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THURSDAY, MARCH 4th, 1937.

\$1056 IN CIGARS TO STATUTES REVISERS

The Attorney-General informed the Legislature last week that the revision of the Ontario Statutes in 1927 cost \$129,000 and of this amount \$60,000 went to the commissioners for the time they devoted to the job.

Going back further, Mr. Roebuck pointed out that it took ten commissioners eight years to complete the 1914 revision, at a cost of \$275,000. The commissioners drew \$107,000 but the worst feature of the affair was the "extras" to which they, according to the Attorney-General's statement, helped themselves from the public purse - \$6019 on luncheons, \$1056 on cigars, \$519 on newspapers and \$676 on cab hire.

Spending public moneys for such extras as those mentioned by the Attorney-General is entirely inexcusable. Publicity is the only remedy for this sort of thing and Mr. Roebuck would be doing a service to the taxpayers by publishing all the details.

It is gratifying to learn from the Attorney-General that this year's revision is to be made by the legal staff of the Parliament Buildings at a cost which will be "trivial" as compared with similar work in former years.

THERE ARE NO UNTAXED

The New York Times objects to the many plans for unemployment relief work to be provided with the aid of "federal funds." Whatever else may be said of so far-reaching a proposal, the Times thinks that it would be a gain for clearer thinking if people were to say in such matters "federal taxes," instead of "federal funds."

In Canada, there is an idea that when the Dominion Government undertakes to subsidize an activity of the provinces that the provinces themselves do not pay the bills. Similarly, when the provinces make grants to the municipalities, the municipalities do not think that they are meeting the cost. The idea is thoroughly fallacious.

The people of the province of Ontario, for instance, pay more to the federal government in taxes for their share of old age pensions than the aged people of Ontario receive in return. The citizens of Toronto pay more to the provincial government as their share of the taxes diverted to per diem hospital grants than are paid by the province to Toronto hospitals.

If people would get into their heads the idea that every governmental expenditure, no matter how or by what authority it is made, is eventually included in the tax bill and other bills that they pay, they would give less support to spending ideas. The man who never writes out a cheque for income tax to the Dominion government, who does not own an automobile or go to the theatre, and who owns no city real estate, pays, every day of the year, his share of the taxes. That portion that he does not pay directly, is absorbed in the cost of goods and services that he buys and in lessened opportunity for profitable employment.

THE RESULTS OF GENIUS

Making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, and the claim that if you make a better mouse trap than any of its predecessors the world will wear a path to your door, may have its points but it has its disadvantages as well.

It has dawned on most people very forcibly of late that most of the brains of the world has up to now been devoted to production, and very little to distribution. And this frenzied production has led to so many short cuts that numerous blades of grass are growing when one grew before, except in drought areas, and in the industrial field machines have been invented that have displaced manual labor to such an extent that that factor is more to blame than anything else for unemployment.

The older people recall seeing grain threshed by spreading the straw on the barn floor and turning six or eight horses in on it and keeping them stirred up by loud commands, backed up by the snap of a long lashed whip. Later came the threshing machine propelled by several teams of horses on a sort of merry-go-round, with a man in the centre touching up the tardy with the same kind of a whip and more of the same language. This sort of threshing would be a curious sight in these days of steam and gasoline propelled machines that seldom stay on an Ontario farm a full day before the job is done, and then hurry on to the next stand.

Yet this is typical of the advance in all lines of industry, and machinery is still being improved and later types developed which more and more lessens the need of human hands. In the south a cotton picker was invented that threw six millions of negroes out of work, while in our own west, before successive crop failures put a temporary stop to progress, a combination harvester and thresher was being introduced that threshed the grain as it was cut, doing away with the labor of stooking, afterwards collecting the sheaves and drawing them to the thresher, and feeding them to the machine.

These instances only touch the fringe, the changed conditions calling for re-adjustments all along the line. Even the return of good times may not mean the end of unemployment. But it probably will mean shorter hours, with possibly two shifts a day to give more people a chance to earn a living, and on top of this higher wages will have to be paid if the standard of living thought necessary on this continent, at least, is to be maintained.

So that the people who have found a way to stimulate mother nature to greater efforts, and the intellects that perform miracles in labor saving machinery are wonderful in their way, but they create problems for lesser lights to solve.

Advertise in "The Liberal"

NEWTONBROOK

Rev. Frank Rae and Mr. Fred Good of Willowdale paid a friendly visit to the Young People's Union last Monday evening. Mr. Harold Duggan, Christian Fellowship Convenor, was in charge and led in the devotional exercises. Rev. F. Rae gave an inspirational address on "Christian Citizenship." Miss Beatrice Johnston and Mr. Hicks Smith were appointed delegates from the Y.P.U. to attend the Ontario Temperance Federation which is being held in Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Mrs. A. W. Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Caines, Mrs. F. Summers and Mr. A. W. Galbraith were appointed delegates from Newtonbrook United Church and Sunday School to attend the Temperance Convention.

Mrs. L. Heading of Homewood Ave. is confined to her home through illness. We hope she will soon be about again.

Lenten Services are held in the United Church each Sunday. The choir rendered a very suitable anthem last Sunday morning, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." A song service preceded the evening service.

The Boy Scouts are entertaining their parents at a Supper Meeting this (Friday) evening in the United Church S. S. room.

The Mission Band met last Saturday at 2.30 p.m. with 40 in attendance. Miss Lever was in charge. A very interesting program was presented.

The Woman's Association is holding their regular meeting on Thursday at 10.30 a.m. This is a quilting meeting. Luncheon served at 12 o'clock, followed by the business meeting.

Earl Haig Collegiate Alumni Society present "Here Comes Charlie," a play in three acts at Earl Haig Collegiate on Friday, March 5th at 8.15 p.m.

The Annual Athletic and Novelty Night of Earl Haig Collegiate Institute will be held on Friday night, March 12th at 8 o'clock.

The Toronto Conference Branch of the W.M.S. is holding its 12th annual meeting in Parkdale United Church on March 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

North York Horticultural Society will hold its regular meeting next Monday evening at 8 o'clock. Mr. John S. Hall will be the guest speaker and will bring with him the beautiful colored lantern slides he showed at the King Edward Hotel during the convention of the Ontario Horticultural Society two weeks ago. These received more than ordinary favorable comment from the visitors. You will have an opportunity of seeing them next Monday evening in the town hall. Plan to come and bring your friends with you.

The death of Luella Turmon, aged six years, occurred at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Turmon, Goulding Ave., last Thursday, Feb. 25th. The funeral took place last Saturday to Memorial Park Cemetery. We extend sympathy to the bereaved family.

The teachers and officers of Newtonbrook United Church Sunday School will hold their regular monthly meeting this (Thursday) evening at 8 o'clock in the Sunday School hall.

Special prizes of books were given to Miss Ruth Douglas and Miss Clementine Hewitt for perfect attendance last Sunday morning during the S. S. session. The presentation was made by Mrs. Halbert.

The annual Sunday School Supper and entertainment was held last Saturday at 5.30 p.m. in the United Church S. S. hall. The teachers assembled early and had everything in readiness and the tables fairly groaned with all the good things and still there was some left and boxes made up for others who were unable to come. The attendance was larger than usual. The tables were all filled and improvised tables set up to accommodate the younger scholars. The members of the Young Ladies' Classes assisted the teachers in serving. The entertainment followed with singing and lantern slides, Rev. A. H. Halbert and Mr. L. Grisdale giving the story and Mac Douglas was lantern operator. Miss Cora Good was pianist for the evening. Everyone had a happy time and all were able to be back to Sunday School the next morning at 10 o'clock.

The United Church choir is preparing an Easter Cantata for Easter Sunday evening.

PEEL ASSESSMENT UP

Brampton—When equalization of Peel county assessment is taken up by county council in March it will be based on a total assessment of \$20,082,221, an increase over last year of \$180,075. County population is 28,012.

VEJLORE

The Young People's Society of St. Paul's and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church held a progressive crokinole party at Maple on Friday evening. There was six tables played and the prize winners for the evening were as follows: Ladies, 1st, Miss E. Farr; consolation, Miss E. Jarrett. Gents, 1st, Bruce Constable; consolation, Mr. Steventon. After a social time lunch was served.

The project girls met at the home of Miss S. Windas on Wednesday afternoon of last week with the leader in charge. The next meeting will be held at the home of Miss S. McNeil on March 10th when the class will undertake to make an orange crate clothes closet.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Jarrett and Mr. and Mrs. D. Jarrett visited with Mrs. Geo. Jarrett on Sunday afternoon.

The Vellore Euchre Club met on Monday evening in the hall. The prize winners for the evening were: Ladies, 1st, Mrs. L. McNeil; 2nd, Miss D. Davidson; 3rd, Mrs. Davidson, and consolation, Mrs. E. Harris. Gents, 1st, Mr. G. Davidson; 2nd, Mr. G. Foster; 3rd, Mr. L. McNeil, and consolation, Mr. W. Crane.

Miss Muriel Caseley was the holder of the lucky ticket at a concert in Woodbridge recently when she received a Hawaiian Guitar.

SAYS NEW YEAR'S SILLY HOLIDAY

(William F. McDermott, in Cleveland Plain Dealer)

New Year's Day is the saddest of holidays, even for people who don't make fools of themselves the night before. It marks another victory for the tyrant of mankind, time. It is another click of the shuttle that weaves our shroud.

I don't know why we should be so gay about it. As a matter of fact we aren't.

This midnight whistling and laughing and shrieking in greeting to the New Year represents a fraudulent merriment. It is whistling in the dark and laughing for fear of being obliged to weep.

In a dim sense we feel our defenselessness against the mystery and the invincible onslaughts of time and we crowd together for consolation and buoy our spirits with the outward forms of merriment.

These loud voices and this shrill laughter have an echo in the heart which says "another year gone, another year nearer an unknown here after."

New Year's is a silly holiday. The world is millions of years old. It should stop having birthdays.

One year in the march of eternity is no longer than a split second in the life of a man. We don't go around celebrating a man's birthday every tenth of a second. That is what we do for eternity when we cut it up into years and make a great to-do on the first of every January.

There is some sense in celebrating the Fourth of July, or Thanksgiving or Christmas. They commemorate liberty, the bounty of nature, the birth of a great spirit. New Year's celebrates mankind's greatest and most implacable enemy, the briefness and the decay of time.

Personal birthdays are bad enough. Why should a man wish to celebrate the fact that he is one year nearer the grave? But there is some human and sensible reason for observing the birthday of an individual.

After all, it is something of a personal triumph to be born, to stand up against the depredations of infant mortality, to escape plagues, epidemics and lunatic automobile drivers and to wind up at the age of 40 or 50, more or less whole and in possession of the usual number of legs, arms and sense.

In the case of an individual's birthday, it is not the mere passage of time that we celebrate. It is the fact that he is still here in the face of the obstacles that were put in his path.

I am told that New Year's in China has its practical aspects. It is the day on which every righteous Chinese makes a reckoning of his accounts and pays up all the debts that have accumulated during the year. That method of celebrating the New Year has its obvious advantages.

FRANK EGAN

Frank Egan of King Township died on February 22nd in his 76th year. He was a member of the King township council for 11 years. He was a Conservative in politics and a member of the Orange and Masonic Orders. Two brothers survive, Joseph of Vaughan and David of King. Walter Withers, C.P.R. agent at Beeton for 18 years, died in Barrie on Feb. 23. He had been living in Barrie for the past few years. He was a prominent mason, being a pastmaster of Spry Lodge, Beeton.

CHESLEY'S TAX PLAN

Chesley town council has accepted the clerk's report on a schedule providing for payment of taxes in three instalments and will consider the necessary enabling by-law at the next meeting. The schedule provides that all taxes may be paid in three equal instalments on or before the 20th days of April, August or November. Four per cent will be added to all taxes unpaid after the last due date. It is also provided that if any such taxes are paid within the dates specified after the last day for payment the percentage charges will be:

Upon the First Instalment

From May 21 to May 311%
From June 1 to June 301%
From July 1 to July 311%
From Aug. 1 to Aug. 201%

Upon the Second Instalment

Aug. 20 to Aug. 311%
Sept. 1 to Sept. 301%
Oct. 1 to Oct. 311%
Nov. 1 to Nov. 301%

Upon the Third Instalment

Nov. 20 to Nov. 301%
Dec. 1 to Dec. 201%
Dec. 20 to Dec. 312%

Upon all taxes remaining unpaid after December 31st, in addition to the above percentages, the statutory interest penalty of 1/2 of one per cent for each calendar month will be calculated from January 1st of the year following that in which the unpaid taxes were levied.

MORTGAGEE DECIDES TO SELL FAIR LANDS

Will Auction Brampton Fair Grounds on March 6
Brampton—Announcement has been made here that the Brampton fair grounds will be auctioned off on Mar. 6. The announcement was made by solicitors for the mortgagee. Bidding will be subject to a reserve bid, while the terms will be ten per cent cash and the balance by April.

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