



The Acton Free Press

Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario

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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Shopping in Acton

This week THE FREE PRESS issues its annual Christmas Shopping Edition. It is made possible by the co-operation of Acton merchants, who believe in a home town method of presenting their Christmas shopping news in the way one would expect, in the home-town newspaper. They tell you where and what you can buy in Acton. After thoroughly perusing their messages you will find that there is very little if any of your Christmas shopping that cannot be done better here than elsewhere.

Perhaps some readers have noticed that recently a big city—Toronto—refused to allow a new oil company to establish its tanks in the city, since it did not want any further competition. That's putting a wall round the city with a vengeance, and if one will care to study the home town tactics of these city folks, it would take on a new meaning for buying in your home town.

Just shop through these Christmas offerings. Make comparisons, if you wish, and we know full well that the merchants will be quite content to leave the decision for your verdict. The presentation of the case is in your hands. Follow the buying guides as presented in the advertisement messages of the local newspaper. This issue like all others, is all printed in Acton and giving employment to Acton workmen.

Life's Obligations

Toronto elections, the Spanish war, and the East Hastings bye election have been crowded from the head-lines of the daily papers the past week or more by the marriage affairs of King Edward VIII. Not since the time when three men were trapped in a mine in Nova Scotia has hourly news been so anxiously sought and as little obtainable. Undoubtedly many contradictory reports and messages have been published. But the general public will be appreciative that both the English and Canadian press refrained from comment as long as would seem to be in the best interests.

Possibly when this item reaches the public the matter will have been settled. But not for some time has anything so disturbed the people of the Empire as this present situation. After the example set by the late King George and Queen Mary, and the belief that the present ruler of a great empire would follow in his footsteps, the present situation is decidedly humiliating. A loyalty of a great Empire has been divided on this question.

It is interesting to note that pleasure in the position of the King, in a course opposed to his cabinet, the church and those who believe in the upholding of all the throne stands for, comes from those whose former plans have been to destroy this thing. Loyal citizens have been taught and believe in making sacrifice for King and country. Such teaching is undoubtedly best instilled, by example. One must have sympathy for feelings of fellow human beings and the desire to live the life one wishes. Yet how many are permitted to live the life they desire? Each position carries an obligation to more than one's self and the larger the position, seemingly the larger the obligation.

A great damage in the ties that bind the Empire has already been done. Only the years to come will show whether that damage can be repaired. And at the moment it is difficult to say, which of the courses open would be the most preferable. We feel that elected governments and those in authority gained by experience, and who have shown a desire to serve well their country cannot all be wrong. Much as we often have disliked it, we have found that age has much to offer in the guidance of youth.

The Day After

In a number of centres it is planned to observe Boxing Day as a holiday. The stores in these places will remain closed the day after Christmas as well as on Christmas Day. The idea seems to be gaining in popularity and with Boxing Day coming on Saturday this year, it will likely be observed more generally this year. The day after Christmas is usually considered a pretty poor day for business at any rate. Folks seem to have spent all they had and appetites for more are not as keen on the day following the Christmas festivities. We know full well that merchants require all the business possible and the observance of the day is one solely for their decision. Industries will this year in most cases not open on Saturday as the half day's operation is scarcely profitable.

If Taxes Would Be Lower

An extract from a recent speech of Hon. J. L. Isley, Minister of National Revenue, should be studied seriously by all who decry the huge expenditures of governments. We just quote it and leave the thought as presented:

"The sales tax now stands at the level of 18%. It would be idle for me to deny that the sales tax is a heavy tax. The weight of this tax upon the whole community is keenly realized every day by those charged with the responsibility for its collection. I have only two observations to make in reference to this tax. The first is that individuals, corporations and communities who feel and deplore the weight of this tax should organize, not to press governments for additional expenditures, but to prevent governments from making additional expenditures. It is those of us on the firing line, those who have to collect the taxes, who realize the imperative necessity of economy in government administration. I wish I could say something here that would marshal in favor of economy the powerful forces of public opinion. The other observation that I wish to make is this, that it will be the happiest day of the lives of my colleagues and myself when it is possible to reduce the sales tax."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Merry Christmas! It can't be said too often or too early.

If Christmas shopping is to be done it is unwise to delay the job if best selections are to be secured.

Folks down in East Hastings must have had a new sense of self-importance. Both parties have been giving them especial attention recently.

Income tax collections in Canada have increased by more than \$18,000,000 so far this fiscal year. Apparently somebody has got around the corner and sneaked up on prosperity.

Evidence is not lacking that boys and girls enter into the Christmas spirit with enthusiasm. THE FREE PRESS Santa Claus Letter Contest had a bigger than ever group of letters this year.

The Bowmanville Statesman announced last week the amalgamation of that paper and the Orono News, which has been published for 52 years. In town and city, the newspaper mergers seem the logical movement.

Fines for non-possession of radio licenses seem to vary. The Georgetown Herald complains that Brampton residents were assessed a fine of one dollar, while Georgetown offenders paid \$5.00 for a similar offence.

Central electric stations in Canada produced 2,378,399,000 kilowatt hours during October, the largest output of any month on record. Consumption in Canada also created a new high record at 1,630,139,000 kilowatt hours.

The Peel Gazette entered upon its fourth year of publication last week, and while possibly the young weekly newspaper in the Dominion, has a wide following and is a power in its field. May the years of the future deal kindly with it, that it may continue its work.

For eighteen years Hugh Templin, of the Fergus News-Record, has been writing a whole page each week, entitled "That Inside Page." The eighteen years, he recalls, have seen many changes and in his usual interesting way the Fergus editor recalls some of these changes. Among our exchanges it is a page that we rarely miss and as the years come and go, it maintains its interest.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th

JOHN'S VISION ON PATMOS

Golden Text.—Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the Living one.—Rev. 1: 17, 18.

Lesson Text.—Rev. 1: 4-18. A Time.—A.D. 68 (?). Place.—Patmos. Exposition.—I. Behold, He Cometh, 4-8.

The seven churches mentioned are seven churches that actually existed, but they also represented seven types of believers. There is reason to think that they represent seven successive epochs of church history. If so, no age is exclusively (if it is predominantly) Epheesian or Philadelphian or Laodicean. Some of each kind of believers and churches can be found in every age. He "which is, and which was, and which is to come" (that is, the eternal I AM), is Jehovah. The use of the term "seven Spirits" for the Holy Spirit expresses the manifold perfections and manifestations of the one Spirit. The three titles and offices of Jesus Christ clearly set for His real humanity and suggest His deity. To Him is the special ascription of praise for His love and for what that love has wrought ("loosed," that is, set us perfectly free from our sins, at the tremendous cost of the "shedding" of His own blood), and for what He has done for us. "To Him" is to be "the glory and the dominion for ever and ever." He has gone, but He is coming again—coming not in humiliation, but in the glory of God "with the clouds" that is, in God's chariot, as God visibly manifested (cf. Ex. 19: 9; 34: 5; Ps. 97: 1, 3; Matt. 17: 5; Ps. 104: 3; Matt. 24: 30; 26: 64, 65). He will come personally and visibly; not only His friends but His foes shall see Him ("They which pierced Him," cf. Zech. 12: 10). While that will be a glad day for His faithful ones, it will be a sad day for those who have rejected Him; they shall mourn over Him" (cf. Zech. 12: 11-14).

II. The Glorified Lord Jesus in the Midst of the Seven Candlesticks, 9-16.

John speaks of three things of which all who are truly in Christ are partaking: (1) "Tribulation" (cf. 2 Tim. 3: 13); (2) "Kingdom" (Luke 12: 32; Acts 14: 22; Thes. 2: 12, R. V.); (3) "Patience, or steadfast endurance" (2 Thes. 3: 5, R. V.). More than three-score years before, Jesus had said to Peter: "What is it to thee if I (John) tarry till I come?" Now in his old age, the last of the apostles living, John had been banished to the island of Patmos for his preaching of the Word, his testimony of Jesus Christ, and the promise is fulfilled: In a vision he sees his risen and glorified Lord. His attention is attracted by a mighty voice, as of a trumpet (cf. Ex. 19: 13, 19; 1 Thes. 4: 16) bidding him write down what he should hear and see, and send it as a message of comfort or warning to the churches. Turning, he sees first seven golden candlesticks, or, as in the original Greek, "lamps." These seven lamps represent the seven churches, to whom the message is to go. The use of the word "seven" should be noted. This number is used everywhere in scripture to represent wholeness or completeness. Here, it symbolizes the whole Christian body throughout the world in all times and places. Churches are meant to be light-bearers, to give the world the light of spiritual truth which is fed by the oil of the Spirit (Matt. 5: 16; Phil. 2: 16; cf. Zech. 4: 2-6, 11-14). The lamps are made of gold, the most highly valued, the most precious, the costliest metal. This is typically significant of how God regards the Church. Then John sees Christ Himself in the midst of the lamps (cf. Matt. 20: 20; 18: 20), signifying that He, as head of the Church, is ever present in their midst (cf. ch. 2: 1). The description of Christ is full of meaning. His humanity is seen in that he is "like unto a son of

man" (cf. Romans 8: 3; Phil. 2: 7; Dan. 7: 13, 14, R. V.). He appears in a blending of priestly and royal garments; He is priest and king, though in the epistles that follow it is largely as judge that He speaks. His hair and His head are pure white—the perfect color, the blending of all colors. He is perfect in beauty. Perhaps the color of His hair is symbolic also of wisdom, eternity and deity (cf. Dan. 7: 9). The eyes, "as a flame of fire," sets forth His all-penetrating gaze and wisdom. He can read the innermost secrets of the heart (ch. 2: 18). His feet were like glowing brass of insufferable splendor as He walked; "His voice as the voice of many waters," sets forth the divine majesty and power of His voice (cf. Ex. 43: 2; Rev. 14: 2). That voice is awful for His enemies and His faithless servants to hear, but full of inspiration and comfort to His faithful ones. The stars are the "messengers" or the ministers of the churches (v. 20; cf. Dan. 12: 3). Christ holds them "in His right-hand." The number seven represents the whole number of ministers; not one real messenger of the churches but is in Christ's own right-hand. The "sharp two-edged sword" proceeding "out of His mouth," is the WORD of God, especially that word as pronouncing and executing judgment (Heb. 4: 12, 13; Rev. 2: 12-16; John 5: 22). His divine glory is seen in His countenance—"as the sun shineth in his strength" (cf. Matt. 17: 2; Acts 26: 13). Churches are lampstands, ministers are stars, Christ Himself is the sun. III. Fear Not, I Am the First and the Last, 17, 18. Jesus takes to Himself divine names and titles—"the first and the last" (cf. Is. 44: 6; 48: 12), and "the Living one" (cf. John 14: 19). He bears witness to His true humanity: "I was dead." (No Christian Science in this!) Christ really DIED, really ROSE really REIGNED, Lord of life and conqueror of death. The vision of John on Patmos showeth forth a Jesus eternal, everlasting, who with infinite ever-watchful love is living and moving in His Church to-day.

QUANT BIRDS

The penguin still retains his place in the bird family, although ages have passed since he lost the use of his wings. Usually these birds move upright, although when tired, they will lie on the ground and push themselves along with their feet. Undoubtedly they are the strongest members of the bird family, and certainly the most quaint. Living in icy regions, the task of hatching their eggs is not an easy one. There is no place to rest it, so the parent balances it on the upper side of the feet, and holds it in place by the use of a fold of skin. That is how they get over that difficulty, but the method seems as quaint as they are themselves.

LOVE OF THE BEAUTIFUL

The love of the beautiful calls man to fresh exertions and awakens him to a more noble life; and the glory of it is, that as painters imitate, and poets sing, and statuary carve, and architects rear up the gorgeous trophies of their skill—as everything becomes beautiful and orderly, and magnificent—the activity of the mind rises to still greater and to better objects.

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