

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of

GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NOVAL, LIMEHOUSE, HORNEY,
STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD, TERRA COTTA

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The Editor's Column

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

The recent savage murder which caused the death of a prominent young Brampton matron, has placed new emphasis on the advisability of keeping homes locked and protected, especially during the hours between daylight and dawn. Georgetown ladies are quite understandably jittery these nights, and we can imagine that doors in which the key has not been turned for many months, are being tightly locked at night and that strangers who knock at the door are being regarded with suspicion. That the Brampton case will be speedily solved is something for which we all are hoping, and on the off-chance that one of our readers may have some shred of evidence which could help police solve the crime, we remind you that a \$1,000 reward has been offered by Brampton Council for information which leads to the apprehension of the guilty party.

Meanwhile, we cautious Georgetown ladies not to work themselves into a state of alarm over events which have occurred. Murder is something for which there is invariably some motive, robbery, jealousy, revenge, some connection between the murderer and his victim which eventually dooms the guilty party. The chance of a complete stranger walking into a home for no other reason than to kill one of the occupants is so slim that it is hardly within the realm of possibility.

However, we are in accord with the idea of taking precautions to assure that a private home cannot be easily entered, especially nowadays when a crime wave in Toronto has assumed serious proportions. There is a school of thought which believes that a man who leaves his car door unlocked with the key in the ignition is equally guilty with the party who drives it away. We don't for a minute agree with these extremists, but we do uphold a policy of not putting temptation in the way of an individual who has a weakness for crime, and we do not fulfill our duties as citizens if we are too lax in making it easy for robberies to occur.

A PLEA FOR MINOR GAMBLING

Growth of what amounts to nation-wide lotteries, with vast sums of money changing hands has caused the Attorney-General to clamp down on the practice of gambling, to which police had turned a blind eye during the war years. Service clubs were perhaps the most flagrant offenders and allowed themselves to play into the hand of unscrupulous promoters, so that only a small percentage of these lotteries, conducted for charitable or war purposes, was reaching the ultimate objective. That such a condition existed and was in need of drastic correction is admitted.

The "goats" in the affair, however, have been such small local affairs as the bingos sponsored by such worthy groups as the Legion, I O D E and church groups; the lucky draws, including the Lions' annual Christmas tree draw and the dozens of smaller draws conducted among local people. Every human being has this desire to take a chance in his make-up, and we believe that no harm can be done by allowing him to indulge it in a minor way. If necessary, we believe the Criminal Code should be revised to allow for citizens to enjoy their kenos and bingos and lucky draws in a legal way, making certain that the net proceeds are being used for their announced purpose.

Until such action is taken, we think that Georgetown could quite well revert to the status quo, and trust in the judgment of our excellent police force to supply the proper restraining force to any activity which was tending to become a "racket" or a public menace.

Incidentally, we have never been an exponent of such high-money games as "crown-and-anchor," and would heartily recommend the abolition of any such game where an individual can lose a large amount of money in a short space of time. Such is not the case with bingo, and we cannot conceive of anyone buying an excessive amount of lucky draw tickets in the enthusiasm of gambling for a prize.

A BABY-MINDING SERVICE

Discussing the handicaps of parents like ourselves, whose "evenings-out" are dependent on the presence of a "sitter", a local bachelor suggests that this might constitute a bar to matrimony, and if not, at least might have a deterring effect on the encouragements of the baby-bonus. While we are inclined to accept this angle of the case with the facetiousness with which it was intended, it does call to mind an idea that has been in our mind for some time.

We suggest that some young person could set themselves up in a profitable business sideline, and at the same time confer a distinct benefit to parents who like to enjoy an evening out by establishing a baby-minding service. It would be in the nature of an association of "sitters", who for the benefit of the uninitiate, might be described as a young person, usually feminine, who for a fee contracts to remain on the premises during the absence of parents from the home.

At present, it is every parent for himself when it comes to securing the services of one of the highly-popular young ladies, and we believe that a properly-conducted central agency, operating as a go-between for parents and sitters would have a beneficial effect all around. Such problems as standards of service, rate of pay, etc., could all be settled. Parents could have reasonable assurance that engagements would not have to be cancelled at the last minute and "sitters" could be assured of more and steadier engagements, with the consequent increase in pocket money derived from their services.

Well, there's the general idea. We're presenting it to any aspiring party who wants to take advantage of it. No strings attached, no patents pending.

CHURCHES NEED MORE THAN MONEY

As printers, we are perhaps more attentive than most citizens to the annual financial statements issued by most of the churches in the town and district. This year, as one by one, we print these papers we are struck by the splendid financial support accorded the churches by their congregations during the year 1945. It speaks well for the faith of the majority of our citizens, that they are prepared to give so generously of their goods to the maintenance of an integral part of our every-day life.

However, we do not think a churchman's obligation stops at putting his hand in his pocket to assure the worldly survival of the church. Religion goes much deeper than this, and without spiritual support and the physical fact of regular church attendance, a building becomes just that... a pile of masonry, well-cared for, but contributing no tangible good to citizens or a community.

Anyone who goes to church at all regularly, will be struck by the disheartening lack of attendance. Churches whose members number two, three, four hundred on the rolls, are lucky to have forty or fifty worshippers at any ordinary service, though on special days, Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, the church will be filled to overflowing. What is the solution? It rests to some extent on our ministers to create interest in their services; it rests to a much larger extent on every professed worshipper to be in his pew regularly to hear the word of God and to receive the spiritual benefits of his faith. Then and only then, can we truly say "The church had an excellent year."

THE REDISCOVERY OF D.D.T.

The "rediscovery", in recent years, of the miraculous insecticide, DDT, holds out hope that man may be able to control effectively some of his most widespread and destructive enemies. It is commonly known that insects cause inestimable damage to life and property every year. Fruit, wood, books, grain, clothing, the human body... nothing seems to be immune to their attack. Entomologists have worried and worked for years over a means of hampering or, if necessary, destroying insects damaging to man's welfare. Of all the discoveries so far, DDT now offers the greatest reason for optimism.

Already DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane) has successfully attacked fatal disease-carrying insects in Europe and the Pacific. Used by the United States Army, it has proved itself effective against the rickettsia-carrying louse, which thrives in the filth and destruction of war. Mosquitoes, carriers of malaria, filariasis and other sicknesses, have been reduced greatly in number on tropical islands by the frequent use of DDT spray and dustings. It has made life for the soldier on insect-infested islands of the tropics a lot more comfortable and incomparably safer.

DDT is still in its infant stage as far as our knowledge of its total uses and values is concerned. We have yet to arrive at the fair estimate of its potential which only many experiments over a long period of time will bring. Its initial successes have naturally led the public, in general, to hail it as an answer to all of man's insect problems; but it is far too early to arrive at such extreme conclusions.

DDT is not, contrary to general impressions, a new discovery. It was first formulated more than seventy years ago, in 1874, by a German chemist named Zeidler, who combined chloral hydrate, monochlorobenzene and sulphuric acid. However, Zeidler never put his formula to use, and it was purchased after his death by the Basle, Switzerland, chemical house of R. Geigy, who hoped that it might prove an effective moth-proofing material for treating fabrics and dyes. As an insecticide, DDT continued to lie dormant until 1937, when it was tried out as a counter-agent against the newly-arrived Colorado potato beetles, which were quickly ravishing the none-too-plentiful Swiss potato fields. Its initial success in saving these crops led to further tests of its effectiveness as an insecticide and to its present major role of man's ally against destructive six-legged creatures.

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