

The Porcupine Advance

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WALKING UNDER LADDERS

The hot weather, combined with the fact that there were three ladders across the sidewalk near The Advance office in connection with improvements being made to the Courtemarche building, tempted The Advance last week to gather some statistics and data about popular superstitions, so called, and people themselves, popular and otherwise. There is a superstition, so called, that it is unlucky to walk under a ladder. Well, those three ladders were so placed that it was a case of walking under the whole three ladders or going outside the sidewalk altogether. There was no chance of casually stopping, and then swinging accidentally, as it were, to the outside of the sidewalk, and passing the ladders without going beneath them. It was a straight case on Saturday of either walking underneath those ladders, or deliberately stopping and definitely choosing to walk on the outside. Not a chance of the casual or incidental in the choice. The situation had to be squarely faced and met. No fooling! A man, or a woman, had either bravely to defy the ladder superstitions, or else, even more bravely, defy the superstitions against the ladder superstitions and walk off the walk into the ditch and thus take no chances on there being something unlucky about walking under ladders. Life is like that sometimes.

Only a very few were courageous enough to stop and face those three ladders, openly make their decision not to take any chances, and boldly walk off the walk and past the ladders. A few there were with that noble brand of courage. Life is like that, too, occasionally.

Coming from the West the usual run of pedestrians were under the ladders before they knew it. It was interesting to note the look on some faces when they saw that they had casually walked under one ladder and noted a second and a third before them. One man actually turned and walked back under the ladder, as if that would remove the ill-luck and set things back to where they were. Then he walked around the three ladders on the outside. A lady was almost under the first ladder when she noticed it. She came to a prompt stop—and walked right across the road. She was on her way to the post office, anyway, and the move seemed an appropriate one. A lady who came along with a baby carriage noticed the three ladders too late. The carriage was under the first one before she noticed where she was. There was a moment's hesitation, but the mother spirit triumphed. If baby had unknowingly encountered bad luck, his mother would follow him—under the three ladders. There was that sort of a look on the lady's face. And she may have this comfort: that the baby is lucky—so lucky that ladders are not likely to harm him whether he goes under or over or up them. With a mother like that, any baby is a lucky baby. Life is like that!

Those walking from the East—famous as the home of the wise—could plainly see the first ladder from their side, and as they hesitated, the other two ladders would also come well into their view. From this side it was easy to see the grip on most people of the superstition about walking under a ladder. At least ninety per cent. of the people hesitated. But, again, only a few of them had the courage of their convictions. Most of them seemed to object to walking under the ladders, but only about fifty per cent. of them had the temerity to nonchalantly turn to the outside and take the boulevard for it. That's life! It may be nonsensical to prefer to walk outside the sidewalk than under a ladder, but no thinking person can withhold the tribute of admiration for those who will face even laughter and the sneer to do what they believe is the right thing to do.

One of the amusing features of gathering statistics about those walking under the ladders on Saturday—or bluntly refusing to do so—was to note the large number who walked from the West under the one ladder without noticing it, and then boldly continued under the second ladder, but turned outside and avoided the third. Likely those who thought quickly felt that to walk under the second ladder would kill the bad luck of the first ladder—after the principle of taking an anti-toxin to soften the severity of a disease and to provide immunity from further attacks. At the same time they might have considered that if one ladder might be unlucky, three ladders would be certain to be three times as bad, and so avoiding that last ladder helped at least a little.

Of course, there were superior folk at large on Saturday who seemed to take a delight in walking under those ladders, as if to noisily proclaim to all the world, "there's nothing in such idle superstitions." As a matter of fact, however, the very ostentation with which they seemed to shout out this belief, appeared to suggest that in their heart of hearts they had a doubt. In other words, their evident scorn of the superstition about ladders,

seemed to imply that they really believed there was something to it, but that they were bold enough and brave enough to defy it all. That happens often in life.

No one should be too scornful of what they term superstition until at least they can tell the origin or foundation for it. No one apparently can trace the beginnings of the idea that ill-luck follows the walking under ladders. Some reasons, however, are apparent. For instance, many a lady has had a parasol or a dress ruined by paint dropping down from a ladder. Men have been hurt by tools falling from men working on ladders. Sometimes it is unlucky to walk under ladders.

It is a supposedly modern trait to be scornful of superstitions, so called. It has been so for generations on end. There are people who pretend that they would banish all superstitions. A better way—a more truly modern way—would be to turn superstition, so called, to useful purpose. Instead of worrying about quitting a job on a Friday or starting work on Saturday, how would it be to emphasize the idea that it is unlucky to shirk work on any day? Why not stress the truth that it is most unfortunate to drive a motor car recklessly and the height of ill-luck to be in charge of an automobile when under the influence of liquor? If people got the idea that it is always unlucky to do something mean, or damaging to persons or property, superstition, so called, would be a useful thing to have around.

THE CEMETERY

Those who visited the Timmins cemetery on Sunday—Memorial Day—were very pleased with the successful efforts made by the Canadian Legion to prevent the graves of ex-servicemen from being neglected and ugly and unkempt. But the good work of the Legion in showing respect to their own dead makes other parts of the cemetery appear only the more disgraceful. At the same time the neglect of so many of the graves at the cemetery also adds to the difficulties of the Legion in their commendable work to beautify the last resting place of those who have gone West. It is not fair to the Legion, to the honoured dead, or to the people of Timmins that the cemetery should be allowed to continue in its present neglected condition. There are many graves that show how much beauty may be given to the plots in "God's Acre," but there are also many dead who have no one to see that their graves are tended and kept in decent appearance.

The remedy for the improper conditions at the cemetery appears to be something in the nature of a cemetery commission. Such a commission in other places has made the cemetery the place of beauty and of rest that it should be in honour to the dead and in justice to the living. It is understood that Mayor Bartleman is opposed to the appointment of a cemetery commission. He is quoted as saying that boards and commissions spend too much money and so increase taxation. That is what he says, but what he thinks is a different matter. His real objection to boards and commissions is that he can not successfully play the dictator with them on all occasions. Recently he has had many things to say in regard to the public school board. Had he centred in the same way on the separate school board he would have been told in no uncertain way to mind his own affairs. That would be the correct answer. Yet the fact is that he has no more right as mayor to criticize the public school board than he would have to find fault with the separate school board. The members of both these boards are directly elected by the people concerned and each of these members is much more representative of the people who elect them than the mayor of any town is of the town as a whole. It should be added that the school boards here have done an excellent piece of work in looking after educational needs, and all who are honest and intelligent and fair will give them full support in the main. Mayor Bartleman's grievance against the public school board is lack of subservience to his mighty will. Perhaps, he is still annoyed because he could not induce the public school board to swallow his central-school-town-hall cocktail. The public school board was elected for just such a purpose—to guard the interests of the children and the people. All the mayor's kindergarten class talk of economy is not fooling the public in any measure. His diatribes about boards and commissions will be equally useless. The people know the facts of the case.

Were the mayor doing his duty, he would be giving leadership in the matter of improving conditions at the cemetery. But if he refuses to assist in the matter, it does not seem essential to secure his co-operation to establish a cemetery commission. The Legion has done such notable work in improving and beautifying the graves of their fellow soldiers that it might well be hoped that they will proceed to give further leadership in the matter of suitable conditions at the cemetery. If they would take the initiatory proceedings in the matter of securing a cemetery commission, they may be assured of the full support of all other organizations and the public in general. The Horticultural Society planned much useful and helpful work at the cemetery but were discouraged in this by the mayor. The Oddfellows, the Rebekahs, the I.O.D.E. and other organizations and individuals have done their best to help improve cemetery conditions. All of them can be depended upon to give the fullest co-operation to a cemetery commission.



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"Chip" Ball Reports on Lions Convention

Gives Report of Annual International Convention in Chicago at Regular Club Meeting on Thursday Evening.

F. H. V. "Chip" Ball gave a report of the twenty-first annual convention of Lions International, held at Chicago from June 19 to 23 inclusive, at the regular weekly meeting of the Timmins club on Thursday evening.

Registration began on Saturday, July 17, and a pre-convention dance was held in one of the large hotels in Chicago before the business of the convention got under way. For a reasonable fee a large variety of amusements, aside from those which were scheduled for the delegates, were offered. They included educational tours, sports and entertainment.

The Ontario delegation held a convention on Tuesday. They got together at a dinner. There were fifty-six Lions and twenty-eight ladies present. The first convention session was called to order on Tuesday. The flags of eight countries in which there are Lions clubs decorated the stage and Past Presidents and officers were introduced. Addresses of welcome were given by officials of the Chicago Lions Club and by officials of the city.

In his annual address, President Edwin R. Kingsley stressed the activities of the Lions club. Among the activities was that of looking after boys "from across the railroad tracks", seeing that they were kept out of criminal classes and thereby out of juvenile court. Another worthy aim was the suppression of Communism and Fascism. General Melvin Jones, Secretary, then gave his report which showed that there were 2,798 Lions clubs, or five more than there were in Rotary. Lions' nearest rival. Membership reached 91,948.

At another session the president of the Chicago central club introduced the Old Monarch Members of the Original Business Circle of Chicago. Fifteen service medals were presented to these originators of the Lions club. Mr. Ball managed to get a replica to bring home with him.

A general discussion took place at the meeting on Thursday about the annual summer frolic which the Lions are holding at the Riverside Pavilion on August 20. The dance committee was appointed to look into the matter. Tickets will be sold by members of the club.

Try The Advance Want Advertisements

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Is it the mayor's idea of a joke to place the sign "Town Hall" on that little wooden building erected in front of the temporary town hall on Fifth avenue.

Last week both Mount Forest and Goderich had "Old Home Weeks," but no riots or near riots. It is likely, however, that visitors were tendered the "freedom of the city" in each town, as both Mount Forest and Goderich are quite Scottish.

The old town hall is now so far dismantled that it can never again be used as a town hall, even if the new town hall is never built. There is that much progress anyway.

Magistrate Burbridge of Hamilton gave a decision the other day to the effect that wife-beating may be perfectly legal under the common law of England of 1870, which is still applicable to Canada. The Hamilton magistrate, however, should read Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians, wherein the

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FOR RENT—House for rent; all conveniences; water paid; immediate possession. Apply No. 12 Third Avenue. 60-61-62-63p

FOR RENT—Choice 4-roomed apartment above Bank of Nova Scotia. Apply: Simms, Hooker & Drew. 61-62 p

CANDY STORE FOR RENT—Complete with machines and stock. Apply at 169 Birch Street South. 61 62 p

FOR RENT—Small new cottage on Riverside, Electric lights. Few minutes across Mattagami bridge. Apply 3 Sunset Park. -61 p

WANTED

WANTED — Maid for general housework. Apply to 16 Sixth Avenue. 61 p

WANTED TO RENT—Furnished house, good location, all conveniences; willing to rent furnished house in South Rosedale, Toronto, in exchange. Phone 873. -61

MISCELLANEOUS

CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION—Good homes desired for children, boys and girls, Catholic and Protestant, ages 4 to 14 years. Any home desiring to adopt a youngster should have their clergyman write A. G. Carson, Supt. Children's Aid, Timmins, Ont. 441f

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Nick Sekrepek. All persons having claims against the above party, are requested to forward sworn detailed statements of same to the undersigned solicitor on or before the 6th day of September, 1937. After the said date the assets of the estate will be distributed among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to those of which the solicitor shall then have notice. Dated at Timmins, this 4th day of August, 1937. J. E. TAYLOR, 20 Pine Street, N., Timmins, Ont., Solicitor for the Estate. 60-61

Church by Rev. Father Pelletier when Miss Iren Flivet was united in marriage to Mr. Emil Courier. The couple will reside in Ansonville on their return from their honeymoon.

Rumors That Appear Without Due Foundation

There have been a number of reports around town that a man was killed, a woman badly injured, and another man "lost" in the bush in an automobile accident at the Rea Hill on Friday—with all sorts of variations, including a woman killed, two men injured, etc.—seems to be without real foundation. In any event the police, town, provincial and township police, have no knowledge of such an accident. The hospital authorities have no patients answering to any of the descriptions given, and the undertakers of the camp are equally unacquainted with any such accident or accidents. Consequently it is not too much to say that likely there is nothing to it. Another yarn peddled by Dame Rumor to the effect that a man was drowned at Wawa or Sandy Falls, or both, at the week-end seems to be just another piece of popular confusion.

Snake Caught Itself When It Swallowed the Dog

North Queensland, South Africa, Aug. 6.—A prospector chained his watchdog to a tree here and went to bed. When he awoke in the morning the chain was still there—but at the end of it was a 20-foot python. The snake had made itself a prisoner by swallowing the dog.

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Enrollments or reservations may be made on or after August 16th.
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FOR SALE—4-foot jackpine wood; counter scales, coffee mill, meat slicer, sausage stuffer, meat chopper, "Jack Frost" ice machine; one tractor, 2 chicken coops, store counters, etc. All deals cash. Apply Nick Blawie, Third Avenue. 42-431f

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FOR SALE—Four-roomed house at 125 Hollinger Lane. Cheap for cash. Apply J. Daly, 125 Hollinger Lane. -261f

NOTICE

Tenders for painting the interior of S.S. No. 2 Mountjoy, will be received up to August 10th, 1937, price to include material. Also applications for position of Janitor up to August 20th. H. A. OGLVIE, Secretary-Treasurer, 60-61-62 Sandy Falls, Ont.

AGENTS WANTED

CHRISTMAS CARD AGENTS: Double your earnings by our Deposit System. IMPERIAL-WINDSOR Personal Cards \$5.00 per hundred up. Our Deposit System inspires larger orders. Increases your commission to 40%. Free Cards for early buyers. Novelty Cards; Business Cards; our Famous Photomounts; Etchings; Attractive Prints. Write for free new streamlined self-opening Sample Book. Also catalogue describing Calendars, Gift Dressings, Boxed assortments in New Wallet Gift Box. Room 128 British Canadian Publishing, 51 Wellington West, Toronto. -61

FOR SALE

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Newly constructed 3-room house, near new schools, Lot fronts on Two streets.
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Bargain
Maple Street North—5-room House with 3-piece Bath, Basement. Furniture—Terms \$1500 cash—\$50 per month.

40 Lots
40ft by 100 ft, with lane. Price \$200. Terms—\$25 cash, \$50 per month

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St. Matthew's the Scene of Marriage
Miss Gertrude Catherine Pietila and Mr. Gordon Strickland Wedded.

A quiet wedding took place at 10 a.m. Saturday morning, in the St. Matthew's Anglican church, when Rev. Canon Cushing united in marriage Gertrude Catherine, daughter of Mr. Pietila and the late Mrs. Pietila, and Mr. Gordon Strickland, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Strickland, of Lakefield, Ontario.

The bride was very charming in a pale turquoise crepe dress with matching accessories, and wearing a corsage of talisman roses.

The witnesses were her father, Mr. Pietila, and Mrs. Pietila. Mrs. Pietila was attired in a street length dress of white crepe, and wore a corsage of roses.

After the ceremony, the bride and groom received friends at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pietila. Mr. and Mrs. Strickland will reside in the Jarvis Apartments, Fourth Avenue.

Apostle emphasizes the fact that some things may be lawful but not expedient. Wife-beating would come particularly under the heading of inexpedient things—especially in the case of a big wife with a little temper, or a little wife with a big temper.

Councillor Wren once threatened to stop the multiplicity of tag days in town. But why bring that up?

Premier Aherhart of Alberta, who proposed some months ago that all newspapers should be licensed now has a bill to present to the legislature to license all banks and other financial institutions. It is about time there was legislation to license that sort of premier, with somebody having authority to refuse any license.

The newspapers that announced that a provincial election would be held early in October now admit that it cannot be early in October, is not likely to be in November, will not be in December, and perhaps, will go over until 1938.