

"THE LIBERAL"

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AGE AND IDLENESS

It is a strange quirk in human nature that, although each one of us must eventually grow old, we are so often impatient with age, and inclined to crowd old people out of our activities. There is danger of placing too much emphasis on youth, with its energy and enthusiasm, and forgetting that age has the wisdom and experience that are just as necessary.

So many old people, after active, useful lives, find their declining years turned into a monotonous round of uneventful days until they become self-centred and querulous from lack of absorbing interests. Is it any wonder that so many old people have a sad and frustrated expression?

While age is necessarily barred from many active pursuits, it has open to it a great many pleasures and pastimes that satisfy the craving for an interest in life. To be obliged to forego these and sit with folded hands and watch "the world go by" is enough to warp the sweetest nature.

But it is not only in pleasures that old people would share, for years of daily toil have taught them to prefer activity to idleness; and in depriving them of simple tasks one often takes away one of their chief joys. The fussy kind of care that will not allow grandma to dry the dishes or peel the vegetables, or grandpa to putter around at "the chores" often makes life unbearable for them. Most of us would rather "wear out" than "rust out," but we might steer a course between the two in our dealings with those who, though old in body, are young in spirit.

YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT HUM

"Business," a Bowmanville merchant told us recently, "is just like shining a new automobile. It looks nice, but it won't get you anywhere unless you make it hum."

The merchant was discussing advertising and speaking from experience of a recent advertisement in this paper. At an inexpensive figure, he had inserted an appeal which noticeably accelerated his week's business, aiding him both in clearing bargain lines and offering new season's goods to the public.

His experience is not unique. A newspaper that goes into practically every home in the district, that is welcomed and read with interest by young and old, offers the enterprising merchant the best medium he can select to inform the public of the scope of his possible service to them.

Business is not static. It must move forward or fall back. The merchant who keeps himself and his business before the public, and extends a regular invitation to all to come to his place of business, is the man who moves forward.

Newspaper advertising remains the most economical and most effective method of getting that invitation out to the most people.—Bowmanville Statesman.

A WOODEN CROSS COST \$25,000

Few people are callous or stupid enough to say that war is actually a good or desirable thing. But certain people contend that war exists to save the world from over-population. Charming thought, isn't it?

Let's see if the bookkeeping of the world war bears it out. In the war, it cost \$25,000 to kill one man. That's the official price tag on each of those little wooden crosses that bloom where poppies used to grow.

Invested at a modest 5%, \$25,000 would give a return of \$1250 each year. The average income, for the head of a family in Canada, certainly isn't much over \$1,000. It's less in other countries.

So it seems the world got stuck. We paid too high a price to get rid of those 17,000,000 men, who might have been "excess population" to some, but not to the people who loved them.

Right now the world is drifting toward another war, in which \$25,000 will be a bargain price for blowing a decent human to destruction, and 17,000,000 dead will be only a beginning.

But gruesome figures, and denouncing the monstrosity of the last war will not stop the next. The one thing that can stop it is an aroused public opinion of hitherto unknown magnitude.

Let us solidify the desire most people have to abolish the whole silly business of war. Intelligent efforts can and must be made against it.

SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Christmas is the one time of the year when the "giving spirit" is predominant. Most people are busy preparing for Christmas in their own home, but we should give a thought to those families where the prospects of a bountiful Christmas are not bright. Let our thoughts stray to others who probably will not have a visit from Santa Claus unless some action on your part results. There are folk in town and district, through unfortunate circumstances and no fault of their own, who will view Christmas with anxiety and probably with injustice. Their vision is obscured with hardships and want. They have not the wherewithal to make the season joyful for the little ones, sad but true. For them the season is dark and dreary. A little neighbourly feeling, good-will and cheery greetings accompanied by some gifts of kindness, at this hour, will make their Christmas as lovable and enjoyable as your own. Make a resolve, if you have not done so, that you will do your utmost to make as many as possible happy and contented this Christmastide. Your good deeds will make life more pleasant for yourself and others.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Down in York County people have been criticizing the county council for the length of the sessions and the consequent cost at \$7.00 a day and mileage. Last year the total paid councillors was \$19,000 of which \$11,000 was for committee work. Now it is proposed to pay each York member \$225 and mileage. If this is adopted, watch the length of the sessions dwindle. We think the county council costs in Simcoe are unduly high, yet they look easy compared with York's extravagant pay roll.—Barrie Examiner.

VELLORE

The Junior Farmers met in the hall on Tuesday evening of last week. Miss Agnes McLean gave a very interesting talk on her trip to Chicago. Miss Gladys Harrison read a paper on Christmas and gave several helpful hints for home made Christmas decorations and cards. Miss Clara Phillips conducted a contest which was won by Miss Margaret Watson and Miss Mabel Rumble and Current Events were read by Miss S. Windas. The newly elected officers for the next year are: Girls: Pres., Miss G. Harrison; Vice-Pres., Miss S. McNeil; Sec'y, Miss C. Phillips; Assistant Sec'y, Miss C. Brownlee. Boys: Pres., Murray Irwin; Vice-Pres., Austin Rumble; Sec'y, Washington Diceman; Assistant Sec'y, Wilbert Hadwen. Mr. Cockburn addressed the joint meeting and showed slides of scenes in York County. Lunch was served and after the reading of the "Vellore Pep" by Ray Phillips the meeting was closed by singing "God save the King."

The Project Girls entertained their mothers at the home of Mrs. J. Brownlee on Thursday evening of last week. After the girls displayed their arts of cooking and serving a supper to the mothers an enjoyable evening was spent playing Court Whist.

Wedding Bells are ringing in the district.

Don't forget Vellore Christmas Concert Friday evening, December 18th.

The W.M.S. of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church met at the home of Mrs. Jas. Robson. The executive for the new year is: Pres., Mrs. James Robson; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. J. McNeil; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. S. Jones; Secretary, Mrs. A. Cameron; Treas., Mrs. E. Harris. Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Bryson and Mrs. Bishop took part in the program. Lunch was then served by the hostess and the committee in charge.

CONFEDERATION YEAR PRICES

A subscriber sent us an old copy of the Hamilton Spectator, dated March 27, 1867. Among the articles were prices on the Guelph Market. We found them interesting and reprint them. "Flour, \$3.50 to \$3.75; fall wheat, per bushel, \$1.75 to \$1.95; spring wheat, \$1.40 to \$1.65; midge proof, \$1.40 to \$1.50; oats, per bushel, 34c and 35c; peas, 55c to 60c; barley, 45c to 50c; hay, per ton, \$10.00 to \$12.00; straw, per load, \$3.00 to \$3.50; shingles, \$1.00 to \$1.50; wood, per cord, \$2.50 to \$3.50; wool, 33c to 34c; eggs, per dozen, 12c to 12½c; butter, per lb., 12½c to 13c; potatoes, per bag, 50c to 60c; apples, per barrel, \$2.00; lamb, per lb., 6c to 7c; beef, per 100 lbs., \$5 to \$7; veal, per lb., 5c to 6c; pork, per 100 lbs., \$5.75 to \$6.30; sheep pelts, each, 50c to \$1.00; hides, per 100 lbs., \$6.50 to \$6.75. The prices quoted are all in bills." This was in the good old days remember.—Drayton Advocate.

Do Its Own Road Construction

The County of Simcoe Road Commission are on the lookout for some road machinery that will enable them to do all kinds of highway construction work. In past years when a contract involving something out of the ordinary line of work it has been necessary to let a contract to a construction firm in Hamilton, Kitchener, or some other point outside the confines of the county of Simcoe. Members of the Road Commission have come to the conclusion that this work can be done by Simcoe county labor just as well as by labor from outside the county. All that is needed is the essential machinery with which to accomplish any class of highway construction. When this is procured and the county is in a position to undertake all its road work the money will be paid to Simcoe county citizens and not to people from outside the county.

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Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—A substantial improvement in the value of Canadian field crops is one of the brightest news items which have come out of the Bureau of Statistics for some time. The gross value of production was \$85,000,000 higher this year than last year; and at the best level for six years. It would not be true to say that the cash income of the Canadian farmer from field crops was up quite that amount, because some of the crops are fed right on the farm. Just the same, it means that the farm income is the best since 1930, and as it was accomplished during a year when only light harvests were secured in many parts of the country, it is all the more significant. The gains were not evenly distributed throughout the country. The increase in Prince Edward Island (over 1935) was 20 per cent; Nova Scotia 14 per cent; New Brunswick 39 per cent; Quebec 16 per cent; Ontario 18 per cent; Manitoba 49 per cent; Saskatchewan 15 per cent; Alberta 1 per cent; and British Columbia 21 per cent. The gains were, of course, almost entirely due to better farm prices. Since a great deal of the secondary industry of Canada depends upon farm purchasing power, these are encouraging figures for many parts of Canada. A good deal of that extra 85 million dollars will find its way into commercial channels at once.

(Shock of Abdication)
The news of the King's abdication fell upon the capital like a thunderbolt. If the time and geographic element had not made it impossible, there is no doubt that a special session of parliament would have been called so as to be sitting when the momentous announcement was made. If it had been, legislation would immediately have been passed concurrent with that in the British House. As this was impossible, the next best thing was to call a special session of cabinet council, and there an order was approved requesting the British government to include the Dominion of Canada in the necessary legislation. The Canadian capital heard of the news with profound regret subsequently mingled with some relief and resignation that it was over. Aside from the coronation plans, the designs which had been completed for stamps, coins and bills, it was not apparent in the early stages that the abdication would have any deep lasting effect on Canadian affairs. It was clear everywhere that allegiance and reverence would be amply paid to the new monarch.

(The Provincial Conference)
Eight provincial premiers and a host of ministers and officials gathered at the capital for the National Finance Committee's meetings last week. The whole question of provincial budgetary positions, the need for further help in balancing budgets, the desirability of better timing for loans, and the need of greater uniformity in fiscal statements, were thrashed out. It was decided that the obsolete 'gold clause' which was contained in many bond issues, of governments and corporations, would be eliminated by legislation. When Canada went off the gold standard, there were still in existence clauses in many bond issues requiring, if strictly interpreted, the payment at maturity in gold at \$20.67 per fire ounce. Of course gold could not be secured by private corporations, or even, perhaps by provincial governments, and the payments were never insisted upon. It would have ruined anyone who tried it, because the dollar, in terms of the old gold standard, was now only worth about 59 cents. A \$1000 bond would have required over \$1600 in gold to redeem it.

The simplest and easiest way for the provinces to get out of the woods would be to get some more large hand-outs from the federal government. The trouble with that solution is that the federal government has gone behind about a billion dollars in the past six years, and doesn't think that the process can be continued indefinitely without heading into disaster. The provinces, I understand, were told that last week by Hon. Charles Dunning, who is just as anxious to balance his budget as anyone.

(New Export Plans)
The conference this week of the agricultural authorities is expected to bear important fruit in a strengthening of the farm export machinery. Hon. J. G. Gardiner is a great believer in pushing the sales of cattle, hogs, cheese, cream and other farm commodities abroad. He believes that in the direction of cheaper distribution, and lower cost of production, as well as in the maintenance of high quality and continuous supply, much can be done to solve the problems of the farmer in this country.

At the same time the three western provinces were discussing with the Dominion further long-range plans dealing with drought areas.

HEALTH

A HEALTH SERVICE OF THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN CANADA

FRESH AIR

Fresh air is one commodity of which we cannot have too much. It is altogether likely that most of us get sufficient air in summer time, but during the long winter months, far too many people keep the doors and windows of their homes shut tightly, and submit themselves to breathing air which has not sufficient oxygen to be healthy.

Stale air which has been deprived of much of its oxygen is more likely to be germ laden. A hot stuffy room can be a contributing factor to human infection. As well as being fresh, air should be neither too dry nor too moist.

Buildings which are kept heated to a comfortable body temperature in winter time should have a constant supply of fresh air. In the ordinary home, the opening and shutting of windows and doors during the day time will perhaps fill the bill; but it is just as important that one have sufficient fresh air when asleep; therefore, do not have your bedroom sealed tightly. See to it that sufficient air is admitted from the outside to prevent air stagnation. It is not necessary to allow the wintry blasts to blow into your room reducing the temperature almost to freezing. Open the window just sufficiently to keep the room at a comfortable heat and yet have circulation of fresh air.

People who endeavour to provide themselves with the greatest amount of fresh air are less likely to be subject to frequent respiratory infections which are so common during the winter months.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College St., Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

An English scientist says a sponge can be taken apart without killing it. But the important question, is will that method stop his sponging?

IMPORTANT POSTAL REGULATIONS

There are many important postal regulations that many people are not aware of. One of these is that once a letter is posted the postmaster positively cannot hand it back to the sender no matter how urgent the application may be. Once a letter is posted it immediately becomes the property of the person to whom it is addressed and can only be returned to the sender if delivery is found impossible. In this connection it is always advisable for the sender to write his name and address on the back of his letters and if delivery cannot be affected it will be returned directly to him. Otherwise the letter would have to be opened at the dead letter office in order to ascertain the name and address of the sender and on its return the sender is taxed with return postage. A postmaster is not legally bound to furnish change to persons purchasing stamps but can require the exact change for any purchase made. Neither is he required to place the stamps on letters or parcels for anyone.

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