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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 1934

SUPERFLUOUS AND COSTLY ORATORY

York County Council is in session and we read of our County fathers speaking at length on various economic questions, passing resolutions regarding price-spread commissions, listening to oratorical contests, holding the annual Warden's banquet and so on and in fact doing almost everything except something useful to justify their existence. And all the while the taxpayers pay the county councillors at so much per day and mileage.

There has been an agitation for some time for the abolition of County Councils and lengthy sessions when the time is taken up in useless discussions of various topics strengthens the arguments of those who say there is no need for County body. If the members of County Council would "stick to their knitting," attend to necessary County business and then adjourn they would be better meeting the wishes of the taxpayers of the County. If certain members wish to turn the County Council into a debating society or a forum for the discussion of world economics let them by all means do so, but let them do it at their own expense and not at the expense of the taxpayers of the County of York. We cannot see that resolutions by the York County Council on every topic under the sun are going to do much to right the wrongs in the world or bring back prosperity. It is apparent much of the oratory at York County Council sessions is superfluous, and worst of all it is costly.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

It is an unfortunate fact of the present day that church attendance is not up to the standard of past years. A quarter of a century ago our churches were well filled for both morning and evening services and to-day diminishing church attendance is a problem of all religious denominations. Fading interest in religion is a sad commentary on our present day civilization. An old resident recently recalled that he remembered when it would be almost impossible to get a seat in any of the Richmond Hill churches at an evening service. "Now," he remarked, "one church would more than accommodate those who attend all services."

Our churches stand as the greatest moral force in the community and pay the greatest dividends to everyone who invests his heart sincerely in that which the church stands ready at all time to give. Support should be faithfully and generously extended to the churches yet one of the greatest modern problems of social welfare is the maintenance of church attendance.

Very frequently, in the summer season, it is the call of other attractions which limits church attendance—the open road, the habit of visiting distant friends on the Sabbath, etc. Then, too, there is much spiritual apathy to overcome. Herein lies the great task of the minister and his associates and all those who are interested in maintaining the churches as a vital, active force in our midst.

In every place there are people who never attend church who have no desire to enter the doors of a church and who openly confess that the church means nothing in their lives. On the other hand there are others who never attend church but who might be induced to do so.

Roger Babson, viewing the subject as an economist, says that "poor attendance" is at the bottom of church troubles. He suggests that the physical characteristics of churches be bettered, especially ventilation. He remarks, too, that the characters of the church members must be improved in a way that will "recommend them to non-church members." And he feels that records of attendance are highly important, more so than a record of the moneys taken in.

If all the implications are taken into account, these suggestions are important; but Mr. Babson's really significant recommendation is this: "See that sermons are vitalized." Mr. Babson says:

"After all, the success of the church depends upon its ability to make people believe they have immortal souls and that those souls are in peril and can be rescued through the plan of salvation offered from the pulpit."

If that idea can be put over other matters become incidental. If it can't the rest won't help much.

Mr. Babson's suggestions as to how the situation might be improved are interesting and worth setting down:

Each church should develop a definite spiritual and intellectual goal.

Should work for the economic well being of the people. The physical characteristics of the church should be improved especially the ventilation.

The character of the church members must be improved to commend the church to non-attendants.

Records of church attendance are very important and should be reported at annual meetings.

Insist on rigid standards for church membership. See that sermons are vitalized.

The influence of the home must be for the church attendance.

THE WAR GAME

More potent for good than a dozen disarmament conferences is the uncovering of munition makers' dealings, now in process at Washington. It completely robs war of its glamor to learn that nations can be and have been driven into battle by the diabolic conspiracy of interests standing to profit by the slaughter and misery entailed. It is debatable whether the human family will ever attain a plain of civilization in which the possibility of conflict between peoples will be eliminated. Until racial differences disappear, the impulse to battle for supremacy will survive. But such disclosures as are this week being made public must go far toward determining governments and peoples to curb their hostile impulse until they know clearly why they are being urged to battle and what interest stands to gain.

WAR PREVENTABLE

Sir Norman Angell, the great peace advocate, writes: "War is not a 'natural' catastrophe like a tidal wave or an earthquake. It is not inevitable; it is preventable in Europe like cannibalism, cholera or witch-burning, all of which, though once common in this continent, have been abolished by civilization. War depends upon the human will; upon what goes on in the heads of human beings, upon how they decide to order their society and to arrange their relations with their fellows. Any intelligent man can, with little trouble, understand the problem of preventing war."



No-Cause-for-Complaint Days

By John Edwin Price

Some months do not have many "special" days. Some special days stand out taller than the rest, Christmas, New Years, Good Friday, Easter, Mother's Day, Children's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day. These days we easily remember. Father's Day, duly established, we are gradually coming to think more about. There are many other special days. However, some months are not over-crowded with them. Whenever we can let's slip in a few No-Cause-For-Complaint Days.

My eggs weren't done this morning—but I thought I wouldn't grouch about it.

The homemaking-helper had been out half the night and her face was smirched with a drawn, cheerless look,—but I thought it just as well not to mention it.

I noticed some dust on top of my desk,—but thought I'd put off grumbling about it so long as I didn't have to send for a hoe.

There has been a cold drizzly rain sopping down all day,—but for a change I haven't doused anybody with a reminder of it.

There have, in fact, been forty things to-day which I might have grumbled and growled about. But since procrastination has had such a large place in my life when it didn't do too much good, I decided to try it in this regard and so to-day has been a No-Cause-For-Complaint Day.

Somehow, to-night I feel so much "lighter" and more carefree. I noticed my face didn't have the usual four o'clock drawn look. The maid had a lovely fluffy cake with nice gooey frosting all fuzzy with coconut. My wife looked particularly charming, possibly she reflects my mental attitude as a mirror does the face. I have resolved to have more "No-Cause-For-Complaint Days" in the future.

Many irritating things happen to irritable folks but which really are not big enough to be cause for complaint. Why are we always throwing mud into other lives, especially those we have to mingle with.

Maybe there was something to the old laboratory experiment with anger. A man was made very wrathful. He was then made to breathe into a test tube for three minutes. The condensed moisture of his breath was then injected into a guinea pig which died in three minutes. We cannot spill poison on others without getting some.

Why should I poison myself while nauseating others with unnecessarily concocted with mental excesses? I have therefore decided to have more "No-Cause-For-Complaint-Days" in the future. Why should I poison the innocent other guinea pigs about me. They are not to blame because I let little things be bigger than I, or for the condition of my liver. And it's probably true that the ways in which they irritate me are no worse than the ways in which I irritate them.

TEMPERANCEVILLE

The November meeting of the Women's Institute was held on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John Jennings with the President, Mrs. F. Wilkins, in the chair. The meeting opened by all singing the Institute Ode, followed by the "Creed." When the roll was called many useful and inexpensive "Xmas Gifts" were shown and the making explained. Rev. G. W. Lynd gave a very inspiring address on "World Peace." To appreciate peace we must first learn the horrors of war, it was stated. The Great War cost in property \$400,000,000,000. With that amount we could have built houses worth \$2500, and furnished each house to the amount of \$1,000, placed it in five acres worth \$100 an acre, and given all this to each and every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain and Ireland. After doing this enough money would be left to give each city of 200,000 inhabitants in all countries named a five million dollar library, a five million dollar hospital, and a ten million dollar university. And out of the balance enough money would be left to set aside a sum which at five per cent interest would pay for all time \$1,000 a year salary for each of an army of 125,000 teachers, and in addition to this pay the same salary to an army of 125,000 nurses. After having done all this, we could have enough left out of the four hundred billion dollars to buy up all France and Belgium and every thing that France and Belgium contain. That is every farm, house, factory, church, railroad, street car, in fact everything of value in those countries. After hearing this why, or do we, want war?

If each individual would prepare, think, talk, pray, and plan for peace, then our nations no doubt would follow suit, and in due time we would have "Peace," but not before.

A demonstration on the making and baking of short cakes was given by Mrs. C. Beynon, and "Oh Boy," were they good served hot with jelly and chocolate cake.

A contest "Guess what's on your pantry shelf," was given by Mrs. Nelson Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Wideman of Markham visited the latter's parents on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lloyd were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Thompson on Sunday.

Don't forget the Miscellaneous Bazaar at the church on Friday evening, Nov. 23rd.

The monthly meeting of the Willing Workers Mission Band was held on Saturday afternoon at the home of

the superintendent. The W.M.S. met last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Carr.

The experts tell us the world can now produce more of everything than it can use. What about suckers?

It was market-day. Prices had been high, and the man leaning over the fence round the sale ring was looking a little disconsolate. Suddenly a farmer rode up on an ancient horse. "How much do you want for the bag of bones?" asked the bystander, his interest awakening. "Twenty pounds." "I'll give you a pound." For a moment the farmer stared at the man in amazement. Then he dismounted. "Young man," he said, "I ain't going to let a little matter of nineteen pounds stand between me and the sale of a horse. The animal's yours."

TAXES

People who still have hair are lucky. It's nice to have something that doesn't ache when you have gripe.

The Third instalment of the current year's taxes is due

NOVEMBER 15th

Discount of 5 per centum is allowed when payment is made to the Village Treasurer at his office on or before

DECEMBER 1st

A. J. HUME, Treasurer
Richmond Hill, November 14th, 1934



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