

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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The Editor's Corner

SHORT AND SWEET

We can't say we blame a reader for the note which accompanied his renewal to the Herald. We realize that in our last two issues in December, there was a scarcity of reading matter and news. This was due to a combination of circumstances—illness of one member of the staff, holidays, machine trouble, and the general rush which seems to prevail during a holiday period.

Last week we were back to normal again and with our troubles behind us, we are once more bending every effort to give you a "newspaper." And remember that you all can help us by turning in your news items early. If you have visitors for the weekend, give us a ring on Monday morning. If you are bringing in an account of a wedding or a funeral, the earlier you bring it in, the more you help us get the Herald out on time on Wednesday.

BUSINESS GOOD IN GEORGETOWN

We have been pleased to hear the optimistic comments of local merchants concerning business conditions in Georgetown during the past year. The majority of the merchants set a new mark in Christmas business—one which has not been equalled for several years. One Main Street man remarked that his total 1940 intake was the highest since he came to town several years ago. Another said that during the whole year there had been a noticeable improvement in sales, and his Christmas business was even better than he had hoped for.

It is difficult to say just what has caused this increase. No doubt much of it is due to more employment and a higher total wage bill in town. We would like to think that part of it can be traced to more buying at home—to an increased sense of loyalty to our own local merchants.

It is a sad but nonetheless true fact that some of our citizens buy practically nothing in local stores. They seem to prefer to shop exclusively in Guelph and Brampton and Toronto. Just what is the reason for this is hard to find out. To be sure, some articles can be purchased a few cents cheaper in the larger stores in other centres. When this saving is balanced against the travelling expenses of the trip, however, the argument of cheaper goods would hardly hold water.

Whatever the reason may be, we wish that people who buy out of town would give our local merchants the benefit of their purchasing power. We are confident that any merchant would be only too glad to order something for you if he does not carry it in his regular stock. By buying at home you are helping your community to prosper. Georgetown has one of the highest per capita incomes in the Dominion. Why not give our merchants the benefit of this income.

PUBLIC SPENDING CURTAILED

If the voice of Georgetown's 1941-42 council is truly reflected in the inaugural address delivered by Mayor Gibbons on Monday night and printed in detail elsewhere in the Herald, public expenditures are going to be limited in the next few years even more than they were last year. The mayor feels that we can further the war effort by curtailing local expenditures to the point of lowering our tax rate, and allowing more of our money to be at the disposal of the Dominion and the Empire.

He does not stand alone in this idea. The Dominion government has expressed its wish that all municipalities limit expenditures to bare necessities in order that federal taxing power may be expanded. In other words we are giving up our local luxuries and some of our local necessities in order that our mite may be added to swell the coffers of the Empire.

In this belief we can scarcely disagree, and we do not believe that our council will go to the other extreme and tie the municipal purse strings so tight that all necessities will be dispensed with. There is a reasonable limit beyond which we cannot go, save in a case of desperate emergency. It would be foolish, for instance, to let our streets and sidewalks crumble into dust without making necessary repairs. Such a policy would be short-sighted and in the long run future replacements would cost us much more than present repairs.

We feel sure that this is not the aim of the mayor or council. We expect that they will carefully consider all financial measures which crop up during their term of office, and that nothing will be turned down flatly, without a fair hearing, on the basis of war economy.

TWO PRAYERS FOR NEW YEARS

Dedicated to Their Majesties, our well-beloved King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, in grateful memory of their visit to Canada.

AN EMPIRE KNEELING

O Lord, another year has gone... Grant us, O Christ, the courage, high, That flames in London streets. O Son of Mary and Thy Saints, We humbly call to Thee To arm and guard our fighting men — On land, in sky and sea. Jehovah, God of Israel, Thy chosen ones implore That Thou wilt be their God of Hosts Amid the battle's roar.

IN TRANQUIL DAYS

O Lord, the old year is no more, Its sullied page is turned; With flying feet the entities The dear dead year has spurned. The passing bell of midnight peals, With humble hearts we hear The clanging tongues ring wide the news, The birth of another year.

WHAT OTHER PAPERS SAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

According to an item in some of the papers the principal of the Alliston public school asked the entrance class to write down the Lord's prayer. The result surprised and shocked him. There were thirty pupils in the class and two of the thirty were able to write the prayer. That's rather a low percentage, though a similar experiment in other public schools might show that very few know this great prayer very well.

FARMERS' UNION IN ONTARIO?

One of the most cheering bits of news gathered in the New Year is that Premier Mitchell Hepburn and other leading agriculturists in Ontario are seriously talking of setting out to form a non-partisan Farmers' Union. The way in which federal authorities both before and since the war have set aside as negligible the "vote and influence" of the producers of our food in this province has not been a pretty sight.

dusty by stabilizing prices for labour and products a great step forward—and one long overdue — will have been made.

Nor is this anything but a justified course ever in wartime. Unskilled labor in the military camps is being paid at the rate of 75 cents per hour by the federal government and contractors, in order to "guarantee a proper standard of living" to these workers. Yet the highly skilled labor of the agriculturists is paid at a lower rate while his produce receives a price inadequate to pay any decent return for either his skill or labor.

SELLING GOODS TO COUNCIL MAY UNSEAT YOU

A decision of interest to municipalities and citizens was rendered by Judge Cochrane at Brantford when he ruled that the seat of the Bolton school board, held by Harold Egan, must be vacated. It was brought out in evidence that Egan, as a hardware merchant, sold paints and other goods to the Board of which he was a member but that there was no attempt by Mr. Egan to stifle competition or to obtain an unfair share of the business of the board.

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SWEET CAPORAL THE PUREST FORM IN WHICH TOBACCO CAN BE SMOKED

London Hospitals Carry On Despite Raids

Perfect Organization Counts; Confusion; Courage of Staff Inspires Patients. By David Curmuck The bombing of hospitals in Great Britain by the German Air Force is not having the effect which the Nazis would hope. It is not causing terror or confusion. It is putting the London doctors, nurses and hospital staffs generally more than ever on their mettle. A visit to a London Hospital which has been bombed, to see the hospital staff at work, to hear the stories of quiet bravery amid raids is something never to be forgotten. This is the story of just one hospital.

THE RAID ROUTINE

Only the first three of seven floors are used as wards, so there is plenty of security, with four reinforced concrete floors above. There are special wards for air raid casualties, and those who have been rendered homeless. We had a number of old married couples, but we couldn't fix them together so they had to be separated until they moved off to the country where they go after a few days rest in the hospital. In the casualty station on the ground floor everything is ready for emergencies. Nurses and doctors are always on duty; volunteer stretcher bearers are ready to take the patients from the ambulances as they come in. In the operating theatre lives are saved by the most skilled surgeons in the world.

SAVING A LIFE

Here is one story - grim, yet inspiring. Outside, the night, planes droned overhead. There was a crash of dropping bombs. The first casualty to be brought in was a four-month-old baby. He had been blown from his mother's arms as she hurried to a shelter. She, herself, was uninjured. "I was down there at the time," said Sister Prior. "The little mite was burned ... and so silent. That's always a bad sign." Quietly the doctors got to work. They fought to fan a tiny spark of life. The battle went on. The child whimpered. Within fifteen minutes he was crying. A cry of pain, but to that cry meant that another life was saved.