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 THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1927.

I pray Almighty God that the words I write in this house may be pure and honest—that they be dictated by no personal spite, unworthy motive or unjust greed for gain; that they may tell the truth as far as I know it—and tend to promote love and peace—amongst men.
 —William Makepeace Thackeray.

The Lenten Season

It has been claimed on numerous occasions by those who make it their business to study the human system and minister to the ills of the body that if there were no religious significance whatever in the lenten season its existence is quite justified in the physical benefits which come to those who observe the season.

The argument is that rest from such strenuous amusement and the efforts of social life, retirement to some extent at least from the hard and exacting programs which many follow, giving time for rest, reflection and abstinence from excitement, furnishes refreshment and renewal to the nervous system that may be found in no other way.

Then too, if one will observe some abstinence in food, changing the daily menu and restricting it as to some of the dearly loved habits, getting away for a time from the custom of over-eating, with which as a whole this continent is afflicted, it is almost certain that beneficial results would follow.

As for the moral and religious effect, there may be no question if one approaches lent in the right spirit. It is not a season in which it is expected that people will deny themselves with rigor, that might be practiced by a recluse, and then, with the coming of Easter return to all their excesses and for the 46 other weeks in the year run riot in the practice of every sinful and unhealthy habit to which they may be inclined. Rather, it is a special time during which one should check himself, and give more thought to the sterner realities of life, deepen his convictions through closer relation with religious teaching and instruction, and altogether take an account of one's manner of living his profession or his vocation; whatever it may be.

There is always a wholesomeness to be gained through the application of self denial. It is a comfortable thing to find out that one's habits, tastes and appetites have not gained complete mastery over the individual. Lent is a season in which this may be appropriately tested.

Reforestation

A much needed stimulus has been given to the Province's reforestation policy by the able address of Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, made in the Legislature last month on the occasion of the second reading of his Forestry Bill. It was announced that the Province is continuing its policy of free distribution of trees for reforestation purposes. Any resident of Ontario can secure 3,500 trees, free, each year for planting waste areas of the farm or for filling in the wood lot. Additional quantities may be had at a rate of \$4.00 per thousand. An additional 500 trees may be obtained for establishing a windbreak. No farmer in a position to take advantage of this offer should fail to write for application forms and further information to the Ontario Forestry Branch at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Sunspots which have been held responsible for weather conditions and even for wars are now said to have a direct bearing on the health of human beings. According to a statement presented to the French academy of medicine deaths the world over on days when sunspots are visible are twice as many as on days when they are not visible.

If the statistics offered are reliable there is a new problem for the scientists. It may be that there is something in astrology after all. At any rate there are still a good many things that have not been explained.

There is a proposal to retire all federal judges at the age of 75. The idea is, no doubt, that a time comes in the lives of judges as well as other men when they lose their capacity for usefulness; but the difficulty is in fixing an age-limit. Some people are old at forty or fifty; some are still young and capable of their best work at 75.

Under an ideal system a judge would be retired when his mental powers have declined irrespective of the years of his life. A judge should be all the better for his years if wisdom has come with experience. The fixing of the age limit at 75 would make easy the retirement of men who have passed their usefulness; but it would deprive the country of the services of others still capable of serving well and wisely.

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

York County (1792)

Now is the winter of our discontent
 Made glorious summer by this son of York.
 King Richard III.

York was called after the large county of Yorkshire in England which contains nearly 4,000,000 acres. The west riding of Yorkshire is particularly noted for its manufactures, for which the raw materials are abundant. Two great battles were fought in Yorkshire, one 1137, in which David, King of Scotland was defeated the other in 1460, when Richard, Duke of York was defeated and slain by the Lancastrians. The City of York, is situated about the centre of the county, on the river Ouse. Some writers try to trace its history to 1100 B. C. when Ebraucus built the city and called it Caer Ebrauc; but the first reliable account is that the Roman Emperor Severus and his two sons came to Britain 200 A. D. and made York their principle place of residence. In 1160 the first Parliament, called that name was held at York, in the reign of Henry II. York Cathedral is the largest Gothic structure in England. It was built at various times; the tower, which is the most recent, dates from 1370. Yorkshire names applied to the townships before the Canadian county of York was reduced to its present dimensions, are found all the way from Durham to Brant.

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Council Will Consider Plans For Improving Local Water Supply

Chairman Sloan of Water Department Has Arranged Interview with Provincial Representatives—Local Wells are in bad condition—Proposed Purchase of Recording Thermometer "Shelved" until April Meeting.

The regular March meeting of the Richmond Hill council was held in the clerk's office on Monday night with Reeve Lunau in the chair and all the members present except councillor McLean.

Chairman G. H. Sloan of the water-works Department reported that he had consulted the provincial department of health regarding the town water supply and had received some very good suggestions from the engineer of the department. He suggested that the council meet the provincial engineer at a special meeting when the matter could be considered in detail. Councillor Sloan said that the engineers of the department were quite sure they could offer a satisfactory solution to the problem of the local supply and were confident that the adoption of their suggestion would overcome the present objections to the town water. Chairman Sloan stated that the expenditure might run into several hundreds of dollars, but he would not consider any expenditure if he were not convinced that it would be a satisfactory solution. He was not in favor of spending money in experiments but if the water could be improved he would rather spend a little extra and make sure that it was right. "According to the Provincial Board of Health if the people of Richmond Hill realized the serious condition of many of the wells there would be a lot more homes using the town water," said Councillor Sloan. The water problem will be considered at a special meeting on Saturday, March 26, when the details of the proposed plans of the engineers of the Provincial Department will be placed before the council.

Regarding the resignation of Dr. Langstaff from the position of M. O. H. which was received by council at the last meeting the Reeve reported that there was no prospect at the present time of getting a local Doctor to fill the position. The resignation of Dr. Langstaff becomes effective on April 1.

A petition was received for a sidewalk on the north side of Centre street east of Church street and was granted. A petition for a cinder walk on Benson avenue was also favorably considered and the walk will be laid as soon as possible in the season.

The annual grant of \$25 was made to the Horticultural Society, and a similar amount voted as the annual grant to the Agricultural Society.

Little Bros. advised the council that it was intended to open a Ford Garage in the Palmer property on Arnold Street and it was their intention to remodel the building to comply with the building by-law. The matter was left in the hands of the building inspector.

A letter was received from the board of health stating that the board greatly desired that the council seriously consider the purchase of a recording thermometer for installation in the local dairy, as in the opinion of the members of the board it would safeguard the public in that it would record the proper pasteurization of the milk. The Reeve pointed out that this was an item of considerable importance and he would not like to take it up without a full council and as this was the opinion of the members the "recording thermometer" was laid over until the April meeting.

The auditor's report showing the financial transactions of the municipality for the past year was received from the auditor Allan W. Walker of Toronto.

Mr. Arnold of the Bedford Park Floral Company waited on the council relative to installing the town water in the greenhouses. The matter has been under consideration for some time and as the estimated consumption of the greenhouses would amount to several millions of gallons annually every effort is being made by the council to make some satisfactory arrangements with Mr. Arnold. A special meeting of the council will be held the latter part of the week to go over the ground and fully discuss the matter.

A deputation complained of the condition of the open ditch on Dufferin street and asked that the municipality take steps to have the condition remedied. Messrs. David Hill, Lloyd Hill and Messrs. Pearce and Mills were present on behalf of the people in that section. The Reeve assured the deputation that the council would seriously consider the matter.

Councillor Sloan drew the attention of council to the deplorable condition of Yonge Street, particularly in the southern section of the village. He was of the opinion that the condition was considerably accentuated by the road not having a coat of tarvia last year. He thought it was a case of false economy. The Reeve stated that tarvia would not have helped in that case as the ground in that section is very springy and that the road did not have the proper drainage. Reeve Lunau outlined his plans for fixing the streets of the village which included the patching of Yonge Street and Centre and Richmond Streets where they were not going to be gravelled; that portion which is too bad to be patched will be gravelled. It was pointed out that all those who had unfinished contracts from last year for drawing gravel were willing to continue at the same price.

On motion of councillors Sloan and Baldoek the attention of the department of highways will be drawn to the dangerous condition of Yonge street just south of the village and it will be suggested that a guard rail be erected. Reeve Lunau pointed out that the question of proper guard rails throughout the country was fully

discussed at County Council.

Councillor Baldoek asked that some gravel be put on Church Street as it was almost impassable in some places and the request was finally granted but not before Councillor Sloan plainly impressed on the members that there were other parts of the town which needed attention besides Church Street. If it were just for a few loads he would favor it "but we have had these requests for few loads sprung on us before," said Councillor Sloan. This remark precipitated some almost spirited repartee between the Reeve and Councillor Sloan relative to the past favors to Church Street as compared to Mill Street. However Councillor Sloan finally seconded Councillor Baldoek's motion calling for gravel not to exceed twenty-five loads to be put on Church street, and that the impassable holes on Mill and Centre street west be fixed at once. It was also understood that the condition of several ditches be looked into and remedied as early as possible. Sloan pointed out that certain residents had suffered real hardships this spring. The Reeve pointed out that many of these cases would have been fixed last year had not the unfavorable weather interfered.

Letters From The People

Thornhill, Ont., Mar. 8th, 1927.
 Editor, The Liberal.

Thirty-eight years ago a woman published a book setting forth the inconceivable attainments of men of science through four hundred years of heroism, perseverance, endurance, genius and every quality that ennobles life and gives to men a larger dominion over the powers of nature. In the intervening years wherever the English language is spoken this book has been read with increasing interest, and with an inspiration that has started many a young man on his way to outstanding success. A revised and enlarged edition of this book is in our library and is as interesting and inspiring to-day as when first given to the world. Sarah K. Bolton wrote and entitled it, "Famous Men of Science."

The pleasures of fiction cannot approach the thrill of enjoyment that comes to an aspiring young man when the facts of human struggle and conquest as unfolded in the life story of men and women who beat down all barriers that opposed their progress, who ventured upon unknown seas in pursuit of knowledge, who delved into the depth, or ascended to the heights, who opened doors that had been sealed from the beginning and have laid bare hidden things of sea and air and land.

The first story in this remarkable book tells of Copernicus in his weird struggle against the theory that the earth is motionless and the sun, moon and stars move around it. How he struggled with his own early training, with the traditions of ages and the blind authorities of the Church, how he overcame prejudices, how he sought and found evidence of his theory that the world moves round the sun, and gave to the world the first stone in the foundation upon which is built the structure of modern science, is set forth with a simplicity and charm surpassing all fiction.

The foundation thus began by Copernicus needed a Galileo to expand it and lay right the first rounds of the superstructure to be built upon it. The story of Galileo and the first telescope has in it information, suggestion and example that well might direct the young aspirants into the pathway of certain success.

In the life stories of Sir Isaac Newton, the discoverer of the law of gravitation, of Carl Linnaeus the father of modern botany, and of Sir William Herschel who probably discovered more stars and defined more laws that govern the movements of celestial bodies than any other astronomer, there is a charm that cannot be found apart from the records of great men living in the midst of great events.

And not less interesting and instructive are the stories of the other intellectual giants from Cuvier and Humboldt to Lord Kelvin and Thomas Henry Huxley. The very names are inspiring, Davy, Audubon, Faraday, Agassiz, Darwin, Pasteur and Fabre. Surely it is worth while to turn in to the library, see that your name is on the roll for 1927, get such a book as "The Famous Men Of Science," and feed the mind upon the outstanding facts and personalities of the last four hundred years, the most significant years of all time.

B. R. STRANGWAYS.

Report For S. S. No. 4, Markham For February

Sr. IV.—Elizabeth Campbell, Dorothy Wilson, Wesley Baker.

Jr. IV.—Elaine Beatty.

Sr. III.—Robert Campbell, George Baker, Ivan Bond, Helen Hughes.

Jr. III.—James McCague, Isaac Hughes, Murray Wideman, Henry Robinson.

II. Class—(Bessie Hughes, Lloyd Beatty, equal), Nora Campbell, Herbert Nelson.

Class I.—Beryl Farquharson, Harold Doner, Hazel Nelson, Wallace Bond, David Hughes, Lillian Horner, E. A. Caswell, teacher.

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