

The Liberal
 An Independent Weekly: Established 1878
 Subscription Rate \$3.50 per year; to United States \$4.50; 10c single copy
 Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
 J. E. SMITH, Editor and Publisher
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 "Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

Facts and Faith
 A Weekly Comment on Christian Life and Action
 — By Calvin H. Chambers —
ACTIONS REVEAL RELIEF
 We have all heard the old proverb, "actions speak louder than words." To be a Christian one must reveal by character and conduct the reality of one's faith. This presents some real difficulties and a tremendous challenge.

Looking Backward...
 Surely one of the world's unsung heroes was John Davidson of Richmond Hill of long ago. In 1882, when William Harrison (the scribe of Richmond Hill and district) wrote about him, he was 82 years old and had lived here almost 40 years. Just where he died is not exactly known but that is of less importance to our story than the light his life throws on one's aspect of the times for which Mr. Harrison had little sympathy.

The Richmond THEATRE
 Phone Turner 4-1212
 FREE PARKING REAR OF THEATRE
 Continuous Daily from 7 p.m. (6 p.m. on Saturdays).
 Saturday, Children's Matinee 2 p.m.

Ontario's High Municipal Debt

The yearly statistics on Ontario's municipalities, now published, reflect a rapid growth in population, physical services, and above all, debt. It is clear that debt cannot accumulate at the rate of the past few years without seriously undermining the credit rating of the province's municipalities. Either the pace of installing new services will have to decelerate, or extra financial help will have to be given the municipalities by Queen's Park.

The effect of the high birth rate during and after the war may be seen in the figures for education. The gross debt service for education stands at almost \$800 million, compared with \$250 million for general municipal improvements and about \$300 million for utilities such as water and electricity. And it is precisely in the education field that the municipalities have lacked the help they need. However much provincial grants have risen, education now takes about half the tax dollar in virtually all towns in Ontario.

The debt rose from \$220 million in 1947 to \$1,305 million in 1959. Not all of the new debt can be attributed to new population needs. In 1932, the Ontario municipalities were \$506 million in debt. The decline by more than 50 percent between that year and 1947 was caused by the reduction in services during the depression and the war. In the next decade, the municipalities not only had to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population, most of it urban, but also had to fill the backlog left by the lack of work done from 1932 to 1947. Small wonder that, from 1947 to 1959, the municipal debt increased more than five times.

Admittedly, the province itself faces financial difficulties, and has had to cut back on some services this year. For the time being, the municipalities must make do with what they have. But there can be no tampering with education, which should have first call on the taxpayer's dollar. In a democratic, technological society, progress is founded on education. Unless some way can be found of attracting new assessment at a faster rate, some reduction in services may be in prospect for Ontario's municipalities.

Family Farm Still Important

There have been many assertions that North America farm lands are being concentrated in the hands of big farmers and corporations, with a decline in family units.

Areas that contain the less productive land—grazing areas, for example.

Generally speaking, those making such assertions contend that the family type of farm is the ideal base for the nation's agricultural industry.

Individuals, as distinguished from corporations, were said to own about 89 per cent of the grazing land and 96 per cent of the crop land.

In the winter of 1957-58 the U.S. Agriculture Department set out to investigate this aspect of farm ownership. It made a survey of the Great Plains, taking in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

The number of persons with some interest in land was said to be much greater than the number of ownership units.

This covers an important farming area comprising 47 per cent of the farm and ranch land in the country.

"Without counting indirect interests of persons through corporation and credit arrangements, at least 1,400,000 people have some direct ownership interest in the rural land of the Plains States," the department reported.

A report on that survey has just been completed. It said that it might be assumed that the total number of farms and ranch owners in the ten Great Plains states had decreased during the past ten or twelve years. Estimates show that the average size of farm ownership units has increased from 570 acres in 1945 to 643 acres in 1958.

The survey showed that active farmers and ranchers were the predominant type of land owner. They represented 45 per cent of the owners. They owned 62 per cent of the acreage and 58 per cent of the land value.

"Any increase in the concentration of ownership during this period was slight," the report said.

Housewives, laborers, clerical workers and persons of miscellaneous occupations combined represented slightly more than 25 per cent of the owners. They held 16 per cent of the land.

Of the 830,000 ownership units estimated in 1958, less than one per cent were said to be corporations. These corporations held about 8 per cent of the land on an acreage basis but only two per cent on a value basis.

About 18 per cent of the owners were retired persons two-fifths of whom had been farmers or ranchers. They held 14 per cent of the land.

"The husband and wife combination is the most common type of owner," the report said. "Husbands and wives own either jointly or separately 49 per cent of the farm and ranch land. Partnerships other than husband and wife own another 20 per cent."

The survey showed that 45 per cent of the land owners did not live on their farm or ranch lands. They held 54 per cent of the land.

"Before one assumes that corporations, which, in this study, (includes some private institutions) own a disproportionate share of the farm and ranch land, one should realize," the department continued, "that much of this land (owned by corporations) is in ar-

"Some of the owners who do not live on their land can be accounted for by farmers and ranchers who live on their farms only during the peak of a work season or who commute daily from their residences to their land," the report said.

The survey showed also that half of the owners were between 45 and 64 years of age and nearly 30 per cent were 65 or older.

Now what happens when a man, who has some real enemies, and is on the "outs" with his next door neighbor, really faces up to this teaching. What does he do with it? If it is sincere, practicing Christian, he may take it seriously and try to change the relationship which exists. Yet, what he does, not only depends on Christ's teaching, but on what he believes about Jesus. If he believes that Jesus was the greatest teacher of high moral ethics, he may decide that it isn't the time for him to be noble. Or he may insist that exceptions must be made to the rule, and perhaps Christ didn't mean this to apply to everyone. Even if he thinks of Jesus as the greatest man who ever lived, he may still feel that His teaching does not necessarily apply to the kind of world in which we live today.

But if he believes that Christ was God incarnate in human flesh; if he believes that in Christ we actually meet with God, his whole approach to the question of loving one's enemies comes in to a different light. These words of our Lord become, not just wise teaching, but a definite command. There can be no "ifs" or "buts," if we face Jesus Christ as the Son of God. We must take steps to obey His command, if He is our rightful Lord. Even if it causes us humiliation, or the loss of pride or inner hurt, we must be prepared to obey.

If being a Christian involved you in a situation where you were laughed at, ridiculed for your particular stand, what would be your attitude toward those who persecuted you? The church of the first century chose to love their enemies even when those same enemies had them put to death in cruel sport. The Christians of the middle ages were willing to forgive and bless even when they suffered for their faith on the stake. Can a man rightly think of himself as a Christian, if he is not prepared to let Christ empower him with the dynamic to forgive his enemies? Our Lord forgave, because He had the fulness of love in his heart. When we accept Him, that love comes into our lives, and we are able, if we want to, to love our enemies, and to do good to those who persecute us. Belief in Christ means something when we are confronted with the concrete problems of life. If what He said about Himself is true, then He can give us the power to be what we should be. His power and presence in us can give us the ability to express in action what we believe in our hearts.

WILLOWDALE — North York electors will give their verdict on Sunday sports when municipal elections are held in December.

MARKHAM — Members of this year's Grade 13 class at Markham District High School in Howard Gribble, Linda Murison, Lorna Harrington and Robert Eadie have been granted Dominion Provincial Bursaries of the value of \$500, and Linda Murison and Howard Gribble have also been granted Atkinson Foundation Scholarships of the value of \$400.

is left his cheerfulness unimpaired. He seems never to have sored. Discharged in 1839 "with very high commendations for his promptness and sobriety," and the promise of 100 acres of land (which he never got) he came to Thornhill where, through the kindness of Captain Munro he lived, rent free, for seven years. He came to Richmond Hill in 1845.

Davidson served 26 years in the army. He was born in Stirling, Scotland and as a little boy was apprenticed to a weaver. At 13 he enlisted in the 79th Regiment of the Cameronian Highlanders under the Duke of Wellington and, still as a bugler, shared at least 20 historic engagements with the regiment which brought it much military glory that existed long after shot, shell and sword wiped out the great majority of the original members.

The regiment, in the historian's mind is vividly associated with such great battles as Salamanca, Pyrenees, Toulouse, Nivelle, Quatra Bra and others. Young Davidson lived a charmed life, escaping unscathed until the French counter-attack after Hougoumont when Napoleon sent 18,000 troops against the British. During this bloody set to, Davidson received a bayonet thrust in the back. And a bloody battle it was; the 92nd Highlanders, for example, went in with 992 men and came out with only 92. The 79th was also largely wiped out but we do not have the exact figures. Davidson received the Waterloo medal for his services and lost it eight years later (after serving seven years in Ireland) during a storm at sea on his way to Canada with three regiments of the Cameronians.

In Canada he served at Niagara during the stirring days of 1836-37 under a Captain Munro. He was at Navy Island and saw the blazing "Caroline" go over the falls. As Chippewa, while sounding a retreat, a nine pound shot from the enemy struck the bugle from his mouth. Davidson must have been a hardy type. Twenty six years of rugged army life on a crude, often brutal catch-as-catch-can basis.

**In Richmond Hill
 Total Enrollment 3,250
 For Six Public Schools**

Enrollment at the six Richmond Hill Public Schools this year totals 3,250, about 100 more than had been anticipated, according to Superintendent Gordon McIntyre. He said that about 90 of the extra 100 came from the Crosby Heights and Walter Scott school population.

Theoretically, all but about 6 per cent of these 3,250 students will reach high school. Experience shows that from 50 to 75 per cent of the 3,250 (excluding kindergartners) will complete the eight grades in eight years. About 15 per cent will be ready for grade 9 at the end of seven years and 15 per cent at the end of nine years. These are rough approximations, it was pointed out. While some students will require ten years to reach high school, these represent a small percentage.

Generally, Richmond Hill Public Schools recognize three levels of students, the accelerated, average or slow stream types, who complete the eight grades in seven, eight or nine years respectively.

In Richmond Hill the 15 per cent of more capable students complete four grades in three years on an organized basis, involving grades three, four, five and six. This is obtained by dividing the work of each grade into three portions which put them ahead of the average stream by one grade.

The so-called "slow" stream is provided for those students unable to complete the three parts of a grade in one year. Depending on ability they may get through one or two portions of a grade in one year, and continue at this rate until they have fallen behind a full grade from the pupils of their own age group.

The purpose of this is to avoid the necessity of repeating a full grade brought about by failure

Thurs., Fri. Sat. - September 22, 23, 24

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Year Old J. Boll Drowning Victim

One-year-old Jackie Boll, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Boll, drowned September 15 in a partially filled swimming pool on the Vaughan township farm of R. Hedges, east of Bathurst and north of Highway 7, where the parents are employed. The baby apparently crawled out of a fenced enclosure behind his parents' home, and tumbled into the pool. Richvale firemen applied artificial respiration and used an inhalator on the child for two hours without results. The boy was pronounced dead at 8.30 p.m. by Dr. Peter Morse of Thornhill. The remains rested at the Wright and Taylor Funeral Home, Richmond Hill and a graveside service at York Cemetery, Willowdale was officiated at by the Rev. C. G. Higginson of Richmond Hill United Church on Saturday.