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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 1934

LITTLE GIFTS

Christmas! What a day to conjure with!

Always a day to look forward to with joyful anticipation, ever a day to look back upon with cherished memories. Among all the christian nations of the world, in all their recorded histories, in all their legends, in all their traditions, no other day stands out so gloriously nor means more to mankind.

Christmas is not only the birthday of the Christ but the birthday of the greatest teacher of the greatest philosophy the world has ever known.

Our present civilization was rocked in the cradle of this philosophy and nourished on the truths it teaches. In our maturity we are rocked by individualism, nationalism, international jealousies and race hatred. One wonders sometimes if, after all, the experiences of the passing centuries have taught us much or little of the eloquence of that refrain so joyously sung when Christ was born — "Peace on Earth, Good-Will Toward Men."

And at no time in the history of the world, since the dawn of the first Christmas day, has mankind been in greater need of peace and goodwill and understanding among men of all nations, than now.

One year ago, we hoped this Christmas would find us more prosperous, more able to follow the custom of gift-giving and gift-receiving, and with that hope one year ago we proved our faith in ourselves, in our friends, in our future, in our country. Now that the day is here, we find unrealized the thing we so hopefully visualized.

There is still restlessness among the people; there is distress among the nations; still is that strange paradox of want amidst plenty a reality. But we are a peculiar people and undaunted, again hope for a brighter, happier and more prosperous day next Christmas.

Thus we do prove to ourselves and the world that we still cherish the faith of our fathers, that we do adhere consciously or unconsciously, to the Philosophy emanating from the manger in Bethlehem; and that, even in our adversity and perplexity, we still stand upon the two great foundation stones of this wonderful philosophy—Faith and Hope.

So long as we have these we should not worry needlessly about the tempting, tinsel trinkets which we are too poor to give and too proud to receive, for this is but a pretty custom. There is something greater, deeper, nobler than this; something as enduring as memory. This is the spirit of the Season, implanted in the hearts and minds of men to be re-born each Christmas day; and this spirit has five names—Love, Charity, Friendliness, Kindliness, Cheeriness.

If we can radiate the sunshine of one or more of these attributes of the Spirit, we are rich indeed, though poor.

May we continue to have faith in ourselves, faith in our fellows, faith in our future. May we continue to hope and watch and patiently await the dawn of the new day, and carry throughout the whole year the cheery spirit we so abundantly possess each Christmas Day.

For, after all, most priceless gifts one can give another, cost nothing, but make the recipient rich and the giver blessed.—A friendly smile, a kindly nod, a helping hand, a cheery word.—These are some of the little jewels we may have for the taking and give without stint or apology—little gifts from a great philosophy.

DO SPORTS PAY IN SMALL TOWNS?

At this time of year, when winter sports are just in the offing, those who follow the ins and outs of sport organizations may feel inclined to ask themselves if it pays to encourage sports in small towns. From the financial standpoint, of course, the answer is decidedly in the negative, but there are other things to be taken into consideration.

In the first place, sports such as hockey, curling, skating, etc., in winter; baseball, softball, lacrosse, etc., in summer, provide an outlet for the surplus energy of young and older folks, while at the same time they prove a source of entertainment for large numbers of spectators. In small communities these events are often the principal form of recreation. They are clean, healthful sports, and, if kept free of crooked practices, are an asset to any community.

The old proverb to the effect that idleness breeds mischief applies to the state as well as to the individual. The community that fails to provide means of pleasure and recreation is a fertile field for crime, and will find its standards of living reduced to a low level.

Aside from the recreational value of sports, they have also the effect of uniting a town and giving young and old a common interest.

Financially, sports find it difficult going in small towns, but they contribute to the life of the community much that is worth-while.

TWO YEAR TERMS FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

The members of York County Council at the December session approved a recommendation of the Legislative committee advocating that legislation be passed providing that municipal councils be elected for a two year term. While there are some good arguments in favor of such a plan the suggestion would look better coming from the ratepayers rather than from the municipal representatives. The members of York County council are apparently quite well satisfied with themselves and undoubtedly might like to evade the responsibility of facing the electors every January. However, the present system of electing representatives every year appears quite satisfactory to the ratepayers and is likely to continue for a long time. One year is not long for a good representative but it is obviously quite too long to retain a poor representative, and the opportunity of rejecting the services of a municipal councillor or reeve every year should not be denied the taxpayer. A representative giving good service should have nothing to fear from the present system.

WHY CHRIST CAME

By John Edwin Price

Nineteen hundred and thirty Christmases have come and gone since Jesus Christ "came to earth a little baby thing that made a woman cry." Why did he come? Let's ask Him.

"I came that ye might have life and have it more abundantly."—John 10:10.

"I am come in my Father's name."—John 5:34.

"I came from God, nor came I myself. He sent me."—John 4:34.

"I came to fulfill the law."—Matt. 5:17.

"I came to do the will of Him that sent me."—John 4:34

"He has consecrated me to preach the gospel (good news) to the poor. He sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim release for captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."—Luke 4:18.

"I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."—Matt. 20:28.

"Therefore, all things, whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you do ye even so unto them, for this is the law and the prophets."—Matt. 7:12.

"I came to seek and to save the lost."—Luke 19:10.

"I came to call sinners to repentance."—Mark 2:17.

"I came not to judge the world, but to save it."—John 12:47.

"I came into the world that I might bear witness to the truth."—John 18:37.

"I am come a light into the world."—John 12:46.

"I am the way, the truth, the life."—John 14:6.

"I came that in me ye might have peace. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."—John 16:33.

When facing a worse ordeal of physical, mental and spiritual torture than you or I will ever be called upon to face he said, in the majesty of his inner God-harmonized calmness, "In the world ye too shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, be of GOOD CHEER, I have overcome the world." Here is sound advice and troubles antidote packed into one sentence.

As the young folks say now-a-days, "He could take it." He came to show us how, NOW and FOREVER.

"Go ye therefore into all the world and tell this good news to every creature."

Hepburn Government May Make Milk Public Utility

PREMIER ENJOYING WELL-EARNED HOLIDAY

With Premier Hepburn thousands of miles from his busy office, the hum of political machinery at Queen's Park has taken on a somewhat slower tempo but the week's news still maintains its interesting character.

There are more front-page stories in Ontario daily newspapers when the premier is at the helm than there are when he is absent, but developments at Parliament Buildings during the past few days reveal the trend of government policy along widely different lines, and for this reason they have attracted wide attention.

First and foremost, there is the unemployment relief problem which still continues to hold first place in public interest. From the guarded statements issued from time to time by Hon. David Croll, Minister of Welfare, it is apparent that the government is proceeding full sail ahead with a policy to standardize and correlate all relief systems in the province, allowing sufficient latitude, however, to meet the needs of individual municipalities.

Cash relief is to be extended to unorganized territories in Northern Ontario and a zoning scheme for the entire province has been devised. Now that the differences between the Provincial and Dominion Governments as to financial contributions to the Trans-Canada Highway and arterial roads have been ironed out, the Department of Northern Development is proceeding to establish road camps at strategic points in the north. Approximately 40,000 men will work in these camps.

For years the milk problem has confronted government authorities and all attempts to settle the controversies between producer and distributor and among the distributors themselves have proved abortive. Now the Hepburn Government is tackling the situation and Acting Premier Harry Nixon has announced that the government is considering the distribution of milk as a public utility. This would entail the setting of prices between the producer and the distributor and between the distributor and the consumer. The provinces of Manitoba and Alberta have such a law in effect and it has worked out successfully.

The Milk Control Board of Ontario has insufficient power to control the various distributing companies or to settle milk wars which flare up periodically. The controversy in Hamilton, for example, has been in progress for a considerable time and all efforts to effect a settlement have so far failed. The action of co-operative firms in making rebates to consumers has aroused a storm of protest from other dairies and it is reported that one or two small dairies have been forced to the wall as a result of the dividends paid back to consumers.

If the Hepburn Government passes legislation at the next session to make milk distribution a public utility, it means, in effect, that the Milk Control Board will go in for price-fixing, always considered a dangerous experiment. But it is admitted that something must be done and only legislative action can bring remedies.

From the Department of Health comes the announcement that in future all appointments to Ontario mental hospitals will be on the basis of examinations and that "political pull" will have no bearing on the choice of physicians. This announcement from Hon. Dr. J. A. Faulkner, Minister of Health, is long overdue. It is well known that "pull" has been instrumental in gaining positions for doctors, apart entirely from the question of merit and fitness for the positions.

There is urgent need at the present time for additional hospital accommodation and it is reported that pressure is being brought to bear on the government to enlarge existing facilities at Ontario hospitals. The need for more accommodation is believed to be one of the reasons why the Department of Health is anxious to inaugurate the examination system for candidates so that there will be sufficient well-trained men on hand when expansion takes place.

Announcement of the proposal to amalgamate a number of municipalities adjacent to the city of Windsor and create a greater Windsor with a population of over 100,000 was one of the features of the news stories emanating from Queen's Park. In prosperous times the Border Cities went on a spending splurge which threw them into the wrong side of the ledger when the crash came and money became hard to get. But despite bankruptcy, these municipalities still continued to operate under separate municipal councils with all the duplication of services that this entails. The city of Windsor was willing to widen its boundaries to include these municipalities and a movement was set in motion which had its culmination in the recent announcement.

The amalgamation will be good news to bondholders as there is a bright prospect to these bankrupt municipalities redeeming their obligations in due course now that the heavy cost of government is soon to be materially reduced.

But if we should consume more things to provide more jobs, must we also have more diseases to provide more work for doctors?

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