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EVERY DRIVER HIS OWN TRAFFIC OFFICER

If every motorist would start an individual safety campaign of his own, the present appalling accident record would go into a tailspin. Nineteen hundred and thirty-four witnessed a tremendous increase in highway accidents. A new high in fatalities may have been established. The cure is knowledge that tells you how to drive under all conditions, and a sense of responsibility you owe to all who use the highways.

When you take your car on streets or highways, three definite factors are involved: First the road; second, the car, and third, the human element—yourself and others. Practically every automobile accident can be traced to one of these factors, and third is infinitely most important.

For every accident that can be blamed on the road or the car, a dozen can be blamed on the driver. It is an established fact that the majority of accidents occur on good, straight highways in ordinary weather, and involve cars whose mechanical condition is inadequate. The mounting accident toll is an indictment of driver, carelessness and thoughtfulness, and a lack of feeling of responsibility to others as well as to one's self.

MAY ADOPT NEW PRISON SYSTEM

Adoption in Canada of what is known in England as the "Borstal system" for special care of boys sentenced to penitentiaries, is being considered by the Dominion government.

Boys under 21, when sentenced for three or more years instead of going to the penitentiaries, would go, under this plan, to a separate institution, except in the case of those considered incorrigible. They would therefore have no contact with older prisoners. A complaint against the present system in Canada has been that boys are often thrown into the company of hardened criminals.

At a Borstal institution in England, the boys do mostly outdoor work, on building construction, stonemasonry and bricklaying and other forms of employment. After serving part of their sentence, they are released if they have satisfactory jobs to go to. The whole object is to turn out boys with a new outlook on life.

An important part of the system is what are termed "Borstal associations," voluntary organizations of persons anxious to help the boys make good. These bodies keep supervision over them.

A COURAGEOUS ADMINISTRATION

No government has more completely disregarded political considerations in formulating public policy than has the administration headed by Premier Hepburn. In a choice between what is politically expedient and what is sound and sensible, even though disapproved by a more or less large minority, the Hepburn government has always chosen the latter course.

Last week a deputation from the Catholic Taxpayers' Association waited upon the premier. A couple of days after this the premier went to Hamilton and made a speech. Both occasions demonstrated the courage of the premier and his colleagues. To the Catholic deputation, the premier promised consideration of the old, old request for legislative amendments ensuring a more equitable distribution of school taxes. And in Hamilton, addressing the Retail Druggist Association, the premier of Ontario came out flat-footed for a reduction in the number of municipal governments in the province and the abolition of overlapping as between provincial and federal services.

There is no need to explain where the question of courage and political honesty enters the picture. No government in thirty years has ever had the moral courage to decide on its own responsibility this most controversial question of separate schools and taxation. The premier told the Catholic taxpayers that his cabinet would consider the requests after hearing both sides of the story. He emphatically told them that whatever decision was reached, it would be without recourse to the courts. Immediately upon this being made public, Protestant organizations set up a protest and prepared to send a delegation to wait upon the premier.

Up to the time of writing, the Protestant deputations have not visited Queen's Park. When they do, the premier and his cabinet will give them every consideration and will listen to their side of the story. And when all the arguments have been heard, the cabinet will decide the vexatious problem.

We are not taking sides in the matter but the point to be emphasized is that the GOVERNMENT and NOT the courts will decide what is to be done, and that is as it should be. There will be no shirking of responsibility for the sake of retaining votes.

The second example of fearlessness was shown in the Hamilton speech. The premier frankly declared that there were too many municipal governments in Ontario and that the number would have to be reduced in the interests of economy. This is not going to please the office-holders who may be affected, but it is in the interests of the taxpayers as a whole and the welfare of the many has been placed before the welfare of the few. Here again, is an illustration of a government at its best.

The premier's Hamilton statement fits in with the previous announcement made by Hon. David Croll, Welfare Minister. Bankrupt municipalities—some forty of them—must in future pay three per cent interest on their bonds and contribute towards relief. And they will not be allowed to increase the tax rate or cut salaries. It is all part of the great plan to rehabilitate municipalities and start them off on a clean page. Food allowances have been standardized, minimum shelter allowances have been established, proper supervision is being given to relief expenditures, and gradually the hard-working and far-seeing minister of welfare is bringing order out of what threatened to be chaos.

It took courage to do many things which the municipalities did not want to do. Some of the policies were unpopular, but they were in the interests of the province as a whole and that fact is now being recognized.

ADVISING OURSELVES AND OTHERS

By John Edwin Price

When attending a basket ball game one frequently hears an enthusiast on the sidelines say, "If I were in there I'd do so and so."

How easy it is for us to say the same thing in the great game of life. So often we think we can see just where the other fellow is making his errors. And of course it is true that sometimes those on the sidelines do get a better perspective of the whole situation. On the other hand would we do it any better if our perspective were that of the fellow we would like to advise?

Looking back over the Game of Life as we have thus far played it we get a different view of some plays that we made. We can see from this distance how we should have done differently. Possibly that is the real reason why many of us past forty (one of whom we are which) are so prone to advise the young, especially if the advising doesn't involve any confession as to what fools we made of ourselves when our grand opportunities presented themselves for star plays.

One of the drawbacks to this delightful pastime of giving advice is that people are often like the darkey who went to a lawyer. As he rose to go the lawyer said: "Ten dollars, please."

"What fo?" said Sambo.
"For the advice," answered the lawyer.
"Nuthin' doin'," grinned Sambo, "I ain't gonna take it."
Yes, the other fellow is a little slow on taking our advice. Well, let's not be too hard on him. Do we take it ourselves? I don't mean from the other fellow. I mean our own.

Nearly everyone knows what he or she ought to do. We can't quite get ourselves to go through with the denying or preparatory process which would make us healthier or wealthier or wiser. Do you suppose it can be because we are a little stiff-necked about being told what to do and that we have allowed this mental rheumatism to go so far that we even resent our own better urges to ourselves?

Do we cling to the foolish notion that only weaklings need to be told? If we are capable of advising others, and none of us are so dumb but what we know something helpful the other fellow doesn't, then why don't we listen more carefully to our own inner urges and give ourselves some good advice,—and TAKE IT?

Nuff ced! scuse me please. I must take myself to one side for a few friendly words.

NEWTONBROOK

Newtonbrook United Church held its annual meeting last Tuesday evening with a large attendance. The Congregational Banquet at 7 p.m. was very much enjoyed by all, who gathered as one large family around the festive board. The members of the Women's Association assembled early and had everything in readiness. Some of the members were unable to attend owing to illness in the home and these were very much missed in the number, but altogether a very happy social time was spent. At the close of the meal the pastor called the meeting to order and offered prayer, followed by a hymn. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the secretary, Mr. W. T. Wells. Before giving his report Rev. A. H. Halbert gave a heart to heart talk to his parish and asked for the co-operation of every member. There was much to be done in the community and all had a share in the responsibility and by all working together a great deal more could be accomplished. He emphasized the need of personal work.

During the year the pastor made 937 church calls, attended 205 meetings, 14 funerals, 4 weddings and preached 104 sermons.

In the past 4½ years he had received 91 into church membership, 20 were received last year.

The treasurer, Mr. Harry Smith, presented a well prepared report. The Sunday offerings had increased considerably owing to larger congregations at the services. The report of the Building Fund was very encouraging. The debt had been reduced to \$93.00.

The Sunday School report given by the secretary, Miss Janet Riddell, showed great activity. Instead of the annual sleighride a supper was served the Sunday School children followed by moving pictures of an educational nature.

The annual Picnic was held in June to Bathurst St. Park. A Garden Party was held on the church grounds on July 25. Capt. Reid also gave the children a very happy evening showing pictures of his travels through Europe.

Some of the great days of the Sunday School were Mothers Day, Rally Sunday, White Gift Service, Sunday School Anniversary and Christmas entertainment. Twenty-five baskets had been given the needy at Christmas.

Missionary and Temperance Sundays had been observed.

The Cradle Roll has 35 members. The Home Dept. secretary, Miss Edna Street, reported having made 43 calls. There were 22 members and they contributed \$11.35 to the Sunday School collections.

There were 17 regular teachers and one assistant on the teaching staff with perfect attendance on several Sundays. Four children succeeded in attending every Sunday. These were Phyllis and Wanda Riseborough, Mabel Brett and Thelma Riddell. There are 217 pupils enrolled. Total raised by the Sunday School was of thanks was extended to the organ-

\$401.17 including \$44.91 to Missions, list, choir leader and choir for their

In connection with the Sunday School there is a Sunshine Club with Miss Cora Good in charge. Flowers and fruit had been donated to sick and bereaved ones.

Mrs. Walter Johnson reported for the Women's Association. During the year 356 church calls had been made by W.A. members. One member (Mrs. Galbraith) had been called to Higher Service. Mrs. Shaw reported total raised was \$343.66.

The report of the Y.P.S. was presented by the secretary, Miss Doris Soden. It has a membership of 45. Offer twenty young people attended the Y.P.S. school at Thornhill and several received certificates for Credits. The Y.P.S. presented a play last Mach. Miss Doris Van Luven, treasurer, reported \$140 raised, including \$33.66 for Missions.

There was a balance of \$34.96 in treasury.

Mrs. A. H. Halbert presented the report of the W.M.S. which had an average attendance of 26. The study book was used. Addresses had been given by Miss Beulah Graham of Montreal. Mrs. Longley, formerly of China, Mrs. Cameron R.N. of Sudbury and Miss Atkinson of Oxford House. Dr. Retta Kiborn had been special speaker on W.M.S. Sunday in May. At this service a representative of the Mission Band and Girls Mission Circle assisted the W.M.S. president.

The W.M.S. presented an Easter Pageant in which 50 took part. It was repeated on Good Friday evening. The Kingdom of God movement had been presented and a Prayer Group established. Temperance was also stressed.

A Bale consisting of womens and childrens clothing and babies layettes valued at \$40.60 was sent to Supply Secretary. The W.M.S. accepted invitations to King City, Maple and Willowdale and took part on programs. They also entertained neighboring auxiliaries.

The Girls Mission report was given by Miss Edna Street. The Study Book was reviewed. During the winter months a babys complete layette was made and at Christmas a contribution of dolls prettily dressed was given to the Chinese Mission in Toronto. The Circle had presented two short missionary plays in October. One meeting was devoted to Temperance when Mrs. George, Provincial Secretary of the W.C.T.U., addressed the meeting. Their allocation was exceeded.

Miss Hope presented a very encouraging report of the Mission Band with an average attendance of 93% of the membership. This exceeded their allocation. A very successful Mission Band Rally was held at Newtonbrook United Church in October.

The Baby Band, with Miss Annie Lever in charge, has a membership of 70. She had made 50 calls. The W.M.S. entertained the Baby Band members and mothers at the June meeting with 50 in attendance. The choir carried on very successfully during the year. A hearty vote

great assistance at the Worship Services.

Mr. A. W. Galbraith presented the Missionary and Maintenance report. It is slightly below last years givings but donations are still coming in and will be received until January 31st.

The Boys Club was a very live organization last year with a membership of over 60.

Weekly meetings were held with always a devotional period. Physical training and swimming instructions were given and recreation also had a part on the program.

The boys gave a concert last March in the early spring two baseball leagues were organized with a Junior and Senior team from the Boys Club. The Junior team won a Silver Cup in the contest. Nine teams were in the competition.

Mr. Jack Duggan, who gave the report, expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Boys Club to Mr. W. T. Wells, their leader, and also Sunday School teacher for his great interest in the boys and who so generously gave of his time.

The Board of Stewards were re-elected. Tribute was paid Rev. and Mrs. Halbert for their faithful services and an unanimous vote of deep appreciation was extended to them.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mr. Edward Brett.

A play entitled "Aunt Sophia Speaks" will be presented this (Thursday) evening, Jan. 31st, at 8.15, in the Sunday School Hall of Newtonbrook United Church by the W.A. of Willowdale under the auspices of the local Women's Association.

A miscellaneous shower was given Miss Eleanor Moore at her home last Thursday evening by over fifty of her friends. Prior to her marriage, which takes place this week. A very happy evening was enjoyed and dainty refreshments were served.

A song service was held last Sunday evening in the United Church. Special numbers were given by the choir and the congregation joined in singing many of the old time favorite hymns.

The Y.P.S. met last Wednesday evening with about eighty in attendance. The president, Mr. W. T. New, was in charge of the opening exercises, after which the meeting was handed over to the Literary Vice-President, Miss Doris Soden. The Young People's quartette gave two selections. The guest speaker was Professor A. Baker of Toronto who spoke on "The Life and Works of Milton." A hearty vote of thanks was extended to him for his very scholarly address. Willowdale and Lansing Y.P. Societies were guests. Refreshments were served and a happy social hour spent together.

Miss Cora Good, Christian Fellowship Convener, will be in charge of the Y.P.S. meeting next Monday night. A group of young people from Toronto will assist in the program.

Among those who attended the W.M.S. annual meeting of Toronto Centre Presbyterian which was held in Deer Park United Church last Tuesday were Mrs. A. W. Stephenson, Miss Lever, Mrs. James, Mrs. Halbert, Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Soden.

Miss Loraine Brown represented the Girls Mission Circle.

A colored gentleman who appeared in court as a witness was asked: "What is your name?"

"Calhoun Jefferson, sah."

"Can you sign your name?"

"Sah?"

"I ask if you can write your name?"

"Well, no sah, Ah nebbor writes my name. Ah dictates it, suh."

The Queen's Park Arena

The Department of Welfare and Municipal Affairs has once again stolen the Queen's Park Spotlight. In a clear-cut and concise statement, Hon. David Croll, the former mayor of Windsor, has advanced another step in the tremendous scheme to salvage the forty wrecked municipal governments of the province.

Bondholders who, in the flush days of the pre-depression era, invested their money in municipal bonds, have been the "forgotten men" of the day, but the Hepburn government has come to their rescue. Because a man holds bonds is no indication that he owns money. In many cases the situation was exactly the reverse. Many municipalities paid their obligations promptly when revenues were fat and steady but when the evil times came along the bondholders were left holding the bag—an empty one.

So now the Minister of Welfare has told the 100 per cent municipalities that they must pay at least three per cent interest on their indebtedness. They must go after unpledged and unpaid taxes for the money. Those municipalities which have escaped the full effect of the searing blight and have been able to pay as much as five per cent must scale down their payments to three per cent and contribute something towards the costs of relief. And this is fair, taking into consideration the fact that the government has had to pay the whole cost of relief in these bankrupt areas.

Slowly but steadily the Hepburn government is bringing order out of confusion. The whole problem of relief is being viewed, not as a temporary matter, but as something which much be combatted with permanent machinery and equally permanent measures. To-day the municipalities of Ontario know where they stand and the line of action they must take to regain financial stability. A year ago this claim could not be made with any degree of accuracy, but a fresh viewpoint and a sound knowledge of municipal affairs, plus untiring energy,—which the Hon. David Croll possesses—has made possible the brighter picture which has already been painted in bold strokes. Possessing the confidence of his chief, the premier, as well as that of his colleagues, the Minister of Welfare has gone far towards rehabilitating the forty insolvent municipalities and in bolstering up many others that were on the verge of bankruptcy.

Much remains to be done. The financial burden of relief is a staggering one and the province is paying out tremendous sums in order that its promise to the citizens may be kept. That promise, made during the election campaign, was to look after, in adequate fashion, the unfortunates who were compelled to look to governments for food and shelter, and what is more, the Hepburn government has removed the morale-breaking features from the relief system. A systematic, dignified system has been given to the municipalities, and men and women need feel no longer that there is any stigma attached to being on relief.

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