

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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The Editor's Column

END OF AN ERA

"They lowered the coffin the police hustled 20,000 sightseers on their way and opened the highway again to traffic. The cars rushed past, filling the night with the smell of gasoline which to Henry Ford had been like perfume."

So epitomized Time magazine last week about the late motor magnate who in his lifetime had been the genius of mass production. Henry Ford was not the first or the only man to build an automobile, but he had a special theory — build them cheap so everyone can own one, and make them simple so repair parts can be obtained anywhere. Proof of this theory was well shown in the fact that the Ford Motor Company in nineteen years turned out fifteen million Model-T Fords, thrived on jokes and popular songs written about it. And today the company under the presidency of a Ford grandson, still turns out low-priced cars as its main item of production.

Henry Ford was the perfect example of the American success story. A farmer's son, he became the head of an industrial empire which included coal mines, rubber plantations, iron mines, sawmills, hydroelectric works and companies in a dozen other nations. His personal fortune was at one time estimated at \$2 billion. His death marks the end of an era. It is no longer possible in a world taxed by two major wars for one man to concentrate so much wealth and power in himself. Mass production, bringing thousands of workers under one company and in one industry, has contributed to the strength of labour unions and is tending more and more to give employees a share in management with their employers.

AID TO BRITAIN

In a few weeks we will be asked to contribute clothing aid to the motherland whose war-weary people have been further chastised by flood and gale this winter. The dire need for help has been recognized by the Ontario Government which under Minister of Health Russell T. Kelley is asking municipalities to give organized assistance to the British people. The Georgetown organization was formed at a meeting on Monday night. We did a good job on two previous occasions to help in a National Clothing Collection for European countries. This is our opportunity to help those close to our hearts and those whose kin make up a large percentage of the population in this district. Let's do our share — and more.

A GREAT TEAM

It was only the extreme optimists who could hope for a hockey victory after three defeats in a row by a superior Brantford team. However, the "Raiders" as the Georgetown team seems to have been officially named in Brantford, showed that they weren't a pushover and upset some elaborate plans for a civic jamboree when they took the fourth game in Brantford last Wednesday. That they couldn't repeat on Friday is no reflection on them. They were beaten by a powerful, fast-skating team which deserved the championship.

We thank our adopted citizens for a splendid season of hockey which has given us a lot of clean sport and put Georgetown on the sport map. We have hopes that many of this year's team will make Georgetown their home in the future. Good hockey players will make good citizens, and there is enough variety of industry here to fit any man into the job he wants. We look forward to another team of championship calibre next year when the arena opens its doors for the 1948 season.

A LOSS TO GEORGETOWN

It was with regret that we recorded last week the closing of the Dayfoot Shoe Company, long a landmark on the Georgetown industrial scene. Never as prominent as paper or electrical products, the Dayfoot plant went on its quiet way turning out a quality product well-known in the shoe trade. Under its present owner, Mr. Ed Johnston, the plant had expanded considerably and it is ironic that this very expansion contributed to closing the plant here. It was found that the physical and machine capacity in Georgetown was not sufficient to complete the production objective and with both these factors available in the Gravlin-Bale plant at Campbellford, the decision was made in favour of the eastern town.

We are doubly sorry because the closing of the Georgetown plant will mean the removal of one of our newer citizens who took an active interest in community life. With his family, he is prominent in church affairs at the United Church, and his interest in young people was indicated when he became a member of the High School Board and the Recreational Council. We

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by Rev. R. O. Todd

NATIONAL GLORY AND DECAY

LESSON 1 Kings, Chaps. 1 to 11
 As the reign of David King of Israel was drawing to its close, his courtiers were divided as to who should succeed him. Two main parties began lobbying with the old King. One party favored his oldest son, Adonijah. The other wanted Solomon, a younger son. The latter was finally successful in persuading David to proclaim Solomon as his successor. The former, we suppose were resentful, perhaps rebellious, and the young King had to begin his reign with a political purge.

During the religious ceremonies which marked his accession to the throne of his father, Solomon dreamed that the Lord appeared to him and asked what He might give him. Very humbly, Solomon asked not for power or wealth, but for wisdom, "an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad." Solomon became noted for his "wisdom". The idea of wisdom at this time is hard to define. It concerned itself with moral and practical problems, and expressed itself in what we call proverbs. The Old Testament cites several instances of Solomon's wisdom in dealing with his people, such as, for instance, his dealings with the two claimants for possession of a child. Many however, are the instances of his unwise policies — policies, in which, in spite of the "wisdom" which attracted the Queen of Sheba, he plainly forgot that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Solomon's reign is full of inconsistencies. He was noted for his wisdom, yet his policies were often unwise. He built a wonderful Temple; yet he also provided for the worship of pagan gods. He built up the commercial life of the nation; yet it groaned under the burden of oppressive taxation. He became one of the most famous monarchs of his day; yet his people were willing to throw off his yoke. He seemed to govern capably, and the country enjoyed security from foreign and

domestic foes; yet at his death, the country was ripe for rebellion. In a word, his reign was outwardly successful and illustrious, yet fundamentally unsteady. Dorcey had set in just when the nation appeared to be the strongest, the most prosperous and the most respected. Why? Let us give our answer under four heads.

1. Solomon strengthened and enlarged the machinery of government left by his father. The city of Jerusalem was improved by an extensive building programme, which included the strengthening of its defenses. He created the first body of cavalry and the first mechanized division of the army (war chariots) possessed by the Hebrews. Alliances were made with foreign powers and sealed by marriages with the royal house of the friendly power. The court was brilliant and luxurious. But, this monarchy, took on more and more of a despotic attitude, in which the king was less responsible to the nation; as had been the case under Saul and David.

2. Solomon seized the opportunity presented by the fact that Palestine was situated on the highways of the eastern world, to make his country a commercial middleman. Access to the Red Sea was acquired and a large merchant fleet was built. The type of trade, however, was more glamorous and exciting than essential, and eventually proved unprofitable. At any rate, the country as a whole did not benefit one whit, even when the trading WAS profitable.

3. Loss of territory suffered at the beginning of Solomon's reign by the secession of some neighbouring states from the kingdom, and the resulting loss of revenue, was made up for by heavy taxation among the Hebrews. The building programme was carried out by forced labour and still heavier taxation, profits from commerce being unobtainable. The descendants of the Canaanites — the original inhabitants of the land — were reduced to slavery. Solomon's tastes were expensive, and the cost of maintaining his courts tremendous. This condition was the most important cause of discontent among the people.

4. Solomon's piety was expressed in the building of the Temple. David had desired to build a house for God,

know that he is sincere when he says that it is with deep regret that he leaves Georgetown and this is one case where we can truthfully repeat the well-worn phrase "Georgetown's loss is Campbellford's gain."

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and had amassed a considerable sum for that purpose. His reign was full of wars however, and he was never able to carry out his plans. They took shape and became practical in Solomon's more peaceful reign. The Temple was not a large building, but very elaborate and ornate. In spite of his enthusiasm for the Temple, however, Solomon was not adverse to providing for the heathen religions practised by his numerous foreign wives, by their servants and eventually by his own children. He was exceedingly "broad-minded" and "tolerant" — the type of broad-mindedness and tolerance which always endangers the moral and spiritual life of a nation.

At almost every point Solomon's positive achievements were impaired by unwise policies. The reason is plain and is given to us in 1 Kings 11:8 "And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord and went not fully after the Lord as did David his father" Verse 9 says: "his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel." It would seem that we, in our day, have to learn to distinguish between the outward achievements of a nation or its government, and the real state of its health. Hitler and Mussolini achieved much in their respective countries in connection with public works, science, and the unification of the nation. Yet everyone knows how the social, political and religious life of Germany and Italy were corrupt. How about our own country? Our science has developed atomic energy, yet because of unwise political leadership we are confronted with the contradiction of possessing a great means of power, and not knowing how to use it except to start another war with our handling of it. Good wages, high production, and an abundance of goods, would seem to be possible in our advanced industrial civilization.

Yet the nation is hamstrung by her inconsistency—the possession of great yond all common sense. Here is an inconsistency—the possession of great material resources, unaccompanied by good judgment on the part of industrial leaders and followers. Our governments delight in large revenues from the sale of liquor, which turns out to be an inestimable detriment, economically, morally, physically and mentally, to the country. The results of such inconsistencies as these, and many others, are disastrous to the life of the whole nation.

We need to learn again the lesson that only a strong faith in God, leading in a wise judgment, and understanding between good and bad, will resolve these inconsistencies, bring order out of chaos, save the nation from disaster, it may be, from revolution. Without God, we will only fall into worse confusion, worse inconsistency, no matter how hard we try to build the kind of world we dream about and our statements use as a curtain of illusion and Atlantic Ocean, to veil the eyes of the ships from viewing history.