



The Acton Free Press

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Happy New Year to All

As the old year closes and a New Year dawns, we would indeed be remiss if we did not pause for a moment and express our appreciation of so many things during the past twelve-months that friends have done to assist in keeping your home town paper abreast of the times and in a position to render the service it should. To enumerate them would be impossible, and so we make our thanks include all. A new year dawns, labelled 1936. Twelve months full of opportunity for all of us. May the same spirit of progress and unity of purpose be the guiding principle and may the years which will be ushered in tomorrow bring to you one and all a full measure of health, peace, happiness and prosperity. Happy New Year to all!

In Explanation

When our readers are perusing these columns, the editor will have commenced a period of treatment that will confine him to the house for three weeks, with a probability of a few weeks after of only partial attendance at the office. We state this fact merely in explanation. We don't want flowers, just yet, and the trouble is with the stomach, so we're not throwing hints for things to eat. We hope to carry on from home in a sort of way, but it may not be up to the usual standard, and we ask your forbearance and assistance. The staff at the office will do their very best and it is quite probable, better without our direct supervision, and perhaps some of the omissions of usual things will be seen as an improvement. However, the present procedure seems necessary at this time, and we'll do our best under the circumstances. May we ask your assistance for the staff that is carrying the extra load and may have difficulty at times in working short-handed.

Past Due Legislation

At the last session of the 1935 County Council two very commendable resolutions emanating from Elgin County Council were endorsed by Halton County Council. The one, regarding the opposition to the tax collected by the Performing Rights Society we have commented upon before. The other, resolution urges that the Highway Traffic Act be amended to provide that all persons owning vehicles would be required to obtain an insurance policy against public liability and property damage before they could operate the vehicle. To every responsible motorist this will appeal. Too-often a worn-out machine is obtained by a person with no financial responsibility, and perhaps not too much regard for the rights of others. If he does not actually kill an individual, there is little or no punishment provided for him. He may wreck a good machine, or send its occupants to the hospital for weeks; and yet there is no chance of recovering any of the damages from him. An automobile is capable of doing a lot of damage in a very short period. Used wrongly it can create a lot of damage and cause a lot of suffering. The careful motorist should be protected to some extent from the irresponsible driver. The legislation urged by the County Council is long past due in the interests of all.

A Brighter Outlook

In reviewing the year just closing, it would appear that general improvement could be noted. True, it may be in some instances difficult of discernment, but it is generally admitted that the trend has all been upward. Business reports all carry this general note of improvement and the statement that 1935 has been the biggest improvement in the past five years. The New Year is therefore faced with more optimism than for the last few. A continuance of business expansion will no doubt be shown. To those who have confidence and are ready to make use of the opportunities no doubt the new year will give the biggest returns. Elections, which have been maybe too general, are settled for another period and business can proceed with some definite understanding of general policy. It would appear that the next few years would have a more rosy outlook, and with the chorus we join in hoping such is the case.

Ontario Business

In its current business review the Bank of Montreal has the following to say regarding business in Ontario: "Wholesale trade has been stimulated by the approach of the Christmas season, with volume well ahead of last year. Collections are fair to good. Retail sales have been affected by mild weather and winter merchandise is not yet moving in satisfactory volume. Christmas shopping has been retarded by unseasonable weather, but retailers now report a broadening demand and expect that the volume will exceed last year's. Automobile plants are gradually increasing production after hesitation following announcement of the suggested new duties. Reductions in the price of most cars have been announced. Steel mills are operating at higher levels. Hosiery and knitting mills continue fully employed, while some textile and woollen mills are experiencing a seasonal slowing down. Tanneries are steadily employed. Boot and shoe factories are well occupied. Furniture factories are seasonally less active and manufacturers in the lower-priced field feel that the suggested tariff change will adversely affect the industry. Flour millers are operating normally on domestic business but export trade is still below normal.

Canada's National Game

Hockey, Canada's chief contribution to the world of sport, is taking hold in sporting circles of countries all around the globe. In former years hockey was confined to areas where Jack Frost was depended upon to provide ice, but with the advance made in refrigeration engineering in recent years, hockey is rapidly extending its boundaries irrespective of climate. It is already well established in England and on the Continent and last year made an appearance in China and Japan. Plans are now under way to build an artificial ice rink in Johannesburg, South Africa, in connection with the Empire Exhibition, to be held in that city from September 15th, 1936, to January 15th, 1937. While the rink is only planned for the duration of the exhibition, hockey enthusiasts are considering taking it over and organizing teams from among the fairly large Canadian colony around Johannesburg. While Canadian players compose a large part of the rosters of teams in England and Europe, the distance between Canada and South Africa makes the migration of players a practical impossibility. Hockey is played in all of Canada and in the past decade or so has become very popular in the United States. Spectators as well as players thrill to this speediest of games which attracts immense crowds to witness both professional and amateur contests, and through the medium of radio play-by-play descriptions of the principal matches are carried into millions of home during the hockey season.

EDITORIAL NOTES

And may 1936 be brighter, happier and be a fulfilment of your fondest hopes.

Haven't heard so much talk lately from the prophets who promised a mild, open winter.

And even the hockey fans have got away to a good start, and the first couple of games of the schedules over before the New Year.

The Wardenship contest will soon be to the fore. And Reeve John Irving, of Milton, is mentioned as a very likely choice for the honor. He would make a worthy Warden.

The new trade treaties are ready to become operative at the first of the year. It would appear that the consumer would benefit, and, after all, if the consumer benefits, the reaction is usually beneficial to all.

This part of THE FREE PRESS was missing last week. Perhaps readers enjoyed the omission as well as we did. It's the first time in many years. In fact, we can't recall a previous omission of the editorial columns.

Weekly newspaper circles lost an outstanding editor in the passing of James Ross, of the Winchester Press. Fearless in his expressions, and always ready to champion the right, his is a pen that worked for good. The Winchester Press without his editorial writings will have a vacancy.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th

A MOTHER'S SONG

Golden Text.—My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.—Luke 1: 46, 47.

Lesson Text.—Luke 1: 46-56.

Exposition.—I. The Miracle of the Incarnation. Just what was the manner of the union between the divine and the human in the person of our Lord will forever be beyond our comprehension. But God is not limited, not imprisoned by what we call "natural law." For His own purpose He can and does work in ways which, though they are beyond (super) our understanding, we call super-natural. The Incarnation is a fact in human history (1 Tim. 3: 16). Through it, as in no other event in the history of the universe, is shown the creative power of God. According to His divine nature Christ was the eternal and only begotten Son of God, begotten from the essence of His Father, eternal and perfect, "without father and mother" (cf. 1 John 1: 3; John 1: 1; Heb. 1: 5, 6; 1: 20-7: 1-3, 11), but in His human nature Mary of Nazareth was the real human mother. The time has come when God in fulfillment of His promise is to move forward into a new phase of His redeeming activity in human life (Gen. 3: 15; Isa. 7: 14). How wonderful and marvellous a thing it is that motherhood should have been called into co-operation with God in the accomplishment of His purposes! The Messiah is to come born of a woman. This fact has thrown a glory and a light on motherhood forever.

II. The Holy Spirit a Spirit of Song and Praise.

Not until after Pentecost did Mary understand the full import of the angelic message (Luke 1: 25-38). Stupendous spiritual truth is rarely comprehended all at once. Jesus was to receive a kingdom and be exalted until He shall "put down all enemies and all principalities in heaven and earth" in obedience to Him (1 Cor. 15: 24-28). But Mary doubtless interpreted the words in accordance with the national expectation of a temporal messiah and King. Her heart, filled with the Holy Spirit which is preparing her body to be the temple of the God-man, overflows in the triumphant song of praises called the Magnificat (from its first word in the old Latin version), which is our scripture lesson for to-day. "My soul doth magnify... my spirit hath rejoiced" (vs. 46, 47). That is the starting point of all holy souls—adoration of God. True worship is never self-conscious because self is lost in the vision of God. We need to be lifted on the wings of God, and especially our prayers, more of the spirit of praise and thanksgiving (1 Sam. 7: 12; Phil. 4: 6; Eph. 5: 18-20). Gratitude has always been the mark of a noble mind in all ages, and we have more merites than we deserve—one which takes precedence of all: "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9: 15).

III. The Theme of the Song. The general theme of the Magnificat is the faithfulness of God—which is, indeed, the foundation of the whole Messianic hope. Beginning on a note of personal praise for His grace to herself (v. 48), it touches on God's mercy and omnipotence (vs. 49-51), celebrates His justice (vs. 52, 53), and closes with thanksgiving for His faithfulness to the promises made to Israel (cf. Micah 7: 20). The Greek word translated "helpless" means to take a prostrate man by the hand and lift him up. "This God had often done to the Jewish nation. All along for ages He had shown them His mercy, forgiving their backslidings and saving them from the consequences of their sins. Great and precious promises had been made to Israel especially to Abraham, who was an example of faithful obedience. These promises, foreshadowing Christ, were so worded as to pass over to all believers. Narrowed to no people or age they reach down to the end of time and pass beyond it to eternity. It is of the deepest importance to lay hold of Bible promises. We walk by faith (2 Cor. 5: 7), and "faith leans on promises." But on these promises we may rest securely. They will bear all the weight that can be put on them. God is faithful. The birth of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was the culmination and fulfillment of His promises. The faith and hope of all humanity, the "desire of nations" met in Him.

IV. Mary the Mother of Jesus. The Gospel tells us little of the mother of our Lord, but three characteristic are strikingly obvious from Luke's story. (1) HER CONSACRATION TO GOD'S WILL. There was little in her outward circumstances to have drawn the eyes of the world. Though of the royal line of David, her family was poor and obscure. But God uses a maid or woman in proportion to their consecration (1 Sam. 16: 7b). "The less of self there is in us, the more room there is for God." Mary was utterly yielded (Luke 1: 38)—so God could use her as an instrument in the unfolding of His Divine purpose. Otherwise this grace would have passed over to another. (2) HER FAMILIARITY WITH THE SCRIPTURES. Mary's song of praise finds spontaneous expression in words already consecrated by the Holy Spirit (cf. passages from Isa. 31, 112, 126, and especially 1 Sam. 2: 1-10). Such knowledge of the Bible is never gained save by daily, regular study. We should study God's Word, dig into it, meditate on it, till it dwells in us richly. "Time thus spent will bear fruit after many days. Lack of every great spiritual leader is a God-fearing,

TOO LATE

First Little Boy—"I forgot to ask you to my picnic party to-morrow." Second Little Boy—"Too late now. I have prayed for a billiard."

SOME SHINE

Boxer—"Win, draw, or lose, I got one thousand pounds." Reporter—"I see. Every clout has a silver lining."

Persian Balm the creator and preserver of beautiful complexions. Tonic in effect and wonderfully stimulating. Safeguards and beautifies the most delicately-textured skins. Soothes and relieves all skin troubles caused or irritated by weather conditions. Magic-in results. A little gentle rubbing and a youthful freshness and radiance is instantly created. Invaluable for softening the hands and making them flawlessly white. Truly the perfect toilet requisite for the woman who cares.

consecrated mother. Such a mother becomes a great channel for God's grace. It is in the impressionable years of childhood when a mother's influence is paramount that the foundations of a thorough knowledge of God's Word are most securely laid (cf. 1 Tim. 3: 15). No prayers touch us so tenderly or remain with us so faithfully as those learned at the mother's knee. (3) HER HUMILITY. There is no self-glorification because she has been chosen to bear the longest-for redeemer of Israel—only infinite wonder and gratitude for God's condescension to her "low estate." Mary's own words (vs. 46, 48) utterly repudiate the false doctrines regarding her held by the corrupt and idolatrous Church of Rome (which exalts her worship even above that of her Son), especially the doctrine of her sinlessness. Far from being able to save others, she acknowledged her need of a Saviour for her soul. True humility is the highest grace that can be clothed with humility. God often chooses the lowliest to usher in the greatest events. "The lowliness of Mary became the ladder by which God descended upon earth, gave life to mortals, set free the souls of men and opened the door of everlasting life to all."

CRESTED GRASS SEED NEEDS CAREFUL HANDLING

Crested wheat grass seed requires cleaning before it is marketed, because as it is received from the threshing machine, it generally contains from 25 to 45 per cent., or more, by weight, of light seed, chaff and short pieces of straw, as well as the seeds of any weeds which may have been prevalent in the standing crop.

It is not possible to remove all of certain weed seeds such as stinkweed, small seeds of wild mustard, and blue blurr, from crested wheat grass seeds by the ordinary fanning mill. The indent disc type of machine will remove material which is considerably shorter than the grass seed and it will also remove material such as bits of straw, which are considerably longer than the seed. A combination of the fanning mill and the indent type of machine makes very satisfactory arrangement for cleaning crested wheat grass seed. In setting up the indent disc, the common wheat and barley disc should occupy the central section of the rotor, with the smaller disc at the front end, to remove the short weed seeds.

Wire screens are not recommended for use in cleaning crested wheat grass seed, but are listed in the booklet on "Growing Crested Wheat Grass for Seed Production," by T. M. Stevenson and W. J. White, of the Dominion Forage Crops Laboratory, at Saskatoon, issued by the Publicity and Extension Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. The reason for naming wire screens is in case the proper sizes in zinc sieves are not available to the farmer. The wire-sieve blocks up readily with refuse and seed and requires a great deal of time and labor to keep it clean. A range in sizes of sieves and screens is also listed. This is necessary because the seed varies in size from season to season, and it is also necessary to use different sieves for removing different materials. All the latest information on the seeding, care and cultivation of the crop, harvesting, curing, threshing and cleaning of the seed is contained in the booklet.

"The most important thing in life is work."—Jing Carol.

STRONGEST GLUE MADE FROM FISH

Liquid fish glue is claimed to be the strongest in the world, and stronger than the strongest wood. In some experiments carried on in this connection, states the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railway, maple blocks were joined with glue made from the skins of codfish put in clamps for 48 hours and then put in an hydraulic press which applied a shearing force so that the glue would give way before the wood if the latter were stronger. In the tests it was never possible to determine the exact strength of the glue because the maple blocks always fractured, leaving the glued joint intact. Although fish glue has been known for 150 years or more it has not come into much favor, but recent research shows that when properly prepared it has little or no odor and great strength. The advancement of this industry is of great value to Canada, particularly the Maritime Provinces, with their great wealth of deep sea fisheries.

LIKE A GENTLEMAN!

"Where's old Bill been lately? I have not seen him for months." "What? Haven't you heard? He's got three years for stealing a car." "What did he want to steal a car for? Why didn't he buy one and not pay for it, like a gentleman!"

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

I think that all of us each day should do the things that come our way. The best we can. I think that we should be merciful and kindly to those who are in error. We should wear with very gentle grace. Humility in every place. Accept the privilege to bless our fellowmen with kindness. And not let pass one chance to give a bit of pleasure while we live.

Cheapest of All Oils.—Considering the qualities of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil it is the cheapest of all preparations offered to the public. It is to be found in every drug store in Canada from coast to coast and all country merchants keep it for sale. So, being easily procurable and extremely moderate in price, no one should be without a bottle of it.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS advertisement for Carrolls' products including Libby's PORK and BEANS, DANDEE TEA, EAGLE BLUEBERRIES, SAUER KRAUT, TOMATOES, KIPPERED HERRING, CREAM OF WHEAT, MATCHES, GOLD SOAP, and CARROLLS' LIMITED.

ORANGES 33c doz. advertisement for ICEBERG HEAD LETTUCE, FRESH JUICY LEMONS, and COOKING ONIONS.

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