



The Acton Free Press

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor.

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EDITORIAL

A Record Vote

Canada's voters marked a record number of ballots on October 14th, it is disclosed by revised but still incomplete compilations of the voting by parties and provinces. With final reports to come from many distant ridings, the survey showed that 4,022,567 of the 5,917,387 listed voters went to the polls. Never before has the total Canadian vote topped the 4,000,000-mark. The previous record, set at the 1930 election, was 3,898,995. The proportions of the vote by parties were not materially changed from those shown in the first Canadian Press compilation the day after the voting.

Somebody Pays

Anyone with a recollection of their own boyhood days does not like to be continually harping at the youngsters of to-day, but even the rod may be spared to a disadvantage, too. In recent weeks uncalled for damage has been committed by youth about town that demands a halt. The windows in two vacant houses have been deliberately broken and another one entered and damage done. Street lamps have provided a special target for catapults, with altogether too much damage to the lighting system. The playful spirit has gone past the stage where it can be overlooked. A few weeks ago we wrote regarding the conduct and damage at the public laboratories. The authorities have taken a very lenient view on youth. Limitations have, however, been reached and the property damage must be made good. Even court proceedings are mooted and surely no boy wants to start in life with his record, besmirched by a court appearance. It isn't necessary to do damage to have a jolly time. Somebody always pays.

Being Commended

Those who predicted that Hughes Cleaver, Halton's representative in Parliament would be heard from, scarcely expected such immediate action as he showed following his election, when he suggested a moderate-priced Post Office for Burlington of half the cost of the appropriation. And the move took a little backbone when it is remembered that Burlington is Mr. Cleaver's home town and quite naturally he would want a building suitable for the community. When the cost of about \$24,000 is considered on the Y. M. C. A. building in Acton, including a lot of the equipment, it is realized that Mr. Cleaver's proposition is no dream but could readily be consummated. The economy move is found in general favor, however. The Chesley Enterprise, in commenting on Mr. Cleaver's action, said, in the concluding sentence of an editorial: "The Halton M. P. has done well in being the prime mover with the economy cleaver." The Barrie Examiner, in an editorial, also commended Mr. Cleaver on his action, and points out in a village of less than 1,000 people a Post Office is to be erected at a cost of \$20,000. The Barrie paper also points to its public library, which, with auditorium, cost only \$15,000. It is quite apparent that Mr. Cleaver has struck a responsive chord. We hope that Burlington secures a suitable Post Office. They have been long-suffering, but it does seem that Mr. Cleaver's estimate of the cost is quite sufficient for a suitable building.

Glass on the Highways

Judging by the amount of broken glass left on the roadways about town these days it would appear that few people are conversant with the penalties provided in the Highway Traffic Act. Section 39 of this Act reads: (1) No person shall throw or deposit or knowingly leave on a highway any glass, nails, tacks, scraps of metal or other material which may be injurious to the tires of motor vehicles, or while the highway is covered with snow, deposit ashes or other refuse thereon. R. S. O. 1927, c. 251, s. 39. The penalty for an offence under this section is from \$5 to \$10 for the first offence; \$10 to \$25 for a second or subsequent offence; and \$25 to \$50 for other offences and his permit or license may be suspended for any period not exceeding sixty days. We don't for a moment think that any of the glass has been left on the highways about town purposely but rather carelessly. The law is explicit and possibly those guilty of leaving the glass are not aware of the provisions.

First Things First?

The improvements that, according to the inspector, must be made at Halton County jail would, of course, in this modern day, only seem the proper thing to have done. But one sometimes wonders if an inspection by officials of homes made by those struggling to keep out of jail would not also reveal some equally "shocking" conditions. In a large number of homes in Halton there are, no doubt, modernly equipped bathrooms, with running water, but also inspection would reveal an equally large number of homes where "the water has to be carried from the kitchen" to the bathtub. We are not critical of the improvements noted for the jail. But really we think more of a plan to clean up the slums. Yes, and the extension of modern conveniences to those law-abiding citizens who are surely deserving of consideration first. Perhaps inspectors of public institutions might receive some startling revelations if their routine were changed from the public institution to a visitation of the houses in which many of the land are domiciled. Are first things being put first?

A Year of Achievement

With municipal nominations only a month distant it would seem that if any comment was to be made regarding the year's administration it should be done now, before the field becomes cluttered with candidates and there may be no semblance of influencing the vote. If silence on municipal affairs is any sign of commendation, it would appear that the Reeve and Council, School Board and Public Utilities Commissioners were being very silently applauded. And after all, it would seem justly deserved at that, although possible a little more enthusiasm might encourage the performance of citizenship duties. With a reduced tax rate of two mills, very visible street and road improvements and real service without remuneration it would seem that the Council this year would have a very satisfying report to present on nomination night. The School Board, with few changes on its staff, and maintenance of the property in its care adequate and a continued economical administration also will have a good report to make. The Public Utilities Commission, with its rebate to consumers, its aggressive policy of building up the service in Acton and its program of improvement being carried out this year also will have a story to tell that bespeaks well of its stewardship for the public. Taking it from every viewpoint it would seem to have been quite a satisfactory year and the elected officers have made it a year of some achievement.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hallowe'en to-night and we'll see if the young folks are getting better behaved than those of a few years ago.

We suppose that soon now the guessing contest and preliminaries leading up to the Wardenship will be the next election surmise.

Remembrance Day—a week from next Monday. At least the day will suit all who like a week-end. This day, with its service locally, has always been more than just another holiday.

Official counts for some reason seem to be going in favor of the Liberals, where the votes were close. The Liberals now have 171 members and the Conservative group has been reduced to 30.

A young woman a graduate of an Ontario college, reading the Renfrew Mercury's page setting forth the platforms of the various parties asked: "Who is Hepburn?" And yet we have men operating stores and businesses who fancy the public know about them!

The St. Thomas Times/Journal says: "We are waiting patiently to hear what Hon. G. Howard Ferguson says when he hands in his resignation as High Commissioner. It should be plenty. Or perhaps he will not be able to find words eloquent enough to meet the situation."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

JUDAH TAKEN CAPTIVE

Golden Text.—Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.—Prov. 1: 34.

Lesson Text.—2 Kings 25: 1-12. Study, also, 2 Kings 25: 1-21.

Time.—599 B. C. Places.—Jerusalem, Riblah.

Exposition.—I. The Fall of Jerusalem, 1-4.

There are five accounts in the Bible of the siege and fall of Jerusalem (cf. Jer. 39: 52; Lam. 4: 2; Chron. 36: 17-21). The siege lasted a year and six months lacking a day. The condition of the siege drew near its close was pitiable in the extreme (Lam. 4: 4-10). At the outset of the siege, there appeared to be no likelihood that Jerusalem would be taken (Lam. 4: 13), but God predicted that it would, and His predictions are sure. It was because of the sins of the prophets and priests and people and the consequent anger of Jehovah against Jerusalem that it fell (Lam. 4: 11, 13). Jehovah had withdrawn His watch-care (Ez. 12: 1), and the people had put their trust in Egypt (Ez. 4: 17), and Jehovah had turned back the weapons of war that were in the hands of His people and had Himself fought against them (Jer. 31: 4, 6). When the breach was made in the city, the famine was already sore (v. 3; cf. Jer. 52: 6, 7). The famine had incapacitated the men for defending the walls, and the breach was made in the night (vs. 3, 4). The entrance of the princes of the king of Babylon into the city and their setting up of their thrones in the middle gate was a literal fulfilment of prophecy (Jer. 31: 4; 1: 15). The names of the princes indicate that they were worshippers of Nergal and Nebo (Jer. 39: 3). This does not prove that Jehovah had been conquered by Nergal and Nebo; He had Himself given His people over because of their apostasy and fought against them (Jer. 21: 5). Zedekiah was watching, and as soon as he saw the leaders of the Chaldeans inside the city, he fled with his men of war (v. 4). The manner of their flight was an exact and literal fulfilment of prophecy Ez. 12: 12; cf. Lev. 26: 36; Deut. 28: 35). There was no use in his fleeing, he might have known that he could not escape (Jer. 32: 45). He certainly ought to have believed God's word by this time.

II. The Capture of Zedekiah and the Deportation of the People, 5-12.

Zedekiah did not get very far before he was captured (v. 6). Israel had won their first great national victory in the plain of Merai (Gen. 4: 13; 6: 12), because they trusted Jehovah; they suffered their final defeat there because they had departed from Jehovah. Zedekiah's army had been scattered before his capture. His capture was an exact fulfilment of prophecy (Jer. 32: 4, 6). He was treated with extreme cruelty. The last sight his eyes beheld was the slaughter of his sons (v. 6; cf. Deut. 28: 34). As this was the last thing he saw before his sight was destroyed, it would make a more indelible impression upon his mind before he reached Babylon. All seeming contradictions in prophecies that are not yet unfulfilled will be reconciled in the actual fulfilment. All rebels against God are carried into the enemy's and in chains (v. 7; cf. Ps. 107: 10, 11; John 8: 34). The royal palaces and the houses of the people were burned and the walls of the city broken down (vs. 8, 10), but this was not done at once (Jer. 52: 12-16). The intervening month was spent in awful cruelties upon the women and prisoners (Lam. 2: 11, 12). This was all according to God's warnings and prophecies (Is. 6: 10, 11; Jer. 7: 14; 17: 27; 21: 10; 39: 9; 32: 20; 34: 2, 22; 37: 18; Micah 3: 13; Amos 3: 4, 5). If ever a people had abundant warnings of coming doom and consequent opportunity for repentance, it was the people of Jerusalem. The desolation of the house of the Lord had first been predicted at the very time of its dedication (1 Kings 9: 9). The city was burned because its inhabitants turned a deaf ear to God's Word (Jer. 17: 27; 2 Chron. 36: 15-19). The mass of the people still remaining were carried away to Babylon. This all was a literal fulfilment of many prophecies (Ez. 12: 15, 16; 23: 16; Jer. 20: 4; Lev. 23: 33; Deut. 4: 27; 2 Kings 20: 18). The number of people deported is given in Jer. 52: 28-30. They were carried into captivity because of their lack of knowledge consequent upon their not studying and heeding God's Word (Is. 5: 9). This uprooting of the people was not final, nor was the later uprooting final. There is to be another siege of Jerusalem when their Lord will appear to deliver them (Ez. 40: 7, 8; 44: 3-4, so differently from the one here recorded 14-16). This later siege will terminate because of the dependence of the people upon and consequent help of Jehovah. All this awful defeat resulted from Zedekiah's fear of man and lack of trust in God (cf. Prov. 29: 25). Judah had long-suffered patience. He had delayed the day of doom (2 Peter 3: 9; Eccles. 8: 11). God's judgments are sure, but they are sure because so long delayed (2 Peter 3: 10), and are all the more ter-

GOSSIP

GoSSIP is always a personal confession either of malice or imbecility, and the young should not only shun it, but by the most thorough culture, relieve themselves from all temptation to indulge in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often a dirty business. There are country neighborhoods in which it rages like a pest. Churches are split in pieces by it. Neighbors are made enemies by it for life. In many persons it degenerates into a chronic disease, which is practically incurable. Let the young cure it while they may.—J. G. Holland.

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CANDLES USED FOR LIGHTING PURPOSES

There are still places in the world where candles are used for lighting. Among these are the country districts of Cuba, where, in addition to candles, oil lamps are relied upon by the majority of the population for lighting purposes. The use of electricity is confined almost entirely to the cities and towns, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railway.

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Salada Orange Pekoe Blend will prove a sheer delight to lovers of fine tea. 'SALADA' TEA

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