

The Liberal

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EDITOR AND MANAGER

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Factory Journalism

A veteran newspaperman, writing recently in *The American Mercury*, said: "Of the technique of newspaper work the present generation of newspaper workers has complete mastery. But so has the factory hand over his machine."

Toronto is not wanting in examples of the factory system as applied to journalism. That some of our corpulent and complacent contemporaries of the city daily press are largely preoccupied with going through routine motions, is sufficiently shown by the quality of their output.

One paper, in putting through its daily batch of court news, operates much after the fashion of a sausage machine. It is responsible for the "comic" police court column—a long-standing abomination, and a disgrace to Canadian journalism. Never has the vilest Hearst paper produced a feature so ghastly as the daily column detailing the distress of a city's unfortunates in terms of coarse flippancy. But beyond the question of the brutality of the machine technique looms a larger consideration: The product is not and never can be NEWS! By which we mean, it is not a presentation of current events with decent regard for their co-relations and background.

The journalistic machine-hand of the city press can have little or no regard for finished craftsmanship. His concern centres in his immediate bit of "piece-work," ordinarily a small and mean routine task.

He accepts his lot or seizes his alternative—which is to become a "publicity expert" for one or another of the Overlords of Big Business who thrive in Toronto under the "Get Something for Nothing" order that is the natural outgrowth of the Protective Tariff system.

Hence it is, that the public is served with a mess of journalistic half-truths which no plea of haste can excuse.

Possibly that explains why the incidents making up Chapter Two of a recent story of city police court were enacted before the eyes of the "piece-work" squad—without being printed in justice to an unfortunate victim of circumstances, whose character had been blackened in the eyes of the public.

Here is Chapter Two:

Numbered among the motley crowd of unfortunates occupying seats in the wagon that lurches up to the Jail Farm at Langstaff with the loads of newcomers, was "an elderly man." A glance sufficed to show that he was not only "elderly," but ill. A few questions brought out the fact that when he was "picked up drunk in a downtown street" the cause of his distress was not drink, but the physical weariness of a sick man. Further light was thrown on his case when he explained that his bank book, showing a credit of \$2,500 in a Canadian bank, had been stolen from him at a down-town rooming house.

Authorities at the Farm, on hearing his statement instituted inquiries. A lawyer took a hand in the case, and, on visiting the bank officials, ascertained that a cheque for \$2,500 bearing the prisoner's signature had been cashed. As it was clear that the bank made complete restitution of the amount, a visit followed to the rooming house, where it was learned that a lodger had departed suddenly. His description tallied with that of the man who had cashed the cheque. Details were given to the police, with the result that the suspect was quickly arrested in Vancouver.

Meanwhile, so far as the comedian-journalists of the Toronto police court are aware or concerned, "Mr. _____," an elderly man, was picked up drunk on a downtown street. He was given a term at the Jail Farm."

The End of the Chapter

A jury has declared Pepall not guilty of charges arising out of transactions for which Peter Smith was sent to the penitentiary and Aemilus Jarvis was fined a stupendous sum and compelled to serve a term in the common jail. In view of the latest decision, it would seem as if the proper thing would be to release Smith from the penitentiary, refund the Jarvis fine, and send Pepall back to his California glass works in a Pullman and accompanied by an apology for the inconvenience to which he has been subjected. Finally, in order that none may lack due recognition, let the white flower, emblematic of a blameless life, be sent to each and every member of the last Board of Directors of the Home Bank.—Farmers Sun.

When a man prepares to build,
Tax him;
When a man has quit the farm,
Tax him;
When he lays another roof,
When he grows another hoof,
Hustle 'round and get the proof,
Then tax him.
—Geo. Robins, in *Markham Economist* and Sun.

The Liberal's Letter Box

The Liberal welcomes the expression by its readers of their opinions on questions of public interest. Communications should be as brief as possible, and name of sender should be attached though not necessarily for publication. The Liberal assumes no editorial responsibility for the views expressed by its correspondents.

To the Editor of The Liberal:

After reading your remarks in your issue of the 26th, under the head line "Post Office Clocks," I am persuaded that some of our citizens are not aware of the efforts which have been made to give our town the Standard Time.

When I came to Richmond Hill twenty-five years ago, the town bell was not depended upon for the correct time. One of my ambitions was to have the standard time on my regulator clock.

For awhile I used to go to Toronto and get the time from one of the fire halls at 11.55. Later on I received the time by 'phone from Maple station. In 1904 I bought a Waltham Regulator, fully jeweled (the price of such a clock to-day is \$815.00; and I was told that I had more money than brains when I bought it) and found it difficult to check up such a clock without being certain of the correct time to the second. In order to do this, Mr. Dunlop, Mr. Stirling and myself put up fifty dollars for a copper circuit between my workshop and the C.N.O. depot. The line was tapped at Mr. Dunlop's office and Mr. Stirling's house so that they, too, could get the correct time daily. The line proved to be a failure because my regulator clock kept better time than that which came over our new line. We were very much disappointed with our investment, but not discouraged.

I had another regulator clock under construction, which took me nearly twelve years to complete in my spare time. In 1916 it was finished. I then had two high grade clocks, but where was the exact time to check them with. Mr. Stirling, who is the father of wireless telegraphy in Richmond Hill, suggested to take down the line which reached to the C.N.R. depot, and get the time from Arlington, Va., by wireless. This was done; and by comparing our two clocks with it ever since, we found that Arlington's time signals are almost perfect.

I keep a book record of the performance of both clocks and found that the greatest variation the Waltham clock made since the New Year was six and one-half seconds. The greatest variation of the hand-made clock since the New Year was 3 3/4 seconds. This clock ran from July 20th to August 6th without varying half a second.

The Waltham Regulator run from July the 9th to July the 24th without varying half a second.

From the above clocks the time is sent to the despatchers at Bond Lake, every day at 12 o'clock, by counting the seconds over the 'phone.

Mr. Ransom was our first real crank on bell ringing. He would compare his time with our regulator daily, and it was quite a common thing to find "Mose" counting seconds and holding the bell rope in his hand and try to give the first tap of the bell right on the second. Sometimes he would hit the "bull's eye" exactly, but more frequently he would be a few seconds out owing to it being hard to control the big bell to the second.

When Mr. Ransom gave up the job of ringing the town bell, the duty fell on Mr. Geo. Smith, who has looked after it with as much precision as possible. I checked him up to-day and found that his smallest error was two seconds slow, and his greatest error was five seconds slow.

Now, Mr. Editor, if your dollar Ing-

Way Back in "The Liberal" Files

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the issue of December 5, 1895.

An "anxious" audience filled the schoolroom for the entertainment given by the Junior League. Master Harold Proctor took the chair and managed the whole affair "like an old head." The boys distinguished themselves as "gobblers" in the "Turkey Song." Master Murray Sheppard and Master Douglas Derry recited, Miss Violet Storey sang "The Child's Prayer," and Master Albert Glass favored the audience with an excellent cornet solo. Miss Mabel Smith recited "Killed at the Plough." Mr. Hume closed the programme with a few appropriate words.

Complimentary banquet tendered to Warden J. C. Stokes at Clyde Hotel. Florists' wagon strikes buggy occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Wright of Carrville on Yonge street, Toronto.

Verdict acquitting the Hyams Twins of the murder of William Wells in Toronto not received with favor by the Canadian press.

At the village council meeting it was moved by Mr. Savage, seconded by Mr. Mortson, that the services of the village band be secured for the rink, on the best possible terms.

Ashford Wright returns from Toronto after serving as a jurymen for seven weeks.

Miss Ida Mellish of Carrville married to James Pearson of Thornhill, by Rev. A. Bedford.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From the issue of December 6, 1900.

While Mr. Hill and Mr. Robinson of Richmond Hill were putting in the acetylene gas plant in Mr. Bailey's store at Maple an explosion occurred. As a result, says the report, "Mr. Robinson is minus his eyebrows and moustache."

P. G. Savage elected president, at annual meeting of the Curling Club. The treasurer's report, showing a cash balance of \$3.93, was adopted.

Officials of the Toronto Street Railway go over the Metropolitan "and it is understood that an offer has been made which will be accepted by the Metropolitan."

W. H. Pugsley, T. Ludford, J. Tyndall and J. Dean return after a four-days' rabbit hunt on shores of Lake

Simcoe. They bagged 50 rabbits and several brace of partridges—according to the most authentic reports extant. Anyone desiring an official check-up is respectfully referred to Mr. Pugsley.

With the hockeyists using the rink two nights a week and the curlers two, the village Council proposed to reserve one remaining night for repairs and open it for skating only on Saturday night.

Miss Maggie Wells of King City married to Archibald Simpson, of Kleinburg.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Issue of December 7, 1905.

School at Vellore closed by reason of an outbreak of smallpox on Sixth Concession of Vaughan.

John Startup, inspector, made the rounds of the village, finding that some citizens had not obeyed the order to remove the "black knot" in orchards and gardens.

At the home of Mrs. M. Wilson, Toronto, Miss Mary E. Johnston, her niece, was married to Oliver D. Bales of Lansing.

Railwaymen engaged on the James Bay Railway construction, took down their tents near the village, moving on to another place. A large gang was working in the Don Valley, near Taylor's Mill.

Hockey Club reorganizes with G. Sime as captain and R. Goode, A. Glass and J. Naughton as committee of management.

At the High School Commencement exercises, the following took part: Mr. E. Mason, cornet solo and song; Miss Norma Morgan, recitation; Miss Horning, recitation; Mr. Douglas Derry, song; Mr. Walter Frisby, recitation; Rev. J. A. Grant presented the certificates, and Mr. Shaw, the principal, made his report. Miss Georgie Brown, Alex. McConaghy and Clarence Kinnee were commended for their diligence. J. H. Sanderson presided.

Box social in aid of St. Stephen's Church to be held in Wilson's Hall, Teston.

Vaughan Council decides to submit local option question to the ratepayers.

ersoll or Big Ben alarm clock can beat our town bell for correct time, I want to be the first one to congratulate you. Jerry Smith. Richmond Hill, Nov. 28, 1925.

Editor's Note.—The Liberal's major thesis was that postoffice clocks, in the main, are but frail and wayward servants of the public. We are glad, indeed, that our chance remarks have brought forth a letter so interesting and informative as Mr. Smith's. Unfortunately few public clocks are cared for with any such insistence upon scientific exactitude as Mr. Smith has bestowed upon the town bell.

Victoria Square

(Special to The Liberal)

Victoria Square, Dec. 3, 1925.

The Young People's Society of the Victoria Square United Church, joined to Stouffville Tuesday night, where they presented an interesting program, half sacred and half of an entertainment character. The Stouffville Young People entertained the visitors who numbered about 40, at a special luncheon.

Under its budget system, the executive of the Victoria Square United Church have assumed the total obligation of \$750, in connection with the Maintenance and Extension Fund Drive.

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NOTICE is hereby given that HAZEL PEARLE CLARK PEARCY, of the City of Toronto, in the County of York in the Province of Ontario, Married Woman, will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof, for a BILL OF DIVORCE from her husband, GORDON MONTGOMERY PEARCY, of the said City of Toronto, Insurance Broker, on the ground of Adultery.

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The rates for calls from Richmond Hill to Agincourt and from Thornhill to Agincourt are as follows:

Station-to-Station Messages 10c for 5 minutes
Person-to-Person Messages 15c for 3 minutes

In calling a distant telephone it is often the case that "Anyone" who may be within reach of the telephone will serve your purpose. That is, it is not always necessary to speak to some particular person. In that event, Station-to-Station service will serve you best; it is quicker and cheaper. Where you must speak to a "particular person", the higher rate, as quoted above, applies.

We suggest that in all your Long Distance calls you use Station-to-Station service wherever possible.

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FOR SALE—Brick house in North Toronto 6 rooms and heated sun room; hot water heating; hardwood floors; brick garage; lot 40 x 125 feet; garden; fruit trees; chicken house. Good terms. Apply Liberal Office or Telephone Hudson 0757 w.

FOR SALE—A rubber-tired buggy in good running shape. Apply to H. D. McCAGUE, Gormley R. R. 2. 22

FOUND—On Saturday, November 29, in front of Grant's Hotel, pair shell rimmed glasses. Owner can have same by calling at Liberal Office and paying for this advertisement. 23

FOR SALE—1900 Gravity Washing Machine. Price \$35.00. Jerry Smith. 23

FOR SALE—Oxford Laurel Cook Heater, self-feeder, nickel trimmed in good condition. No reasonable offer refused. Phone Maple 2349, or apply to Mr. Milton Savage, 2nd concession, Vaughan.

APPLES FOR SALE—No. 2 Spies \$2.75 per barrel; No. 1 Greenings \$2.50 per barrel; No. 3 Baldwins \$2.50 per barrel, and several other varieties ranging from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per barrel in the cellar. Delivery extra. Apply J. Espey, fourth farm north from Elgin side road on west side of 2nd concession, Vaughan. 23-24

FOR RENT—House next door north to Eden's Bakery. Modern rental. Apply Eden's Bakery, Yonge Street. 24

FOR RENT—6 roomed house with electric lights, cellar, hard and soft water, small garden with fruit trees. Apply to R. Casely, Colborne Street, Thornhill.

WOULD the person who was seen taking the milk can from J. Atkinson's gate on Sunday return same and save further trouble? A. Cruickshank, Richmond Hill. 23-24

TEN CANS OF MIK K WANTED DAILY. Phone A. Cruickshank, 138 J. Richmond Hill. 23 24

AUCTION SALE REGISTER

Saturday, Dec. 12—Farm stock and implements, belonging to Irwin Hamilton, 1/2 mile north of Gormley. No reserve. 10 months credit. Sale at 12 noon. F. W. Silaersides, Auctioneer.

Thursday, December 10th—Credit sale of farm stock and implements, the property of Hector McGee, lot 11, con. 8 Vaughan Township, 2 1/2 miles north of Woodbridge and 1/2 mile west of gravel road. His Holstein Dairy Herd is one of the best in the township. No reserve as the farm is sold. Terms: 11 months. J. T. Saigeon, Auctioneer.

Saturday, December 12th—Credit sale of 28 head of fresh milk, fall and springers, Holsteins and Jerseys, at lot 9, con. 5, Vaughan, 1/2 mile north of Edgelev. The property of Robert Topper. Sale at 1 o'clock. Terms: 3 months. J. T. Saigeon, Auctioneer.

Friday, December 11—Credit sale of 15 head of fresh milk cows with calves by side, twenty near springers, five stock bulls and fifteen head of good breedy feeding steers. 6 months credit. Sale at 1 p.m. sharp. The property of Bert Vivian on the old Ball farm on the Kennedy Highway at Searbro Junction, bus stops at gate. Prentice & Prentice, Auctioneers.

Friday, December 4—Credit sale of blacksmith tools and equipment, farm implements etc., on lot 34, con. 4, Searboro, (Lamoroux). The property of Lewis Zimmers. 3 months' credit. Sale at one. Prentice & Prentice, Auctioneers.

Saturday, December 5—Credit sale of a carload of fresh milk cows and springers, at the Queen's Hotel, Unionville. The property of J. H. Brillinger. 6 months' credit. Sale at one. Prentice & Prentice, Auctioneers.

Saturday, December 12—Credit sale of six acres of standing timber mostly beach and Maple on lot 2, con. 9, Markham. Terms: 10 months credit. Purchasers given two years to remove timber. Property of David Hare. Prentice & Prentice, Auctioneers.

Friday, December 18—Credit sale of farm stock, implements, hay, grain etc. on lot 35, con. 5, Markham. Property of Murray Dunean. Sale at 12.30. Prentice & Prentice, Auctioneers.

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