whom we have wronged may be a stiffer challenge to us than sacrificing a valuable beast. To take the time and trouble to be kind to someone in need may make a sterner demand than paying for birds to be sacrificed in his name. Again Christ did not make religion easy, but he made it natural, purposeful and full of real power. To love God with our whole being and to love our neighbors as ourselves is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

A Spiritual Religion, 34

This scribe came to thinking of religion in terms of external sacrifices. After a conversation he began to see it as a matter of convictions, desires, thoughts and purposes. He answered so discreetly that Christ said, "Thou art not far from the kingdom of God." One reason why the Christian religion spreads slowly is because of its high spiritual standards. Mohammedanism gained rapidly through conquest with the sword but Christianity wins by victory over selfishness, greed and evil habits. Christianity calls for a personal response of trust and obedience to God. It demands utter self-abandonment and commitment to the kingdom of God as taught and lived by Jesus Christ. It calls for a church far greater than any other organization and demands a world brotherhood in Christ, a union of those who love in the service of those who suffer. Such a high standard may be difficult, but Christianity lived on this basis will produce patriots who can unify and save the nation.

Questions for Discussion

1. Does partyism limit patriotism?
2. What do we owe to Canada?
3. What do we owe to God?
4. What effect have religious observances upon my inner life?
5. Do we give as much time and care to our souls as to our bodies?

WHERE THE ANTELOPE ROAM

One-eighth of all the pronghorned antelope in the world range on the 200,000 acre Lewis and stock ranch of Charles J. Belden, at Pitchfork, near Cody, Wyoming. Mr. Belden says that the picture reproduced on the cover this month, which he names, "First Call to Breakfast," these baby antelope readily adapt themselves to feeding on cow's milk from the bottle. These animals differ from the true antelope in that they do not horns each year and are therefore put in a genus by themselves. Years ago, when the early trappers and explorers first forged across the Mississippi and started the exploration of the West, they estimated, roughly, that about 40,000 of the high animals roamed the flat-land, but agriculture and rifleman destroyed them until at the beginning of the present century only a few were found in scattered bands over the West. Draught protective laws were invoked and with the aid of certain notable cattlemen, the herds started to increase until now they number 40,000, of which half are found in Wyoming. They belong wholly to the plains and foothills, have an abnormal curiosity, and are the fleetest thing on earth.

No Time

Wife—"I'm going to town this afternoon."
Hubby—"Shopping?"
Wife—"No, I won't have time. I just want to get some things I need."