

"THE LIBERAL"

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1939.

THE THRILL OF THE NEW YEAR

What thrill is there to compare with the opening of a New Year? It's like emerging from a cool shower after coming home soiled and tired. It's manna from the skies. It's a new year all washed and shining -- ready to be shaped as we please -- to be moulded, certainly, to a far better pattern than the one we have just discarded. For every New Year is different -- more hopeful, more auspicious. By the time a twelve-month is past, a year has become a shoddy thing, with patches here and there and all bedraggled with disappointment and disillusion. But a New Year -- that's different. It is so clean and neat. There are no soiled edges to it. There it is -- new and malleable -- beautiful with promise.

Barrie's play, "Dear Brutus," gave each of the players a second chance in life. But a New Year gives more than that. It gives us a thirtieth, a fortieth, a fiftieth chance. Maybe we didn't do so well as we hoped last year. But this year we'll go places. Perhaps we did marvellously last year. But this year we'll do even better. And so it goes.

What does it matter that the resolutions we make on January the first are broken on January the second? What does it matter that we've been through all this before? The magic of the New Year makes all this of no importance whatsoever. And who knows but that we may keep our resolutions this year. We may tackle that task we postponed last year. We may do a hundred things in 1940 that we missed out on in 1939. So here's to the New Year. Like rain to a parched place...like spring after winter...so a New Year is to humanity.

MONDAY IS ELECTION DAY

The ratepayers of Richmond Hill have the responsibility next Monday of choosing a municipal council for the next year, and if the proposed legislation is enacted by the Legislature it will be for the next two years. The large attendance at nomination meeting indicated a keen interest in municipal affairs and we are confident there will be a large vote polled Monday.

There is a good array of candidates and we hope the best possible council will be selected to deal with the many difficult problems with which the municipality is now confronted. In selecting a Reeve and municipal council ratepayers should bear in mind that in many ways municipal business is no different from private business. Usually those qualities of heart and mind which make a man successful and respected in private life will make him trusted, successful and dependable in public life. Public spirit, honesty of purpose, truthfulness, and an ordinary amount of sound business judgment and common sense are desirable and necessary yardsticks in measuring a municipal candidate. In a village the size of Richmond Hill the work of administration is not so burdensome nor the problems so complex but these qualities will make for success.

Reeve Greene who has served for the past seven years as Reeve and is seeking re-election for an eighth term is well known to the ratepayers and needs no further introduction. He has been devoted to the duties of his office and has given generously of his time in the public service. Ex-Reeve Thomas H. Trench is one of the town's most highly esteemed citizens, thoroughly qualified by experience for the position of Reeve, and enjoys to a very marked degree the confidence of the people of this village. Six excellent candidates are offering themselves as councillors and the electors should have no difficulty in choosing a capable council to direct the village municipal affairs at this difficult time. One of the first duties of the new council unfortunately will be to free the municipality from the expensive legal entanglements in which the village is now engaged. With expensive lawsuits out of the way our hope is that the 1940 council will devote their attention to constructive measures for the improvement of Richmond Hill and steer clear of court actions in the future.

All in all the electors should have no difficulty in choosing a splendid council for the coming year. The immediate duty of every ratepayer is to vote next Monday. If you stay at home or neglect to exercise your franchise you will have little room for complaint no matter what the 1940 council may do.

SOME POEMS I MET

(By John E. Price)

Strolling down the hall of fame I met and conversed with many fine poems. They spoke to me of the years, the Old and the New.

Of the old, one said that its days were as the leaves of a book, some turned down, tearstained, others with roses pressed. No leaves were uncut. Closed, "we lay it in God's hand."

Another reminded me of the child who had spoiled one clean sheet and asked the teacher for another. He suggested that when we come to the end of the year to the Great Teacher that is what he does in giving us another chance.

Still another sturdy stanza warned me against curling up content by my warm fire in the year ahead when I should be rousing myself from my perilous ease and go daring forth for some great cause.

And yet another had a word of encouragement for those who have seen many new beginnings reminding them that they who have stood up to life under "Youth's dizzy heat" need not dread the frosts of age.

And one more ventured the suggestion that the closing of an old year is a good time to stop whining, fretting, complaining and repining; that the New Year is a good time to renew the search for hidden beauties and things worthy of praise; a good time "to cease preaching your duty and be more concerned with mine."

Having listened to the wise words of these beautiful poems I met in my stroll down the hall of fame I determined that although in the year ahead I may sometimes become discouraged with other people it is better that I so live as to more seldom be disappointed with myself.

Thinking of my friends, the poems, I presently found myself musing thus: I would that my life might a poem be, speaking of the worth of faith, at least helping to lift some other life to higher heights by its inspiration.

Views of Others on Timely Topics

HITLER, THE GRAF SPEE, AND THE BRITISH NAVY

The scuttling of the German pocket battleship Graf Spee has a much greater significance than any naval theories which may be confirmed or upset by the dramatic sea fight and its no less dramatic finish. Forced to choose between a flight to sea and internment, under International Law, the ship was scuttled on orders from Adolf Hitler. The public explanation given is that the Graf Spee had accomplished her purpose. By the same token England should now scuttle the Exeter, Ajax and Achilles, and all the rest of the fleet which was reported headed for Montevideo, because it was this naval concentration which made escape for the Graf Spee so hopeless. Such an excuse is to "degrade the lie," to use an expression just coined by a newspaper columnist.

The escape of the Graf Spee into Montevideo was heralded to the German people as a great German victory. What was it that Hitler did not dare to have the German people learn? Was it the damage inflicted on this pocket battleship which was to outrun an enemy that could outfight her and destroy any ship with speed enough to catch her? Was it that the radio pictures of the effect of English gun-fire could not be kept from the German people? Would internment for the rest of the war have appeared to the German people disgraceful as a defeat of the much touted German sea power by the English that the Hitler regime could not afford to have the people learn the truth?

Whether any or all of these entered into Hitler's decision, one thing about which there have been conflicting reports, stands out crystal clear. Hitler is afraid of his people! The Germans have been tightening their belts throughout the six years of Hitler's regime. First it was "guns or butter" and now it is "hated England," but no people can keep up the continual belt-tightening sacrifice for six years without seeing some definite gains as a result and maintain their morale. Every newly married couple in Germany, at one time, had to have a copy of Mein Kampf. In it the Bolsheviks were called the "scum of the earth." Then Hitler made a trade pact and a treaty with them. The explanation made to the German public was ludicrous.

It has been reported that German industry is suffering from lack of esprit de corps and from lack of energy in the workers who are not getting the proper nutritious food and consequently that production is falling off from normal standards. Blood purges, concentration camps, anti-Semitic barbarities, the final destruction of all liberty and freedom, all of these factors have inclined to the hope that Hitler might be deposed from within. Whenever such a hope appeared in print there was a rush of denial and scoffing and ridicule by the German-Hitler elements in this country.

Hitler himself has now put them to the lie again and has told the world in an unmistakable way that he is afraid to publish bad news to his people. This explains why his every bulletin of any contacts with English naval or aerial units is exaggerated into Germanic victory, always at variance with the communications of the British authorities, which would not dare to deceive their people even if their being English gentlemen did not preclude the thought. Moreover it is more than probable that the British government has had good information about German internal affairs and that England's so-called, but miscalled, waiting strategy has been based thereon, much to the disappointment of the push-bottomed strategists in neutral countries who decried war while they complained at the lack of results which should be producing carnage at which they could shudder with sadistic thrills at the safe distance of 2,800 miles.

Captain Langsdorff of the Graf Spee is reported to have told port authorities of Montevideo that the British ships inflicted "enormous damage" to his ship. More details will be eagerly awaited by naval strategists. Langsdorff also said that "the Achilles and the Ajax, both risking more than seemed credible, even in the high moments of the battle..." This may seem magnanimous on the part of the captain but does scant credit to his understanding of the British sea-dog. Britain mistress of the seas because with

her, victory in a naval engagement was ever the only desideratum. If it costs ships, that was to be expected, but victory was expected at any cost. It is no detraction from the accomplishments of the Exeter, Achilles and Ajax to say there was nothing at all incredible in their actions. It was just British Navy. The British fight their ships till they sink, they do not scuttle them. The Rawalpindi for example.

In this Christmas week when there wells up in the breasts of most human beings something of "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men," there is no man in the world more in need of Christian charity than Hitler, and no man (unless possibly his partner Stalin) deserves Christian charity less. (New York American Metal Market).

THE SHORTEST DAY

December 21st we reached the shortest day of the year, and now the days will begin to lengthen and the old saying is, "The cold begins to strengthen." That may be true and even though the worst of the cold season may still lie ahead, we are headed toward the springtime.

Since away last June we have been seeing the sun rise later and set earlier, until recently the day has seemed very short. But now, with the days beginning to lengthen we can look ahead to the arrival of the first seed catalogue, to the time when the first crocus and tulip stick their brave little heads through the ground, and when the birds return from the south. We are headed again toward the "Good Old Summer Time," instead of away from it, and to those of us who cannot go to Florida or California for the next few months, it is productive of a mighty comfortable feeling, if you ask us. (Ingersoll Tribune).

THE HAPPY FARMER

Agriculturists should understand that large numbers of city people, rich and poor, appreciate better than farmers themselves the advantages of an independent, healthy and comparatively quiet life. A farmer who owns a good farm, is his own boss, and in comfortable circumstances, need envy no one. (From the Windsor Star.)

OLD-FASHIONED VIEW

A motorist from Tillsonburg drove his car into the ditch, through a rail fence and then stopped in a farm field without being injured. Perhaps it is an old-fashioned view, but it has always seemed to us that it is so much more comfortable and enjoyable just driving straight along the road. (From the Peterboro Examiner.)

ST. PAUL'S, VAUGHAN, W.M.S.

The December meeting of St. Paul's, Vaughan, W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. J. McNeil with a splendid attendance, the president, Mrs. J. McNeil presiding. The meeting opened with hymn No. 170 followed by sentence prayers and the Lord's Prayer in unison. The Christmas scripture reading was taken from chapter 2, verses 4 to 20 of St. Luke after which hymn No. 381 was sung and prayer by Mrs. Nelson Kerr. A short business period followed and the roll call was well responded to by the word gift. Mrs. E. Harris read a splendid paper for Mrs. J. Harrison on chapter 6 of the study book. A solo by Miss Jennie Egan was much enjoyed. Mrs. Duff read a splendid paper on Christ and Medicine for Mrs. E. Bryson with hymn No. 172, prayer by Rev. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. McNeil declared all offices vacant and election of officers for 1940 followed: Pres., Mrs. J. McNeil; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. H. Farr; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. H. Dooks; Sec., Mrs. A. Cameron; Treas., Mrs. E. Harris; Pianists, Mrs. T. Witherspoon, Mrs. H. Farr; Expense fund, Mrs. L. Weldrick; Lit. Sec., Mrs. J. Robson, Mrs. J. Brownlee; Supply Sec., Mrs. E. Bryson, Mrs. C. Rutherford; Home Helpers, Mrs. J. McGillivray, Mrs. A. L. McNeil; Welcome and Welfare, Mrs. J. McNeil; Flower Com., Mrs. J. Harrison, Mrs. A. Bishop, Miss J. Egan, Miss A. Kerr; Glad Tidings Sec., Miss Sara McNeil; Key Women, Miss J. Egan; Life Member Com., Mrs. W. Bishop, Mrs. J. Brownlee, Miss A. Kerr; Program Com., Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. J. Constable, Mrs. T. Witherspoon; Auditors, Mrs. N. Kerr, Miss Sara McNeil; Press Sec., Miss A. Kerr.

Splendid reports were given by all officers of 1939. Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. H. Farr are to be delegates to Toronto Presbyterial annual meeting to be held at Parkdale Church. At the close of the meeting a social hour was spent with lunch served by the hostess and committee in charge.

The February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. H. Dooks.

"What became of that portable garage of yours?" "I tied the dog to it the other day and a cat came by."



JAMES H. ROBSON

Former Reeve of the Township acclaimed as a member of council of Vaughan Township for 1940.

PAY ATTENTION TO ADVICE OF SPOUSE

A Woman Needs to Pay Heed to Her Husband's Criticism of Her Looks

The woman who turns a deaf ear to her husband's suggestions about her looks or clothes may be on the wrong track. And that is not just because it behooves a woman to cater to the taste of the man in her life.

It is also because a man, if he is interested enough in how his wife looks to notice and comment--can be of great help to a woman in finding out just what things are for her, and what things are not.

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