

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

— serving the communities of —
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The Editor's Column

MERELY MANSLAUGHTER

At a time when many pages of copy and editorial material have been devoted to the trial of four youths accused of slaying a Toronto shop-keeper, it remains for the excellent periodical "Saturday Night" to sum up the jury's verdict in a front-page editorial "Merely-Manslaughter." We are in accord with the views expressed against the jury which refused to look on the case as murder and returned a verdict of manslaughter with twenty years for the two gunmen and fifteen years for their accomplices.

To quote Saturday Night: "Young men of the type of those involved in the Tobias case have a natural fear of death and would be a good deal more careful if they thought that society would do unto them as they do unto their victims. They are not greatly afraid of imprisonment, for it is not the sort of thing to impress the juvenile imagination of those who have had no experience of it. Actually, of course, the punishment they will undergo is just as terrible, but it is infinitely less striking to the youthful mind."

It is a sad travesty of justice that four self-confessed killers who entered a shop with loaded revolvers and when the victim offered resistance, shot him, should not be regarded as murderers and treated according to the laws of our land. There is no place in a civilized society for such men now or fifteen or twenty years from now and the death penalty could never have been more deserved.

WITH BOTH BARRELS

Those of us who listened to President Truman's fireside chat on Friday evening and his address to congress the following afternoon were struck with his condemnation of the presidents of the two striking railway brotherhoods, Alvanley Johnston and A. F. Whitney. The President pulled no punches when he told the world what he thought of them, and his tone was no less bitter than that used by Cordell Hull against the Japanese ambassadors on that fateful December 7th in American history.

The two men were accused of knowingly causing a situation which affected the lives and well-being of thousands on this continent and in Europe and Asia. He pictured the unemployment which a railway strike would bring in its wake here, and the starvation which would be intensified overseas when no food could be shipped. Never have we heard a finer speech from a public figure on this side of the water as he proposed the only solution that could be — for the government to take over the railways and to enact legislation making it a federal offence to strike against the government. He ended with a plea to congress to pass a bill authorizing individuals who struck against their government to be immediately inducted into the armed forces, where they would be dealt with under army law.

We trust that the President's plan will meet with approval and that it will stop the strike-madness which seems to be in people's blood these days. It is paradoxical that we, the people who fought and won a war and promised to show the world how a democracy triumphs, should be unable to put our own peace-time house in order and get back to normal living.

A WONDERFUL PARK

Perhaps we are too prone to ignore things at our own doorstep, and we were struck most forcibly by this on Victoria Day when we "snuck through" the back fence at the park to have a look at the motorcycle races. From our vantage point on the south side of the park across from the grounds, we had an excellent view of the track and the grandstand itself, crowded with over 2500 people from many miles around.

It occurred to us then how fortunate Georgetown is to have such a public beauty spot, and what a pity that it has not been used more in past years. However, looks as if that is to be remedied this year with baseball, both Intermediate and juvenile, very much in the lime-light, with the Lions Club show on Dominion Day week-end and Recreational Council field day in Sept. The Intermediates will be playing one game a week in the park until the end of the schedule in July, followed by the play-offs.

The Lions Club are bringing something new to Georgetown people in the form of a horse show on June 29th. Tory Gregg, whose stint as announcer has done a lot to pep up the last two Fall Fairs, is one who should know his parks and he is quoted as saying that Georgetown's facilities are second to none in any town, small or large, which he has visited.

By the way, in case you wonder why the editor

didn't pay his fifty cents at the gate on Friday, he was gardening and looked in for a very few minutes in order to get a glimpse of the affair.

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION PAID?

It is rarely that we use this column to remind subscribers of debts owing, but this week we received the bill for a new shipment of newsprint and noted that the price had increased \$12. a ton. We do not propose at the present time to increase our subscription rate to cover the extra cost, but instead it will be necessary to weed out any subscriptions which are overdue in order to offset the increased cost of doing business.

We would appreciate every subscriber checking the label on their copy of the paper this week and if the date reads April, 1946 or earlier, making an effort to bring it up to date.

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MILK TICKETS

AND THE CHANGE IN THE PRICE OF MILK

Mr. C. Meek, Chairman of the Ontario Milk Control Board, has announced that:

"Milk Tickets purchased at the subsidized price (prior to June 1st) and in the hands of the consumers on June 1st will be worth 2c per quart less than the legal price which will be in effect on June 1st, and consumers using subsidized tickets will have to pay a difference of 2c per quart."

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