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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1965

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Voting A Precious Right

It is sed that so many Canadians take their democratic privilege so lightly.

The recent municipal elections in Georgetown and Esquesng are a case in point.

In Georgetown, with every office beand contested, other than the public school board there was a scent 50% of the registered voters who took the trouble to Indicase their preference. And this is a town which is on the threshold of explosive expension, with major problems facing musicipal bodies every day.

In Esqueeing, less than 20% of the voters went to the polls to choose three of their five council members. And Esquesting too, which is in a transitional stage from the days when it was mainly rural, to an increasing percentage of urban residents, has a variety of problems to tex the Ingenuity of its elected officials.

It is not that public bodies do not get their share of news reporting in the weekly press. People should be well informed about municipal business through the people of The Harald and the Milton

and Action newspapers. And, from the at tendence of ratepayers at the weekly council meetings here, there is a healthy interest In how we are governed.

. But it is startling to realize that apperently only half the people in Georgetown Interest themselves enough in our council business, particularly, to help select the men who will puide Georgetown's 1966

Could it be that, in a country which i has never been threatened with dictatorship, we have prown completent, assum-Ing that whoever is in power, we will have pood povernment?

Our newer Canadian residents, especfally those who have come from countries where there is less free choice, are much more aware of the power of their vote. Their interest in politics, national, provincial and municipal, can put many of our native-born Canadians to shame.

We hope those who didn't vote on December 6th will make one New Year's resolution to use their ballot next Decem-

A Time to Remember

In the flurry of Christmas preparations, presenti, dinners, entertainment, we sometimes forget what we are really calebrating.

Essentially, to residents of a Christian land, we are marking the birthday of a men whose philosophy has been continuaunity spreading through the world for mineteen confuries.

His teachings have not always been fablifully followed. Human frailty is such that his doctrines have been twisted. There have been dissgreements about the way we should carry out the Christian religion. And we are far off from creating the Utoplan world which could result

Holiday News

The next two issues of The Herald will have a large percentage of social Berns about holiday visitors in town, and the vielts local residents make to other communities for the holiday week-ends.

Collecting these important news items is a big job for the Herald news department. And it's one for which we always ask the help of our readers.

AND SPICE

BENEATH THE TINSEL

Many people resent this and under-privileged children.

SUGAR

by Bill Smiley

generation or so.

regret it. They feel that com-

and pure greed. I don't agree.

and financially it is crippling.

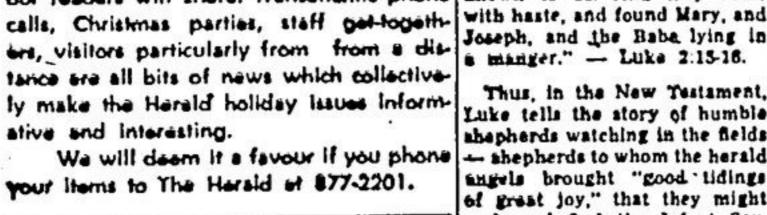
If all professed Christians exemplified their faith in their daly life.

Would not, then our best Christmas present to ourselves and to those with whom we come in contact, be to try to be a better Christian in years to come. First, by attending church more regularly, listening to what your minister has to say, then leting it guide your daily living.

One cannot be a good plumber, Joyous Message of Christmas doctor, papermaker or merchant without learning your job properly and constantly Lives Anew as Manger Scenes trying to improve your skill. Can one, then, hope to be a Christian without the Symbolize Holy Night same dedication.

Basides the "personals" there many interesting Items which we hope our readers will share. Yransatlantic phone calls, Christmas parties, staff get-togethers, visitors particularly from from a distance are all bits of news which collectively make the Hereld holiday issues inform-

s manger." - Luke 2:15-16. ative and interesting.



A warm smile for your wife into the house, they saw the on Christmas morning, and the young Child with Mary His fervent remark that she's never Mother, and fell down, and wor- tion in many lands, in many

A simple announcement from Are you one of those birds Brownies and Cubs go carol- your wife on Christmas morn- At Christmas, as Christians who goes around in a perpetual ling to homes for the aged. ing, in the twentieth year of everywhere celebrate the birth

pair toys and wrap gifts for A sincere, sympathetic phone well-remembered words of two Early Roman Had call to your neighbour on Christ- of his disciples, Matthew and mas morning, when you discov. Luke, seem to resound with temercialism has taken over the Almost everyone, however, er that his front-lawn display, newed meaning and inspiration, Sective record, that the true temporary it may be, begins to featuring Santa Claus and the bringing to all some measure meeting of Christmas has been glow with a genuine desire to Seven Dwarfs, has blown down of that awe and wonder exmothered is a swirl of elec- give, to love, to be one of a in the night. Interspersed, of perienced by the shepherds and

rems, the all-absorbing moment Admitted, Christmas is no Come, now, all you Screeges. These are the gifts that give in the sacred story is that mohonger a simple observance of Admit it. You only siving at real joy, whether you're giving ment at the manger when first biving presents," said the witty the birth of Christ, in a complex Christman, even though you or receiving, if you have the "they saw the young Child with Roman poet Martial, who lived and negrotic age, it has become grumble a bit, and even though true spirit of Christman. Now Mary His mother." complex and neurotic. Physical- you have to de without things wait a minute. Don't rush back to the stores with your wife's mink stole of your kide toys.

by, the holiday is exhausting yourself, Until next June, And one of the great things Just in case ... But his a tittle tee slik, and about Christmas, the real cortololy neive, to suggest that Christmas, is that the gifts that the milit of Christmas has been really count don't have to be On Gift Giving wrapped, and don't cost a cent. About Trees .

Firemen and legionnaires re-

Christmas is dissappearing.

Cortainly, Santa Claus and What finer wift can we give Budelph are pagen figures. Cer | our children that the teaching tainly some of the "Christmas" of the lovely carols, the telling stage are nauscating. Certainly, of the thrilling story? And what legend says, all the trees burst many Christians are utter glut-greater gift can they give us into bloom. Thus began many tens at this season. 'Certainly, than the look of wonder and de stories about Christmas tree. many of the decorations and light in their eyes?

cords and gifts are in the poorparable gifts for which no But these are only material charge account or credit card is candles, some straight, some and notable history. The first things, the outer trappings of involved:

the great festival Mericath these great representation to Aunt Marine his head.

Christmas — the grand old car you, even though she's 86, deaf you, even though she's 86, deaf it was believed that the tree is a strong as ever. And tentot, and always carries a dies, up and down, symbolized erock in her purse.

mes trees leaning at a 45 degree followed the Star to Bethlehem. paintings, and the Christmas

looked lovelier, even though the shipped him. And ... they preresembles a camp-follower in sented unto him gifts, gold, and the Crimean War. Irankincense, and myrrh."

grame at this time of year? Service clubs and church groups your marriage, when your kids of Chilst in church and home whether we like it or not, the and. Women's organizations are in high school or college, devotions, the story of the Nacelebration of Christmas has hustle around with boxes of "Guess what, dear. We're going tivity is told and retold - but changed drastically in the last cheer for the sick and the poor. to have a baty."

tresics and glamickry of adver- great human fellowship. No, course, with a few jolly "Hol the wise men, long ago. tising and noise and vulgarity don't tell me the true spirit of Ho! Ho's!", in the spirit of the

Creehe.

return in heart and spirit to On the night Christ was born,

again the birth of a holy Child. Early folk tales described Think of all the other incom- huge tree in the midst of a forest. The tree held many creating the manger has a long silver plate." upside down. At the top was creche or orib, scholars say, was An invitation to Aunt Marths an infant with a halo around erected by St. Thomas of Assial and his brethren; in the tiny

Italian village of Greechlo in It was believed that the tree 1223. bad. The gathered about the manger, the for your hus infant was the Christ Child.

"And it came to pass, as the, -joyous songs in honour of the angels were gone away from Saviour's birth. St. Francis felt them into beaven, the shepherds that, through the manger scene

Thus, in the New Testament,

Luke tells the story of humble

"And when they were come

said to one another, let us now; and the cheery Christmas songs. go even unto Bethlahem, and see even the humblest member of this thing which is to pass, the congregation could partiwhich the Lord hath made cipate more fully in the obknown to us. And they came servance of Christmas. with haste, and found Mary, and Re-Cresting the Nativity In Joseph, and the Babe lying in

Art, Sans Through the years, the mean-

shepherds watching in the fields riched by hundreds of thousands of reverent re-creations. sugels brought "good tidings Both craftsmen and artists of great joy," that they might have been inspired by the manseek and find the Infant Sav- ger and have shared their inband on Christmas marning lour. In still another Biblical spiration with many. The Maand the heart felt statement that account of the Nativity, Matthew donna and Child appear again you always HAVE liked Christ writes of the Wise Men, who and again in countless famous

> In song, too, "the Young Child with Mary His mother' -Matthew 2:11 lives anew. Gathering around the manger scene, glad voices joyfully carol, "Silent Night,

"Christmas is getting too

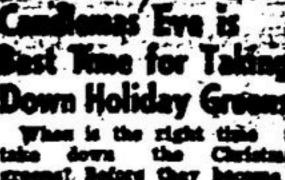
This modern complaint while it may have force, is somewhat lacking in origi-And now, as then, the sup-

"I hate the crafty arts of and wrote from about 40 to 104 A.D. "Gifts are like hooks." St. Francis Planned for first

His complaint was expressed in a series of poems written for In the miracle of the manger, a wealthy patron, at the time in the Madonna and the Child, of the Saturnalia, the pagen mankind sees and ever-present feetival from which came reminder of the love of God, many Christmas customs.

the Glory and promise of Chris-Martial, however, was no tmas. Each year, as Christians always averse to presents. After listing a large number of Bethelehem and the manger, the small gifts, such as toothpicks, foyous message lives anew. In cities, churches and homes, manger scenes symbolize once The treasured tradition of re- to bring him "five pounds of

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thre hecard, is the modern heoon after Christmas Day.

Epiphasy, or Twelfth Day, Jannery 6th, was the proper time for removing all Christmes decerations. Others firmly ended that the greens should remain until Condismon Feb

One of those devouting the eter date was apperently, the post Robert Herrick, who lived sking down the greens in mas Eve', but warned that the greens must be completely re-

Tor look how many leaves there be Neglected there (maids.

trust to me) So many pobling you shall

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Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright, 'round yon Virgin

Mother and Child ... " It never grows old. Always, the

figs, napkins, which had been delivered to him, he pointed out that it would have been much exiler for the messenger

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