

## THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26th, 1935

### THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

With all its beautiful thoughts and sentiments, the Christmas season is here again, a reminder of that greatest of all events, which took place in Bethlehem, and of the message then given to the world, "Peace on Earth, Good-will toward men."

It is a time for showing goodwill toward our fellow-men, renewing our flagging spirits, re-establishing hope and putting aside all angry and uncharitable thoughts.

The worthy customs of Christmas may seem to a few as an expression of the crass materialism of commerce or of the mistaken ideals of foolish altruists, but to the vast majority of ordinary folk it is symbolic of those great virtues of Charity, Friendliness, Unselfishness and Helpfulness so beautifully taught by our Lord.

Is Christmas "giving" not too much a matter of "receiving" on the part of some? is often asked. It is unfortunate that a few should be so selfish and so unchristian that they lose entirely the true spirit of Christmas. On the other hand the vast majority of people deem that attitude unworthy.

Mary Pickford, in a recent magazine article, told of a woman in California who goes to the post office and collects all the letters addressed to Santa Claus and then before Christmas starts out in a truck and delivers to each one just what they asked for. Also of a young man in a large department store in Los Angeles, who spent more than three weeks in this store, purchasing what he wanted to give, and his purchases on one floor amounted to more than 200. In each case the gift was delivered and the recipient did not know whom it came from.

Such exemplification of the true Christmas spirit should help us realize more strongly than ever that the Christmas season is a season of human sympathy, friendliness, and giving for the sake of the happiness provided others. Let us enjoy the true spirit of the Nazarene's birthday!

### MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS TIME SWEEPS OVER ENTIRE WORLD

The magic of Christmas lies over the world to-day, changing the dreary commonplace events of yesterday into things of wonder and delight and filling the earth with happiness and joy and cheer. It permeates the whole earth from end to end and mankind in every land and in every clime responds to it in the fullest measure. For into our hearts at this time there comes a beautiful something that raises us above ourselves and brings us to greater heights than we ever reach at any other time. For with the magic of Christmas time man buries self in trying to promote the happiness and well-being of others and in doing this finds greatest happiness for himself also. For it seems as if the more we give of love, of service and of ourselves the fuller grows the store from which we draw upon and the richer we grow in the things that make for our own happiness. Let us then allow the magic of Christmas to fall upon us so deeply that it may not only stay with us at this time but through all the days to follow.

### SHALL EVER A STAR SHINE AS THE BETHLEHEM STAR?

(By Edgar A. Guest)

Shall ever a star shine out to me  
As the Bethlehem Star of old?  
Shall ever the wise men turn again  
With their frankincense and gold?  
And follow the star to the radiant King  
That had come to be stable born?  
And, oh, shall ever the angels sing  
As they did on that happy morn?  
Shall ever men treasure another day  
For all that it means to them?  
Shall ever there be in the far away  
Another such Bethlehem?  
Shall ever the bells ring out at dawn  
Such glorious joy for all  
As they did when the Saviour of men was born  
On the straw of a stable stall?  
The days have come from the womb of time,  
Dawned, risen to noon and died,  
And some have come when the bells would chime  
And when the world was tried;  
But never through ages old and grey,  
Since ere the world began  
Have mortals witnessed another day  
That has meant so much to man.  
Now He that once in a manger lay  
Still lives in the hearts of men,  
The world is keeping His Christmas Day  
As the wise men kept it then.  
Forever the heavens shall ring with song  
And ever the bells shall chime,  
And this glorious day that has lived so long  
Shall live to the end of time.

JUST A PLAIN, GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WISH,

## Merry Christmas

AND GOOD LUCK AND HAPPINESS IN 1936

### BERT WOLFREY

PAINTER & DECORATOR  
Richmond Hill, Ontario

## LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

TREASURER OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY  
DISCUSSES WORK OF THAT  
ORGANIZATION

Dec. 16, 1935

The Editor, "The Liberal,"  
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Dear Mr. Editor:—

An editorial, which appeared in your issue of November the 28th under the heading "York Children's Aid Society," has been forwarded to the office of our Society. Due to illness, the President of our Board has been unable to answer this editorial personally and I have been requested to submit a few facts to your paper which will, I hope, modify your viewpoint in this matter.

It is quite true that our Society, incorporated about a year ago, has been forced to request an additional grant from the Treasurer of York County Council to enable the satisfaction of this year's requirements. We cannot, however, agree with your view that the contributions of York County Council to the work of the Society for the calendar year 1935 have reached proportions which should be considered alarming when the extent of the work of the Society has become known to the taxpayers generally.

In this connection, I might point out that the Board of Directors of our Children's Aid Society was recruited some thirteen months ago in part by the Department of Public Welfare and as to the remainder by the Council of the County of York. Generally speaking, the Board is representative of the various municipalities going to make up the County and in its membership are some four members or ex-members of the County Council who, like your good self, have consistently maintained the attitude that the contribution of the County Council to the work of the Society should be kept down to the reasonable minimum.

The financial assistance which we requested from York County Council last January was based on such few statistics as were available to our Board when it assumed office upwards of a year ago and at that time, we were plainly warned by the Department of Public Welfare that due to the lack of information as to the extent of the problem of neglected children in this County, our budget would of necessity be a matter of speculation and that the County Council would of necessity have to make some adjustment at the end of the year 1935.

This prophecy, on the part of the Welfare Department, has turned out to be the case, and on November the 22nd ultimo, I explained to the County Council that to complete this year's work, we would require a net contribution of some \$7,000.00 over and above the original grant of \$25,000.00.

I might say at this juncture that after the year's work had been presented to the County Council by Mrs. Ritchie, our President; Mrs. Cane, our Director from Newmarket; Mrs. Driscoll, our Superintendent and myself, our request for further funds was given the most sympathetic consideration and an additional \$6,000.00 was voted to our Society by practically the unanimous consent of the Council.

I regret that I cannot ask your paper to print in detail the facts advanced by the foregoing members of the Society in their application for this additional grant. It will, we think, suffice for the moment to say that our application for increased financial assistance was generally the result of the fact that the scope of the problem of neglected children was far wider than our Society had ever anticipated and contained ramifications not even dreamed of when our Board assumed the honorary and perhaps thankless risk of bringing some order out of a system which may mildly be described as chaotic.

I am pleased and grateful to your paper in its assurance of the genuine sympathy of the citizens of York County with the work of the Children's Aid Society and I am particularly pleased that your editorial has pointed out that the past few difficult years have increased the difficulties of the problem of neglected children.

I cannot, however, bring myself into agreement with your proposition that there is a general feeling that the increased costs of our Society are not justifiable and especially do I demur at this suggestion when I think that even with the increased cost of operation, many of the children under our care are still supplied with only the bare necessities in the way of clothing, that fully one-half of them need dental and medical treatment which, up to the present, we have been unable to afford, and that even with the increased staff and better facilities for transportation, we have been

unable to contact some fifty or sixty children who are, properly speaking, the obligation of our Society.

Again, I must take exception to your reference to the "high salaries" of our staff and the excessive administration costs of the Society generally. You will be interested, if not surprised, to learn that it was no easy matter for our Board to get a staff together. The salaries paid to our Superintendent and other members are moderate enough when compared with the usual standards of emolument paid generally throughout the Province to social workers of their experience and standing.

The administration costs during this year did, in some particulars, exceed the amounts for which we budgeted, but here again you will probably feel more sympathy for our Society when I tell you that we did not have fifty cents' worth of equipment to go on with when we took office outside of the equipment at the Shelter which had run down to the very last stages of utility, let alone reasonable comfort.

Generally speaking, the increased cost of this year's operation of the Society is due to what is known as preventive work together with the higher allowances paid to boarding homes. It is our belief that while the result of our preventive work will not be felt immediately, our efforts in this connection will have the eventual result of preventing numerous cases from becoming wards of the County which, of course, involves legal liability until these cases attain twenty-one years of age.

I wish to assure you at this point that our financial statements from time to time or any other information which you may require as a matter of public interest, will be cheerfully given to you upon request. I would further welcome a personal interview with you at any time convenient to you so that you might have an opportunity of acquainting yourself with more of the detail of the work of our Society.

Our Society's only regret is that we have not been able to obtain more voluntary help from the citizens and organizations of this County at large. It is quite true that many of these have manifested a most definite and timely interest in our work. Some \$3,000.00 has been contributed voluntarily to our Society during this past year and in addition, many articles of food and clothing have been sent to the neglected children under our care. It is our hope that as time goes on, we shall be able to enlist a more widespread and constructive sympathy.

Far from any feeling of resentment or reproach over your editorial, I think it is the feeling of our Board that any stand taken by the Public Press, having for its object the relief of the tax-paying public, is most commendable. At the same time, however, we do hope that you will not be unmindful of the gratuitous efforts of our Directors who have given so freely of their time and means during the past year to lay the foundation of a system having for its object the solution of one of the most vital and human social problems confronting the people of this County.

Again thanking you for your interest in the matter and extending Seasonal Good Wishes, I remain,  
Sincerely yours,  
WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN,  
Treasurer,  
Children's Aid Society of York Cty.

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## Merry Christmas Folks!

AND MAY GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS  
AND FORTUNE BE BY YOUR SIDE ALL  
THROUGH THE COMING YEAR.

### I. D. RAMER & SON

Richmond Hill, Ontario



## Christmas Greetings

WE FIND JOY IN EXTENDING TO OUR  
CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS, BEST WISHES  
FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

### W. LAUDER GLASS

Richmond Hill, Ontario

## Merry Christmas to You

THE GOOD WILL OF OUR PATRONS AND  
FRIENDS IS ONE OF OUR MOST VALUED  
ASSETS. THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON  
BRINGS TO US RENEWED APPRECIATION OF  
OLD ASSOCIATES AND THE VALUE OF  
MANY NEW FRIENDS.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE HAPPY AND  
SUCCESS ATTEND YOUR NEW YEAR.

### H. P. TROWELL

Richmond Hill, Ontario



## Greetings

WITH WARM WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS  
AND THE COMING YEAR, WE TAKE  
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND AN AP-  
PRECIATIVE GREETING.

### Sheppard & Gill Lumber Co.

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## Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

AND WE THANK OUR MANY CUSTOMERS  
FOR THEIR VALUED PATRONAGE DURING  
THE PAST YEAR.

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