



The Acton Free Press

Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—\$2.00 per year in advance...

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor

TELEPHONES—Editorial and Business Office 154 Residence 174



A Justified Investment

In an event such as last week's fire the advantages of adequate fire protection and fire insurance are readily discerned. The annual expenditure on fire protection may at other times seem heavy, but in an instance similar to Wednesday of last week it is paltry.

Towns and Villages

The publication of the Municipal Statistics and a perusal of it prompts a second editorial on towns and villages. It might be termed the second in a series, we suppose—only it isn't a series.

Another interesting comparison in this Book of Statistics is the acreage of the towns and the population. Acton's population is given as 1,808, and acreage as 394, or roughly about a fifth of an acre per person.

In Better Form

That very interesting and informative book, published by the Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs, and giving the municipal statistics of the Province, has been issued in new and better form this year.

Ruler Over Small Things First

Arthur H. Williams was unseated as Reeve of East York when it was shown he owed arrears of rent for over three months when he was nominated last December. The constituency he represents is not in a very enviable financial position and the filling of offices by men who cannot meet their own obligations is not a means to bring about improvement.

The Contests Are On

Dominion and Provincial Parliaments are in session and the work of government and opposition forces has been pitted against each other. One wonders sometimes why it is so, unless it is the age-old delight that most people have in witnessing a contest between individuals or groups as in games and sports.

Re-organization of the Bank of Canada; a change to allow the Government to have greater authority in the operation of the C.N.R.; inquiry in radio broadcasting; inquiry respecting monopolistic control of importation and distribution of anthracite; customs laws; relief camps; unemployment and relief questions; United States' treaty and the British North America Act are all points to be dealt with.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This seems to have been a poor year for weather prophets. They are very silent.

And even the chap who sighs for a good old-fashioned winter hasn't had a great deal of comment.

May, 1937, is said to be the month likely to be chosen for the coronation of King Edward VIII.

"A depression is when you are down in a hole without a ladder," says the Dallas News, "and a boom is when you are up in the air without wings."

Attorney-General Roebuck is still inquiring about defiance of the department's anti-slot machine policy. It will take more than enquiry to put these machines off the market.

The new Dominion Government refused to be bluffed by the Textile Company who laid off workers, supposedly on account of the Japanese treaty. When an inquiry was announced for the industry the employees went back to work.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15th.

JESUS HELPS A DOUBTER Golden Text.—I believe; help thou mine unbelief.—Mark 9: 24.

Lesson Text.—Luke 7: 19-28. Time.—Midsummer, A. D. 28. Place.—Galilee.

Exposition.—I. John's Doubts.—Concerning Jesus, 18-23.

John was in prison in Macherus, but the news of Jesus' mighty deeds penetrates even to his dungeon. John's disciples have access to him in his imprisonment, and they tell him the strange reports that fill the air.

John's present questionings with his former clear faith; but those who know the human heart with its moments of doubt and uncertainty, will find this story most natural.

It would never have been fabricated in this way, but it bears on its face the evidence of its genuineness. John, in his hour of uncertainty, did the wisest thing any man can do under such circumstances.

He took his perplexities and his questionings to Jesus Himself. He was not clear for the time that Jesus was the Coming One, but he was clear that Jesus' own testimony about Himself was to be accepted.

Such a doubter will not long remain a doubter. If those who to-day doubt that Jesus was the Messiah and Son of God would only go right to Him and ask, He would soon set to rest all their uncertainties.

John's question was right to the point: "Art thou the Coming One (the one whom all the prophets from Moses to Malachi had foretold was to come as the fulfiller of God's promises and glorious plans for His people) or look we for another?"

How much better to put the question to the direct text than to sit in the darkness of doubt! The thought very likely had come to John: "If He is indeed the Coming One, why does He delay to manifest Himself as King, dethrone Herod, and set me free?"

John had never forgotten the vision he had seen, the voice he had heard that morning when Jesus came up out of the water and the Holy Spirit Himself bore witness to His Sonship.

But a long time had gone by since Jesus' baptism, and He had not yet organized any Church or marshalled any army. Reports had come to John in his dungeon that Jesus was spending precious time teaching in the villages, even to the Samaritans.

John was according with the Jewish ideas of the Messiah held by John the Baptist. He could not go to Jesus himself, but he sent two of his faithful disciples, with his question. At the very hour that the messengers arrived, Jesus was giving demonstrations that He was indeed the Coming One by the mighty works He was performing.

For an answer to John, He simply points the messengers to what they see going on before their eyes and the testimonies they hear. Then follows the dialogue of Galilee.

"I am here," says the Coming One, "why do you delay to manifest Himself as King, dethrone Herod, and set me free?"

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THE RISING GENERATION

A negro mammy had a family of well-behaved boys. One day her mistress asked: "Sally, how do you raise your boys so well?"

"Ah! I tell you, mistress," answered Sally, "Ah raise 'em wid a barrel stave and Ah raise 'em frequently!"

He is next to the gods whom reason, and not passion, impels.—Claudian.

For Rheumatic Pains.—The pains and aches of Sciatica and Rheumatism should be treated with Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil.

John winds up this marvellous eulogy by the assertion that among purely human beings there was none greater than John the Baptist.

John was not worthy even to bear his shoes (Matt. 3: 11; John 1: 27). And then Jesus adds the astonishing statement, that great as was John, the Kingdom of Heaven which was to come was so great that even the one who is "but little" (Mt. V.), but who is truly in the Kingdom, is greater than he.

We to-day see and hear things which prophets of old desired to see and hear, but which were withheld from them (Luke 10: 23-24). Things are revealed to us which had been hidden from the beginning of the world (Eph. 3: 3; Col. 1: 25-27; 1 Peter 1: 10-12).

The weakest believing hearer of Paul would understand things, by the light of Jesus' death on the Cross, which John the Baptist could never have explained. Greater in grace and knowledge he certainly could not be.

But even the least in the Kingdom enjoys knowledge and privileges immeasurably beyond what any one before the inauguration of the Kingdom ever knew.

ORANGE PEKOE BLEND "SALADA" TEA

HOW TO LIVE

We ought never to disturb ourselves about the quality reputed to have been ours, or about our own prominence with the public.

Just as the closing hours of a summer's day are often the most beautiful and most restful, so the closing years of a long and busy life may yield the deepest content and provide the most satisfying charm.

All the beauty of the world is not in the springtime; nor in the hot and sultry days of summer. Autumn is often richest in color, and winter has a beauty unknown to all the other seasons.

Life is like the seasons, and each season has its own particular charm. Hence to look forward with fear and distress to the coming winter—to imagine that old age can yield us nothing but pain and anguish, is to reveal a timid and unheroic spirit and to make even the brightest days dark with forebodings that probably will never come true.

Rest is sweet only to the tired. If we were never tired we should never know the delight of relaxing our limbs and laying our heads on a pillow of down. After a hard day's work or a long tramp over hill and dale, who has not said as he has thrown himself into his easy chair, "This is good. This is delightful. This is blessedness deep and satisfying."

LIFE'S AUTUMN

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Wise mothers who know the virtues of Mother Graves' Worm Expeller always have it at hand, because it proves its value.

PIE PUMPKIN Silver Ribbon Brand—Choice quality and very fine eating, no. 2 1/2 lbs., 2 for 19c. Eagle Brand Blueberries, 2 No. 2 tins 19c. Aylmer Unsweetened Pie Cherries, 2 No. 2 tins 19c.

Pure Lard 1-lb. pkg. 14c. Marmalade 32-oz. jar 21c. Soda Biscuits 2 1-lb. pkgs. 25c. Pork & Beans 2 No. 2 1/2 tins 21c. Raspberries No. 2 tin 15c.

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