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THE CREED OF DEMOCRACY

In his recent volume on "Why Democracy," Jas. William Hudson sets forth the principal points on democracy's credo in the following statement:

- We believe:
1. That the welfare of all men is the genuine part of the welfare of each man;
2. That, although men are differently endowed, no person or class knows enough to set limits to what any man may become;
3. That true equality means an equal chance for every man to show what he can be and do;
4. That the resources of civilization belong to each man in proportion to his power to use them for his good and the good of all;
5. That every man should add what he can to these resources of human progress;
6. That the issues that affect human welfare should be decided by reason, not by authority; and that the collective reason is, on the whole, a safer guide than the isolated reason of any individual or class;
7. That it is every man's right to protect his own and every other man's rights by participation in government.
8. That true freedom under such government is the freedom to seek the social goal according to the free reason of each, but freely subject to the revision of all;
9. That all the rights which democracy gives a man are obligations whose betrayal destroys his rights;
10. That, therefore, democracy justifies itself only so far as it possesses the spirit and ability to fulfil these obligations.

It is conceivable that if the above credo had been actually observed, students of government and statesmen would not now be holding conferences on "how to preserve democracy."

COUNTY COUNCILS MUST GO

The York County Post commenting last week on the opposition expressed by present members of County Council to the proposed abolition of County Councils as a part of our governing system said, "Obviously, the boys are afraid Mr. Hepburn has his useful reforming axe aimed to cut off this surplus sucker-growth, namely county councils."

Hepburn will have no more creditable piece of work to his record if and when he abolishes the entire drag of county councils. So we think the boys are trying to sweep back the rising tide of public repudiation of county councils by pretending that reforestation and conservation are county affairs.

Well, that's a laugh.
The 10 or 12 county plantations are really the product of the provincial O. F. B. and only the graft and drag may be laid to the various counties. Our York County Plantation is a sample. The inner circle knows the wire-pulling the chicanery and waste that this plantation represents. It is not even playing at reforestation.

County Councils now have no valuable part in education, none in highways, none in social services, so why keep up the expensive pretence of their value.

Formerly Scarboro paid a levy to the County of \$86,000. We got \$32,000 back for secondary education. Now we pay \$70,000 and get back \$5,000 mostly for Agincourt continuation school.

The T. Y. C. Roads pretend to do valuable highway service. As a matter of fact the township could provide infinitely better road service at a quarter the cost.

The County's "Justice" Department properly belongs to the Province, with a magistrate or a J. P. in each township for certain causes.

Scarboro, and this applies to almost every county municipality in Ontario, is paying its biggest bill for useless, inefficient County wastefulness. York County costs us more than Relief. Twice our public works, all our secondary schools costs, our salary bill thrice over - and from York County we get a very great deal of abstruse, obtuse, wire-pulling oratory that keeps taxes high and renders not a single item of value to any municipality about Toronto.

County Councils must go!"

WAINWRIGHT STAR HOPEFUL

In a jubilant frame of mind the hopeful little Saskatchewan weekly said last week:

"There be times and circumstances when it is permissible to forget the tribulations of others, and this is an instance.

"There is moisture in the ground down from two to four feet, and more on the way, in this drought-scoured region that was doomed to revert to desert. For the donkeys of this region it matters little just now that Russia is rounding up bunches of political misfits for the national sport of mass executions, or that Germany is goose-stepping and telling the world that they won the Great War and are ripe for another raid of Europe; or that the Japs and Chinese are bombing each other off the map.

"The big thing in this neighbourhood is that the long drought is over. Since Monday it has rained and snowed and rained again-sloughs, culverts, ditches and dug-outs are filled to capacity; rural councillors are busy distributing millions of bushels of seed and within a week everyone will be busy on the great gamble with Nature, and this time it looks like a winner."

NEVER HAD COUNTY COUNCIL

There is talk of reducing the number of members in Ontario Parliament from ninety to fifty and doing away altogether with County Councils. In Muskoka we have never had a County Council and I do not see where we have suffered from not having one. County Councils cost a lot of money, but whether they are worth it can best be answered by those who have them. If the number of members of Parliament were reduced to fifty it should greatly reduce the cost of government. One could hardly go through the Parliament Buildings at Toronto without being almost stunned by the office accommodation which seems to be all used. That has all to be paid for by the people of Ontario. If they could reduce the number of employees to the proportion of fifty to ninety it would be a great relief to the taxpayers.—Bracebridge Gazette.

UP TO COUNTY COUNCILS

We have often maintained that if the county councils are abolished in Ontario it will be their own fault. The need for county governing bodies has been slipping away as transportation grew easier. The plea is made that they "are nearer to the people" than the legislatures, and that their membership can be changed each year, while provincial elections take place only once in four years. They'll have to give a better reason than that for continued existence. They're not as close to the people as the municipal councils, and it is seldom that a reeve is elected or defeated because of county matters, but rather because of municipal issues.

It will be interesting to see what the county councils do to justify their existence during the next year. Will they hold fewer sessions and cut down costs of government? Will they lop off the useless services? Will they take up reforestation and other powers that counties still possess and can administer to advantage? Or will they continue to make a holiday of the June session, as some county councils do? Will some of them continue to hold five sessions a year while others get along on three? Will they hold expensive banquets for the wardens? Will the members of county road committees continue to travel long distances looking over roads, at public expense for salary and mileage? Will they conduct their sessions in businesslike fashion, opening on time and working a reasonable number of hours each day? It is up to the county councillors themselves very definitely now. Unless they can get public opinion on their side, they seem to be on the way out.

If the Ontario Legislature held five sessions a year, there would be more talk of abolishing it, too.—Fergus News-Record.

HINTS FOR GARDENERS

Velvety Lawns

No small garden is complete without a lawn and the richer, greener and softer that lawn is the better the whole picture. Good grass, rich and smooth enough to rival of the famous turf of the Old Country, is not a difficult feat, experts declare, though they admit that some care is required.

The point out that the average person forgets that grass is an ordinary garden plant requiring food and care just as much as flowers or vegetables and seed selection is also just as important. Good lawns are produced from top quality lawn grass mixtures, which contain proper proportions of the finer permanent grasses.

Seed should be sown liberally and the ground fertilized. Rolling in the spring and watering regularly are also advisable.

This treatment will keep grass, a rich dark green and growing fast enough to crowd out the weeds. Patches of the latter in old lawns are usually a sure sign of worn-out soil weak from starvation. In hot weather grass should not be cut as short or as often as in the spring and fall.

Garden Pictures

Although the informal flower garden is much to be preferred for average planting, at the same time this does not mean just throwing in plants. Experts advise a little preliminary planning even when only a small bed of annuals is contemplated. The good seed catalogue which lists time of blooming, colors, heights and other points greatly simplifies this matter of lay out.

Generally the best plan is to have the larger flowers towards the rear or centre of the bed so that little things like nasturtiums, alyssum, dwarf phlox and similar kinds will not be hidden. Where the bed is to be mixed, it is well also, state the experts, to have late, medium and early flowers evenly balanced to insure something always in bloom.

But there are other and finer points to consider. Certain shades blend well together and often a whole bed will be selected with this blending in mind. Of course for this sort of thing, all the plants must bloom during the same period. Fragrance should be taken into account, as there are some spicy flowers like Evening Scented Stocks, Nicotina, Mignonette, Sweet Sultan and Verbena, which while rather plain as plants, fill the whole garden with a delightful incense.

Mistakes

Too soon, too close, and too deep it is claimed, are the new gardeners most common mistake in sowing either vegetable or flower seeds. The average amateur starts operations days or sometimes weeks too soon and stops long before satisfactory operations can be continued. With the general run of vegetables and flowers, there is no advantage in getting things in while there is still danger of serious frost. One set-back from a cold day or two completely offsets the early start and may indeed mean replanting the whole garden. This caution of course does not apply to very hardy vegetables or flowers or to grass seed. These should be sown just as soon as grass is fit to work.

The second mistake of too deep planting is also a common one. Authorities recommend as a general rule only planting to a depth of three times the diameter of the seed. This means that seeds like peas and beans will be covered with about an inch of soil but tiny things such as lettuce and poppies will be merely pressed in.

Spacing is important and yet even the enthusiast does not care to spend much time kneeling and thinning. Labor can be saved by properly spacing the seed as planted. Corn, beets, peas and similar plants with big seeds can easily be sown at the distances advocated on the packet. With tiny seeded lettuce or alyssum however, it is practically impossible to space by hand but if the seed is first mixed with a little sand and the whole sown carefully plants will be spread out.

Women are fast thinkers. When she gets mad she can think of more cuss words and not say them than a man can think of and spit out.

Statesmen need long training. It takes time to overcome the habit of making reckless statements that would look silly in print.

No nation should be judged by its magazine covers.

MAKING CANADA

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LETTER No. 3

Dear Sir:

May I say that I like the way your press association is tackling its job in striking out to get some dominant and constructive note relating to the activities of your fellows of the weekly press. Their influence, I would think, is the most powerful influence in this country and so could be a great factor for good or evil. I think they are nearer to their constituents than anyone else, except possibly the physician and the clergyman, but they have the advantage over these two of speaking regularly and at some length, to all their people.

I think that if on the spur of the moment, had to urge some program upon the weekly editors, I would urge that they use all their influence to incite in the people of their communities, a real sense of citizenship. It seems to me that Canadians, probably like people of other countries, have not developed this sense in the full. By this sense of citizenship I mean a consciousness of the privileges we enjoy as members of a democracy with a full appreciation of the responsibilities which those privileges entail.

I mean also, a local patriotism of an intense and pure character but second in intensity to a national patriotism. I think Canada, by reason of geographical circumstance, with barriers such as the thin strip between Quebec and the Maritimes, the waste dividing Ontario from the Prairies and the towering mountains between the Prairies and British Columbia might be more vulnerable than more compactly arranged and densely settled countries to the development of sectionalism and frankly, I don't see how this country is ever going to get anywhere unless cohesion is developed to a greater extent than has prevailed in the past except in times of national emergency.

I readily see that this prescription of mine is not an easy one - even if in your view, a good one - to advocate through a press which must be acutely "location-conscious." But I really do not see that there should be any real conflict between the two patriotisms, local and national. I firmly believe that the proper interest in local problems can

be expanded into a constructive interest in national problems.

With the improvement in communications, with the linking up of the country by fast air services, with radio, and with better and more complete news services available to your press, I think many influences are at work to promote this better sense of national citizenship.

I do appreciate the compliment implied by your writing me in this connection and I extend to you and your Association, my heartiest best wishes for a successful year.

Yours truly, FRANK PENDERGAST, Assistant to the President, Imperial Oil Limited

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