

THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1926

Three R's and a Fourth

Reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic have their forces well in order for the new educational campaign. Teachers and pupils have settled down for the year's work. Pupils who marched back with a reluctant step are now resigned to their fate.

How wonderful a day it would be if all pupils could see it as they will see it in retrospect a few years hence, when sentiment as well as practical side of life will bring a realization of the full meaning of the words of the old song about "School days, school days, dear old golden rule days."

That is a song for the mature and it should have the effect of reminding them of the fourth R in education—Responsibility. It is likely that few persons capable of self-appraisal do not feel they neglected their opportunities for education when they were going to school. Most of them will blame themselves for what they have missed, and they will be right. If they are wise they will say to themselves that they also will be responsible for a large part of what their children will miss if they are not awake to the extent that the return of school days involves them in the matter of duty.

The character of a child is formed by itself, its associates and environment. Its deviations are the result of impulse, inclination and direction. The old saying, "As the twig is bent the tree is inclined," holds good now and forever. The slightest causes have their effect on character and the accumulation of them, for good or bad, form an important sum in the life of any person. A boy doesn't become a rowdy or a hoodlum spontaneously, but by degrees; nor does a little savage become acceptable company for others except through training and reformation.

That is what constitutes the burden of responsibility of parents in school days. Too often they thank heaven for the end of vacation in the mistaken idea that the school teacher will take their children in hand and make little ladies and gentlemen out of them without any assistance from home. There is more to home work than just the preparation of lessons, and wise parents realize this. If more of them did, they would be laying up a smaller quantity of future tears for themselves than many are doing.

The Afterthought

Most people in this country are tired of politics, no doubt, and anxious for a rest; yet with the passing of the campaign emotionalism and the return of reason there is a good deal that might be gained from a sober consideration of causes and effects. In a country like Canada, in which government is based on the will of the people, it is obviously the duty of every good citizen to take an intelligent interest in politics. How are the people to govern themselves intelligently if they refuse to take an interest in their own business? People who profess to refrain from politics for fear of contamination are not setting a good example; they are not helping to make democracy safe for the world.

It is not enough to say that politics are rotten and leave it at that. If politics are bad it is the duty of good citizens to make them better. And the time to study politics is not during an election campaign, when the feelings are aroused and the appeal is chiefly personal and political prejudice. The time to study politics is when the mind is clear and the emotions are under control.

Is there any reason why two friendly neighbors should not discuss politics with as much freedom and frankness as they discuss the weather or the crops, apart from the bad habits and customs of generations. A first step toward the establishment of a condition of sanity would be the recognition of the fact that politics are really the affairs of the country, and that they are not exclusively the concern of politicians or parties, but of the people generally. When the people generally begin to take an active interest in their own affairs the game of politics will be relieved of much of what is objectionable in it.

Mussolini, the Italian dictator, has ordered the women of that country to wear long, flowing togas, silk headbands and heavy necklaces after the manner of the people of old. It is quite possible that Mussolini is in for a needed lesson. Many a useful dictator has come to grief because he did not know where to stop. When a dictator undertakes to tell women what to wear, it is time he was looking for other work.

The increase in motor traffic which is a problem in all parts of this continent is continually driven home to the people of this district by the large number of accidents on Yonge Street. We would gladly co-operate in any effort to devise ways and means of checking the loss of life, limb and property by auto accidents. Various are the suggestions from different parts of the country but to us the whole case seems to rest with the individual. Let every driver of a car exhibit plain ordinary every day common sense and be mindful of public safety. As long as drivers will speed and take fool chances there will be accidents.

While some of the newspapers are speculating as to why Mr. Meighen lost his opportunity, others are busy reminding Mr. King that victory means responsibility.

Now is a good time to wipe out all hard feelings from the slate. It is not necessary to admit that those who differed from you are right because they won; but it may help matters to admit that people have a right to differ.

One lesson that might be learned from this campaign is that personal abuse and irresponsible statements are not accepted by reasonable people as a substitute for intelligent discussion of public events.

An American newspaper speaking of the Canadian election says there was an immense amount of buncombe on both sides. And an American paper should be a good judge of buncombe in election contests.

Sense and Nonsense

A little while ago our younger generation were counting the days until school "starts." It's one continuous count. Now they're counting the days until, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and a few far sighted ones have next summer holidays figured out.

Did you ever hear of the girl marrying the kind of man that the fortune-teller said she would?

"What is the line of least resistance?" asks a writer. A harassed Thornhill young man suggests the dotted one, when a life insurance agent is on your trail.

What's in a name? Elizabeth St. and Centre Street when mentioned in the metropolis to the south do not conjure up visions of a very desirable residential street. Why not change the names of our streets to Avenues, Drives or Boulevards and make our city friends "sit up" when we give our address. Honest now it wouldn't be a bad idea would it Mr. Reeve Lunau, members of the council, Board of Trade, Women's Institute, Home and School Club and interested Citizens?

A teacher at a Christian Centre had been explaining and naming the four seasons to a class of children. "How many seasons do you know?" she asked Rachel Goldberg.

"Two, miss," replied the little denizen of New York; "Slack and busy." Merchants who are not live advertisers do not deserve much sympathy if they have only the one season.

No Cow There

Voice over the phone: "Mike Howe there?"

At the other end of the wire: "What do you think this is—the stockyards?"

The cub reporter assigned to centry on a Scottish golf course:

"Members will refrain from picking up lost balls until they have stopped rolling."

Polly's Specialty

"I'm not very well satisfied with that parrot you sold me," said the customer.

"What's the trouble lady?"

"You said he was a good talker and it never utters a word unless I give it half a dozen crackers."

"That's it lady. I forgot to mention that the parrot is strictly an after-dinner speaker."

A Bit Ruffled Up

"How did your family act when you broached the subject of our engagement?"

"Well," she replied, after a moment's reflection, "Just like a flock of birds."

"Birds! How?"

"Dad went up in the air; mother flew into the back room; my brother lit on me, and I didn't get a peep out of Aunt Jane all evening."

The Cutting Retort

A motorist ran over and killed a goat. The owner stood with arms akimbo, demanding to know what the motorist intended to do about it.

"Madam," said the motorist, "I will replace the animal."

"You flatter yourself," said the owner of the goat.

Awful Weather

"What's worse than raining cats and dogs?"

"What?"

"Hailing taxi-cabs."

Maple

(Special to The Liberal)

A large number of the staff of the Wholesale Superior stores of Toronto were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. C. Robeson at their home one evening last week. A corn roast was held and the rest of the evening was taken up with music and dancing.

Rally Day services were held in the different churches on Sunday.

Mr. J. Hughes has exchanged his property here for a house and lot owned by Mr. Lowrey on Barber Ave. Toronto, and is moving there this week.

Most of the farm stock and implements at Mr. T. Hughes' sale, went at a very good price. Mr. Hughes and his mother are moving this week to their new home in Weston.

Some repairing has been done lately to the sidewalks and crossings in the village.

Miss Ivey of Pittsburg, Pa. is visiting her friend Mrs. D. Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Jones spent the week-end on a motor trip to Muskoka and called on a number of old friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Perkins and Master Norman of Toronto spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Manning.

Miss Irene Jarvis of Toronto was the guest of Miss Mary Manning on Sunday.

DeForest-Crossley Radios



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