

"THE LIBERAL"

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 J. E. SMITH, Editor

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THE MORE PERFECT MOTIVE

The Liberal notes with pleasure the growing interest of newspaper readers everywhere in the possibilities of religion to re-fashion the world more after the heart's desire, and in this connection one of the thought provoking subjects of many letters to the press just now, is that of Humanitarianism, its possible spiritual value, and the link it has or should have or should not have with religion. Probably the appeals that are being made for clothing and food for the destitute inhabitants of the war countries has enlivened the minds of Canadians to the character-forming opportunities thus opened. Probably the efforts being made in some so-called un-Christian countries to disassociate humanitarianism from religion is compelling attention as would any such experiment. Or it may just be that the war and the post war problems have brought us to a closer, more intimate consideration of the eternal verities and of their importance to us.

We are inclined to favor the last mentioned view. Certainly, many of us have recognized within ourselves and in our friends a changed outlook on life. Once, in our youth, most of us had dreams of building a fortune. Recognizing that as impossible, we decided that we would be satisfied with steady work, a good home and a comfortable old age. Now, although we still regard such ideals as very much worth while, we feel that something may have escaped us in the Divine plan of life. Of the many things round about us to suggest that our three modest requirements will not enable us to fulfill whatever destiny may be ours, are the dead, our dead, the battle dead. They had work, home and the prospect of a decent old age. 'Finis' was written to that chapter of their existence when they were not more than out of their teens. Does that mean the end of everything for them? We simply can't believe it. There is something which has been implanted within us that rejects such a belief.

So we find our impulses and our reason prompting us to add something to the three necessities we indicated for ourselves—work, home, leisure when we have earned it—and we grab for whatever may be at hand. It happens to be an invitation to practise humanitarianism. We will banish selfishness and consecrate more of our lives to others. We will respond more liberally to every charitable appeal. Perhaps we get a kick out of the reflection that the old clothes we gave the collectors this week will keep some destitute men, women and children in the war countries warm this winter. We realize that the charity we may exercise at home will evoke or should evoke expressions of personal gratitude from those we befriend, and, in any case, we are certain our friends will consider us "good fellows."

Certainly our dispositions are most praiseworthy, and if we do expect a bit of gratitude and praise, what of it? Are we not just human after all?

There is only one thing we overlook. It has been set before us as Divine truth that the two greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbor. The lesser love springs from the greater, and is proof of the existence of the greater. As a recent writer in a Toronto daily puts it:

"Effective religion can be likened to a lifeboat having two oars (commandments)—the spiritual and social oars. Pull on either one singly and you go around in circles. Pull on both at the same time and you make progress."

Our philanthropies can have high spiritual values if we motivate them after the Christian order, practise them because such is the divine will rather than practise them to win the plaudits of men.

A "HUMAN" BUDGET

Hon. J. L. Ilsley, when he announced his budget a few days ago, boasted the "bring home" pay more than most folks thought would be possible so soon after the war. The 16 per cent cut in all personal income taxes, featuring tax reductions aggregating \$372,000,000, directly affects the great majority of Canadians including, according to estimates, more than 95 per cent of the residents of Richmond Hill.

The annual budget has been the most interesting item of legislation within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament since the inception of income taxation. Before the war it affected the pocketbooks of a great majority of the people, but during the war it became a hardship and to some folks a nightmare, from which even a government, one of whose chief characteristics was benevolence, could not deliver us.

But the Ilsley budget of 1945 is so different from its predecessors, both before and during the war, that its severest critics on Opposition benches have been able to discover in it no major imperfections. It does not limit relaxation of the tax levy to men and women of moderate income, but goes the limit and provides relief in equal measure for all classes. Nor in its abridgement of the excess profit tax does it undertake to help the big corporation at the expense of the small business or vice versa. One thing that must be said for it is that it is eminently fair.

From the press gallery of the House, after Mr. Ilsley had announced the details of his financial program came the comment that it was "a human and generous budget built upon a new philosophy of public finance." That comment is highly interesting because it is in the press gallery where the imperfections of legislation are usually discovered first even when the imperfections are cleverly concealed.

The Ilsley budget of 1945 does, indeed, represent a new philosophy of public finance. Neither rich nor poor are to benefit by it at the expense of each other. Into its formulae for raising public revenue is incorporated the principle that all men are and should be equal, that the high obligation of government is to equalize economic opportunity, not to confine it to one class or group while burdening another class or group. In such essentials, of course, it is not a revolutionary budget. It is a far cry to the days when taxation was imposed as a penalty and saner and fairer ethical conceptions have been evolved gradually. But it is not so many years ago that budgets described by their critics as "top heavy with class distinction," were brought down. Happily, those days are now gone. The Ilsley budget stands as an example and a precedent to the budget makers of the future. "The budget of tomorrow must be as "human and generous" as the Ilsley budget of today.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Mothers, fathers, wives and sweethearts have seen the boys of Richmond Hill and their comrades come home from overseas. The band plays, and the crowds cheer. Soldiers with limps hobble off the train, unsteady but jaunty. Then come the stretchers. You feel helpless and embarrassed, and the desire to do something almost overpowers you.

But what is there for you to do? Surely there must be something, and there is. In buying Victory bonds you provide medical care and help train and equip these young men to whom we owe so much for new positions in life.

Hospitalization, training, gratuities and re-establishment credits cost money, and Canadians are asked to lend that money at 3% interest by investing in Victory bonds. The 9th Victory loan, available in a few days, constitutes one of the finest possible investments, none safer, and if and when an emergency arises paid-up Victory bonds are excellent collateral for a loan and enjoy a broad market if a sale should become imperative. More than all that, it is possible to buy these bonds on a most attractive easy payment plan.

But what is the purpose of this bond issue?

There are accounts of the army, navy and air force still outstanding, and they must be settled before the end of the year. To them must be added the civil estimates including debt charges which of necessity will continue high.

Then, too, the better way of life, which the government's social reforms is effecting, will cost money, the distribution of which by the beneficiaries will stimulate industrial production and employment. The Dominion must also expend hundreds of millions of dollars on the rehabilitation of devastated Europe, and in loans or credits to countries which wish to purchase Canadian products but have an insufficient supply of their own products to export in exchange.

Moreover, there is an army of occupation to support in Germany, and much of the cost of bringing the remaining armed forces home and paying them their gratuities, etc., is still to be met. The government requires annually not hundreds of millions but thousands of millions—billions. It has to raise most of the money by means of taxation and borrowing. This new loan calls for \$1,500,000,000, the largest Victory Loan objective yet. But while the recent practice has been to have a victory loan twice a year, this one will cover 12 months. There will be no spring loan in 1946.

NOISE AND SEDATIVES

Rodney Adamson (Progressive Conservative for West York) went to town recently in the House of Commons on behalf of our distracted neighbors in Etobicoke township. He said that by official count train whistles blew 760 times at the township's eight crossings from dusk to dawn, and that bells in the railroad yard rang endlessly 24 hours a day.

Mr. Adamson added that sales of sedatives were proportionately higher than in other parts of the Toronto district, and that school teachers complained they had to shout above the din to make their students hear. He then introduced a bill which would make the municipal ban on train whistles and bells apply to areas which are contiguous to cities.

There is a certain amount of noise in every community. Railroad cars are certainly not a comfort to Richmond Hill school teachers, and some of them have protested the noise they make. Nor are train whistles something unknown to the people of Richmond Hill. Sometimes one wonders why they have to do so much blowing. A rail-roader will explain that they have to whistle for the crossing at Langstaff and for other purposes, but when he is finished one is about as much in the dark about the noises thus made as he was before asking.

However, there has been no great outcry here over unnecessary noises, and most assuredly such noises have not increased the sale of sedatives by the village druggists. In fact, we feel that when we crave a little noise we will probably have to go down to Toronto for a visit—or over to Etobicoke. Seriously, however, the people of any community beset by noise as described by Mr. Adamson should and do receive our sincere sympathy. Whether relief is to be found in legislation or in regulations and directives applying to the communities involved we trust there will be no delay in attaining it.

Inadvertently, Mrs. Paul Dubois was described in our issue of last week as being interested in the work of the Girl Guides. This should have been the Cubs. Mrs. Dubois writes to explain that her interest was centred in the junior boys while her husband was interested in the activities of the Scouts. Miss Winnifred Haworth is the leader of the Girl Guides.

UNIONVILLE NEWSY NOTES

The October meeting of Unionville of St. Philip's Anglican Church will commence at 10 a.m. The congregation and Sunday School will worship together with teachers and their classes forming for study during the sermon. The congregation extends a welcome to all newcomers of their faith to worship with them. Remember the hour, 10 o'clock on Sunday mornings.

According to the receipts of Friday evening's congregational party in the United Church, at 1c. per inch there were 3500 inches (approximately) of waists. The program was very fine with recreation under the leadership of Corinne Danby, violinists Mrs. Tanguod and Mrs. Baker, vocal trio Mrs. R. B. Rae, Mrs. J. Russell and Mrs. McCormack, piano selection by Beth Brown and a symphony under the capable leadership of Neil Stiver and drama presented by the Young People's Union. Refreshments topped off a splendid evening.

Two Hagerman boys have returned recently from overseas, John Miller of the army who saw service in Germany and Mel Milne. Mel has been in hospital since March having been injured. We understand that Mel is looking fine now and though minus a finger considers he is lucky. Mr. and Mrs. K. Wyatt and family said farewell to friends of the community on Tuesday and made their way to Newmarket. They have lived and worked for some years at Glenburn Farms and we are sorry to lose them. Mr. and Mrs. H. Taylor from south of the border are visiting his sisters for a few days. Howard (Coup) Stiver has returned from Halifax where he was serving in the navy. Beginning on Sunday the services

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