

The Liberal

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This Is Education Week

Did you ever stop to realize what goes on behind the scene in preparation for Education Week — which is in process of being held now in our public schools?

For days, weeks and in some cases months, before the Big Week, plans are carefully thought out by teachers and pupils, down to the last detail; so that each grade room has a "theme". This theme also has a pattern, and between the theme and the pattern must run a thread (the thread is woven from the interest the teacher imbues in the child). This "thread" is that which attracts and stays the beholder — the parent.

In many ways Education Week could be called the Festival of the school year; for it is a time of artistic showmanship. It is a time for honest pride in one's child's accomplishments — comprised as the Festival is of delightfully artistic and educational displays,

carefully and lovingly done by our children under the skilled direction of their teachers. It is a Festival derived for us, the parents, so that we may in a short hour or two discern for ourselves just what Education means in the life of our youngsters.

And, in commemorating Education Week we must think, not only of the pupils and teachers, but we must go beyond — to the principals and those who oversee the running of our public schools — and beyond them again to the dedicated men and women who comprise our public school boards, and who set not only the pace of education and its needs but the rising standards of educational facilities which our children enjoy.

If you haven't already visited your child's school — plan to do so today or tomorrow.

Make Education your business too.

Red Cross Month

This month when you make a generous contribution to the Canadian Red Cross you are assured that you are not alone. Working with you, and for you, are millions of Canadians, your neighbours.

It takes money and it takes people to carry on the extensive work of the Canadian Red Cross Society. People of all ages, from all walks of life, are happy and willing to serve as Red Cross volunteers. Their interest and willingness to serve others must be supported this year by \$6,350,913. That is the amount of money required by the Canadian Red Cross Society to meet its obligation in Canada and abroad in 1960.

There is something unique about the Red Cross. Because of its widespread volunteer assistance your money goes farther in the provision of help, hope and understanding. The Red Cross is always on the job serving across the street, across the nation and across the world. Through your dollars you are there whenever and wherever the Red Cross serves. The work of the Red Cross is not directed towards any single group in Canadian life, nor towards any one economic level. The responsibilities of the Red Cross are the responsibilities of the Canadian People. All may serve. All may be served. You help yourself and you help others when you help the Red Cross.

Library Week Coming Soon

Canadian Library Week runs from April 3rd to 9th. According to the CLW Council, there are still sections of the country which are either inadequately served by libraries or not served at all. The chief concern of the Council in promoting this week is to further the number of libraries and books available to Canadians. Recent surveys indicate that only 26 per cent of Canadians were reading a book a week compared to 40 per cent in 1945. Only one Canadian in eight is a registered borrower. Access to reading material, with little restriction placed on what that material might be,

is a freedom of which we are justifiably proud and possessive; and yet the freedom to pursue knowledge, or simply entertainment for that matter, is ineffectual if not exercised. Unless a value is exploited it soon falls into obscurity and ceases to have meaning. Books are one area of absolute freedom; rather than being vehicles for deceptive escapism they are releases to a broader world of understanding. They are willing tools for building personal freedom; they are a source of reassurance, in their stability, when nothing seems sure. They are something of which the supply should never exceed the demand.

FACTS and FAITH

A weekly Comment On Christian Life And Action
— By Calvin H. Chambers —



The question is often asked, "What is the most significant book in the New Testament?" This is a difficult question to answer, because all of the writings of the Bible have a purpose and function to fulfill. But if we study the history of the Bible, we notice that there has never been a strong, healthy church, which did not give emphasis to the teachings found in Paul's letter to the Romans. Whenever the Church has forgotten her calling, and become side tracked in her mission, it has been due to a neglect of the Book of Romans. If man wants to have his faith built on solid foundations, and not just feelings and emotions, he must acquaint himself with the cardinal themes of the Roman Epistle. Why? Because in this letter which Paul penned from Ephesus in and around 57-58 A.D., he sets forth in a systematic way the fundamental beliefs of the Christian Church. Without an understanding of the teaching of this Book, our faith is bound to be "tossed about by every wind of doctrine." If we

face squarely the issues set before us in Romans, and come to grips with the logic of Paul's reasoning, we will find our faith taking on vitality it never knew before. There can be no virile Christian faith without a proper grasp of this all important epistle.

What does it teach? In this book we shall find three themes worked out in a masterly fashion. First, man stands in need of salvation or reconciliation to God. Second, man can be reconciled to God by faith in the atoning work of Christ. Third, man can live in fellowship with God and his fellows as he yields to the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the first place, man stands in need of salvation, because his sin has separated him from God. In chapters 1-3, Paul proves that the entire human race is surrounded by insurmountable barriers which prohibit knowledge of and fellowship with God. They are the universal guilt of man, the sinful inclinations of our fallen humanity, the inability of man to save himself by any clever reasoning, or religious technique. Man is in a hopeless state before God.

The good news of the Gospel, however, is that God has taken the initiative. He has moved into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, His Son, and has shattered this wall which keeps man from fellowship with Him. In the perfect humanity of Jesus, God was at work accomplishing for us salvation. A man may receive deliverance from his sin, by trusting in the work which Christ has done on his behalf. In His life, Christ identified himself with our sin. By His death on the Cross, He paid the penalty for it and carried it away. The key verse to this whole book, one which delivered Martin Luther from the corruption of the Gospel of the Medieval Church is: "The just man shall live by

"Dear Mr. Editor"

Readers Discuss Vaughan Liquor Vote

FAVORS WET VOTE
216 Alverna Rd. Richmond Hill,

Dear Mr. Editor: I didn't want to pass up this opportunity of extending to the voters of Vaughan Township, the seriousness of the forthcoming liquor vote on March 19th. The casual social drinkers of today are pictured as occupying the spawning ground of tomorrow's alcoholics. "Plain ignorance of the facts" today, it is pointed out, will lead up to many of the social and personal tragedies of tomorrow. The seriousness of the liquor problem cannot be over-estimated, when we realize that in our own fair Province alcoholism has doubled since 1946. One out of 17 starting to drink will become an alcoholic.

There is so much to tell our young people — the story of alcohol and its damaging effects on our bodies — and to repeat that it is not Christian to partake of anything harmful to our bodies as "temples of the Holy Spirit." No one questions the right of the voters to an expression of opinion, though some may not appreciate outsiders, so to speak, coming into our Christian community of Vaughan Township and demanding a liquor vote at this time, which provokes the question of whether those requesting are really selfishly concerned about their business and not the welfare of our community.

The disclaiming of any intention to flood the concessions with alcohol should be considered in the knowledge that, after all, alcohol is a habit-forming narcotic, which affects first the higher brain functions and good judgment and self-control. Whether or not it finds its way to the concessions depends on the number of individuals who succumb to its bio-chemical action. Experience has shown that this varies proportionately to the number of sales outlets.

Just recently, Attorney-General Roberts declared that 50 per cent of 4,106 persons serving time in Provincial jails are there because of liquor offences. Ontario civil juries spend 90% of their trial time hearing motor vehicle action cases." Of such cases coming before at least one magistrate, 90% were said by him to be associated with the use of alcohol. Alcohol is involved in approximately 45% of the fatal traffic accidents in Ontario. The dollar spent on liquor cannot

be spent on groceries, clothing, hardware or many other necessities. It is really true that these additional outlets are a necessity for the progress of our township. Surely the phenomenal growth of Vaughan in the past proves that you can have prosperity and still retain the fine, family-life atmosphere which indeed has been one of the factors contributing to its appeal. Those who wish to keep it that way have also a right, even an obligation to say "NO -X" on all questions on March 19th. Mrs. George Wardlaw, Elders Mills

Urges Vaughan Vote No

Dear Mr. Editor: It is customary to refer to those who hold opposite views on the liquor question as "wets" and "drys". Today, these terms have little meaning and they tend to confuse the issue in a local option vote such as is scheduled for March 19th, in Vaughan Township.

There can be little doubt that to provide legal beverage outlets in Vaughan — government stores, cocktail lounges and dining lounges, will be of considerable economic advantage to the township. However, I do not think the issue will be decided on this alone.

Much more important, particularly to those of us who have growing families, are the moral and social considerations. I refer particularly to the present open and widespread disregard for the local option by-law. The hypocritical attitudes engendered by this condition cannot help but be communicated to our youngsters. In my opinion this is an unhealthy and even dangerous situation.

Illegal sales of alcoholic beverages and illegal practices current at the present time are not subject to supervision. An illegal operator cares little whether his customer is over 21 or not. On the other hand, in municipalities where the sale of these beverages is licensed, supervision is maintained under rigid regulations that provide severe penalties for infractions.

This I believe is the issue to be decided on March 19th. I, for one, will vote for a law that can be enforced and will be respected and observed.

Yours very truly,
Charles Shuttleworth

Note: Having selected the above letters of varying views from many received, no further letters will be published referring to the Vaughan liquor vote.
— Editor

Speaking Personally

FILMSTRIPS INSTEAD OF TEXTBOOKS
(By Jane Fort Manning)

Early in January this column told you about the New Castle reading experiment being carried on in Provincial classrooms in the Richmond Hill public schools. It concerned learning to read with the use of film strips. Now further experiments are being conducted in the local classrooms with somewhat different approaches in the use of visual aids.

Opaque Projector
Last month Superintendent Gordon McIntyre, Principal Rose and Principal Gooding visited the Davenport Road Public School in Toronto to see a demonstration of an opaque projector in a Grade One classroom.

In this experiment the same techniques are used as are used in the New Castle Filmstrip experiment with two variations. Instead of using drapes on the windows, a small "studio" is set up at the back of the classroom where groups of children may be taught; and instead of using filmstrips, the actual pages of the textbook used by the pupils are inserted in the opaque projector.

The advantages of the "group" technique of teaching, and of the use of the regular text-books are considered great enough to warrant purchasing an opaque projector here, Superintendent McIntyre told the local public school board. He recommended that a temporary "studio" approximately 10'x12'x18' be set up in a Grade one classroom at the Crosby Heights school. This was approved at a recent board meeting.

Superintendent McIntyre believes as there is a variation in the reading level of a class of thirty or more children, the group plan of reading can be more successful than the older, more conventional methods. He drew the attention of the board to the fact in the first grade class the age differences could span practically a whole year. A child who is six on January 1st enters elementary school the same September as the child who is not six until December 31st of that same year.

Into the small studio, constructed of plywood, a number of pupils of similar rating, are taken for a lesson which is taught with the assistance of the projector. Any text-book chosen by the teacher can be used simply by inserting its pages in the projector. The "Cineeducator" Superintendent McIntyre told

the board that with the growing use of classroom television it is apparent that a much smaller picture may be used than was formerly considered advisable.

On the same day as he, Mr. Rose and Mr. Gooding viewed the opaque projector they visited a company in Toronto to see a demonstration of a "Cineeducator." This equipment consists of a 16mm sound projector, two lenses one for regular projector and one of short focal length, a small mirror, and a translucent plastic screen. With the short focus lens in position the projected images are reflected from the small mirror to the plastic screen which is placed at right angles to the direction of projection, and at approximately three feet from the lens.

A clear picture 24" x 33" is obtained which can be viewed in the classroom in daylight without the use of drapes on the windows.

The price of this equipment is quoted at \$995.00. Though at present to hold down costs even the public address system has been cut from the estimates for the Pleasantville Public School (a public address system is considered fine, but not essential equipment in an eight room school) Trustee Harold Sanderson feels the "Cineeducator" should be considered in the future for the Pleasantville school and Pleasantville's principal, Mr. Rose, is said to be quite enthusiastic about it.

At present Principal Gooding of Crosby Heights School is going to experiment with the projector already in his school to see if a similar result can be obtained.

Board approval has been given to purchase one additional lens for this projector at Crosby School at a cost of \$32.50. An additional \$15.00 will be used to purchase materials to set up a plastic screen.

If the experiment of Mr. Gooding's should prove successful, the device could be provided for all the sound projectors. This would result in an even wider use of classroom films in the local schools, said Superintendent McIntyre.

Trustee Joseph Rabinowitch sounded a note of caution when he said he hoped that the use of the films wouldn't cut down the reading of books by the pupils.

— Editor

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