

DURHAM CHRONICLE

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Whosoever is afraid of submitting any question, civil or religious, to the test of free discussion, is more in love with his own opinion than with the truth.—WATSON.

Thursday, January 29, 1925.

THE SPENDTHRIFT AGE

A noted Canadian financier has made a statement that if the banks and big financial institutions of Canada were run in the same manner as the Dominion Government, they would go bankrupt.

This is a serious charge, but when one looks around him, he must admit it is more than likely that the statement is true. But who is to blame? A Government is no better than the people who put them there—and no worse. The chief trouble seems to be the inconsistency of the average voter. Every municipality wants to get something out of the Government without paying for it, and as a general thing, the old pork barrel, especially around election time, is worked twenty-four hours a day in an effort to hold the powers that be in power. Public buildings of all kinds are requested, and the favored municipality or riding is forever reminded that they have received this, that or the other thing "at no cost to themselves" and should reciprocate by voting for the particular party who passed out the plums. And the weak part of our political system is that the party that faithfully guards the national purse-strings, never gets anywhere.

Governments never give anything "for nothing," for the simple reason that such a procedure is impossible. Government revenues come from taxes of various kinds, which the people, themselves, pay; and the big game with political ridings nowadays is to try and get a little more than their legal share of public improvements that are paid for by the people of Canada as a whole. In receiving Governmental grants, the electors should never lose sight of the fact that whether it seems so or not, they are the ones who eventually must pay. Spendthrift Governments are but the representatives of a spendthrift people who, while preaching economy, fail to practice it, and delude themselves into thinking that every time they bleed the Government for some concession or other, they are getting it "for nothing."

RADIO INTERFERENCE

The newest thing in legal action hails from Brantford. Two residents of the Telephone City had an estrangement and a lawsuit, and, of course, one of them lost out. The successful man in the court scene owns a radio outfit; and the loser, it is alleged, starts up a violet ray machine every time his enemy tries to tune in and spoils his concert. Not only that, but the use of the violet ray machine is said to interfere with all the radio machines in a wide area, and radio fans are seeking redress from Ottawa.

The situation raises an important point. Can the plaintiffs prove that the defendant is using his violet ray machine in "a vengeful manner" as alleged? If this point is not proven, can the user of the violet ray machine be stopped for the reason that he interferes with radio reception?

The judge or jury on this case will have to do some hard thinking to decide between the rights of the radio fan, whose tuning in is for pleasure, and those of the user of the violet ray, who may claim he is using it for medical treatment.

If the court decides that the violet ray must not interfere with radio, then violet ray users may as well get rid of their machines; if the decision says that the opposite is the case, then, it is up to the radio corporations to produce some further invention that will nullify the effects of the violet ray.

Of course, we must all admit that no one should unnecessarily interfere with the pleasures of others, but in the case of the violet ray, it is a hard matter to prove that vengeance is the sole motive.

PAY FOR COUNCILLORS

During the past two or three years, we have heard considerable talk favoring the payment of town Councillors. And why not? If a man sits at the Council Board twelve times during the year and is faithful to the trust reposed in him, we see no reason why he should not be recompensed for the time lost and energy expended in the performance of this public service.

If the payment of Councillors

will increase the interest in municipal elections and bring out a better class of men to fill the positions, it might pay a community well to have a paid Council. One thing that would have to be guarded against, however, is the professional municipal politician, he who is in it for the money rather than for the service he should render his community.

While we do not commit ourselves to the advocacy of paid officials in the smaller town Councils, there is a possibility that it might not prove a bad investment.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The motoring season is almost with us again. Gasoline went up two cents a gallon on Tuesday.

A Durham trapper says it's the dollars and cents that keeps him in the game of trapping skunks.

Several Orangeville men were arrested last week for gambling. The next chapter will tell of their gambling before the police magistrates.

A fig tree in "down town" Toronto is reported to be bearing fruit. Now we know where most of Toronto's society belles get their clothes.

"Silk-Dance" is the heading on a marriage notice reported by one of our exchanges last week. There's no argument about it. From now on, Silk will Dance all right.

At least one thing can be said for the new "wooden" nickels issued by the Dominion Government. They may pass for a quarter on the collection plate if you don't drop them too hard.

Next to the total eclipse, June 10th is the most important day of 1925 in one respect. On that date antis and pros will close the contribution of columns of church union advice through the daily press.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario bewails a shortage of power and in the next breath announces a project to illuminate Niagara Falls with something like a billion candle-power. Consistency, thou art a jewel.

One hundred and eighteen alleged murderers face the judge and jury at the Chicago December assizes. It would be interesting to note the percentage of those found guilty who pay the death penalty. Chicago courts have a continental reputation for their erratic findings.

Isn't it remarkable how little brains some people get through the world with? They can't think for themselves, can't let others think for them, fly off the handle at every little thing that is said or done, and finally develop forty-seven different humors every twenty-four hours.

Walkerton may form a skiing club in the near future. A Norwegian resident, Carl Larsen, is responsible. Skiing, snow-shoeing and tobogganing are three of Canada's best winter sports and are even healthier and certainly more strenuous than skating and other indoor winter pastimes.

The Des Moines (Iowa) Register says it's the fellow who can pay his debts but won't that is blocking the traffic on the road to prosperity. Isn't it the truth. Some well-off citizens do altogether too much side-stepping when payment time comes round, and are just one more reason for the continued high cost of living.

The new police constable at Hastings is to act as sanitary inspector, collect all poll taxes, keep crossings clean, enforce all by-laws of the town and prosecute under the O. T. A. For this he is to get \$20 a month. The spendthrifts! Durham Council offers \$100 for this same job and tacks that magical word "etc." on the end of it.

A New Scheme

A Virginia gentleman of color tells us that he doesn't hit his wife any more since he got fined in police court.

"No sah, from now on when dat wife zassparates me, I's gwine kick her good—den she can't show it to de judge."—Exchange.

Relief for Everybody

A travelling man put up one night in a cheap, little hotel where the thin partitions of a range of bedrooms, like the stalls of a stable, stopped halfway to the ceiling. In the stilly watches of the night, he lay awake and listened to the finest demonstration of plain and fancy snoring that it had ever been his fate to hear. It was full of sudden and awful variations. Sometimes strangulation seemed imminent; then, in the middle of a fantasia, the agony stopped suddenly, and there was silence. From a nearby stall, he heard a voice exclaim wearily, "Thank God! He's dead!"

HANOVER AND THORNBURY VOTE OUT OF UNION

Hanover Presbyterian Church has voted out of Church Union 117 to 27, and Thornbury congregation voted anti 74 to 34. Heathcote Church was a tie, 16-16. According to the Act, the church enters the union as there must be a majority opposed in order for it to remain out.

TWENTY-FOUR BELOW LOWEST THIS YEAR

Local Thermometers "Went Down Into the Cellar" Tuesday Night and Wednesday Morning.—Cold Snap Short-Lived.

Twenty-four below is the mercurial registration on local thermometers last Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning, and any who were out and had to face it think the thermometers made no exaggeration. This week we have no thermometer readings on the front page, as our big thermometer has gone out of order and is being sent to the manufacturers for repairs.

Those who had predicted an open winter must have meant a winter in which the furnace do not open frequently for coaling-up purposes. So far the present season has been steady and generally cold ever since early in December.

At present, the weather prophets are predicting an early spring, basing their prognostications on the fact that the deer have shed their antlers and that balmy spring weather may be expected in another six weeks. We expect another prophecy next week after Candlemas day, which some people have unflinching faith in.

The weather, while around the zero mark a day yesterday, has moderated considerably and this Thursday morning is about 12 above and getting warmer.

BIG PICTURE COMING TO LOCAL THEATRE

"Let Not Man Put Asunder" Here on Friday and Saturday of Next Week.

The management of the Veteran's Star theatre has secured for February 6 and 7 the eight-reel picture, "Let Not Man Put Asunder." Owing to the seating capacity of the local theatre, a picture of this magnitude is procured only at a great expense, and it is to be hoped the public will be generous in their patronage and thus show their appreciation for the effort to procure high-class screen productions.

There will be one show only each night, and, besides the eight reels of principal, a good comedy is also being shown. The shows commence at 7.45 p.m., and the admission has been fixed at 35 cents and 20 cents, tax included.

PROBATION OF CONVICTED PERSONS

(By J. G. Shearer)

Probation of adult persons who are before a court for sentence after conviction for some offence, is new in Canada. It has for years been used in the Juvenile Courts, but it was not until 1921 that an Act providing for the probation of adult persons in Canada was passed, on the initiative of Judge Mowat of Ontario, then a member of the House of Commons.

What is meant by probation? Not parole, or extra-mural permit, or ticket-of-leave, all of which are methods of dealing with persons who are serving time in prison for some offence of which they have been convicted. Probation applies only to a convicted person in lieu of imprisonment for a stated period. Suppose a young man of previous good record has been convicted on a charge of theft or fraud. If the magistrate or judge is of the opinion that if he has learned his lesson and that if given another chance he may be restored to good citizenship where a sentence might only confirm him in crime, he (the judge) may:

- (1) Let him off on suspended sentence.
(2) Put him out on probation under a designated officer, naming such conditions as he considers wise, such as: (a) he must do whatever the probation officer requires of him, accept a job secured for him, allow the officer to collect his wages, report at regular intervals to the officer, etc.; (b) he must agree that his wages shall go to the support of his wife, family or dependents.
(3) Determine the duration of his probation, or make it indeterminate, and discharge him as being satisfied of the bona fides of the man's good intentions and sufficiency to his discipline; (The man is then entirely free so far as the legal consequences of his offence are concerned.)
(4) Order him to make restitution for the offence he has committed.

Probation thus serves several purposes in cases concerned: (a) saves the convicted person the stigma of having become a "gaol bird" and makes it easier for him to retain his self-respect; (b) it provides for his dependents; (c) constitutes an economic saving to the state costing in the individual case in Ontario at the rate of \$30 per year, whereas in prison he would cost \$300; (d) it makes his reformation and lasting good conduct more easy and probable which should be the one great object of the administration of justice; (e) it provides, however, for punishment of those who show that they are not deserving of social confidence.

How does it work? It is in actual operation only in Ontario for the reason that as yet no other province has organized a Probation System and provided Probation officers, and the ordinary policeman would not prove an ideal or even an efficient Probation officer. It calls for not only Christian sympathy, but wisdom, tact, patience and unselfish devotion to the interests of those on probation. The Probation Association of Toronto and York County recently issued its first annual report. This shows that 436 persons were placed on pro-

Days We'll Never Forget



bation, 34 men and 91 women. Of these, 157 were under 20 years of age, 128 were between 20 and 25, and 151 over 25. Four hundred and twenty-five persons were dependent on these probationers. Ninety-six per cent lived up to the regulations. The remaining 4 per cent were brought back and sentenced. It does therefore really work. Ought it not to be introduced in the other provinces of Canada.

WHERE THE DAHLIA COMES FROM

Time was when the dahlia was not a flower that was highly esteemed, but that was before the really skillful gardeners got hold of it. By repeated hybridization, they have now produced a wonderfully brilliant and beautiful blossom that has come to take a high place in the affections of the lover of flowers.

The dahlia, it seems, is a native of Mexico, where it grows wild. The conquistadores, says Mrs. Charles H. Stout in her book on the dahlia, or else some priest who went along with them, saw or suspected possibilities in the wild plant and sent some of the bulbs home to Spain. There the work of development was begun and carried a considerable distance, but it is not a Spanish but a Scandinavian name that the flower bears and always will bear, simply because the botanist Dahl, a pupil of Linnaeus, was the first to describe and classify it in a scientific manner.

That seems unjust, but it is now too late for the wrong to be righted. The Spaniards, if they had tried, doubtless could have invented a more sonorous and beautiful name. The ancient Mexicans, too, have a claim for recognition, though the name they used merely meant "water pipe" and referred to the structure of the stems.

It is curious that the hybridizers owe much to a single bulb sent over to Spain in a box of odds and ends. That bulb grew into a dahlia of a new type, and the strange thing is that never since has that particular dahlia been found growing wild in Mexico or anywhere else. It must have been a "sport," a new variety that the nature tried and for some mysterious reason condemned to swift extermination. It was saved by chance for the gardens, and the descendants of that one bulb, mixed in inextricable confusion now with other varieties, must be credited with having no small share in producing the wonders of the modern show.

Corsets for men may solve the problem. The poor things must have some way to get tight.

DURHAM MARKET Corrected January 22, 1925. Live Hogs \$10.75, Wheat 1.75 @ 1.80, Oats .55 @ .60, Barley .80 @ .85, Buckwheat .80 @ .85, Peas .45 @ 1.25, Hay 10.00 @ 12.00, Eggs, Firsts .50; Seconds .40, Butter .25, Potatoes, per bag .50, Hides .05, Sheepskins 1.50, Ducks .16 @ .18, Geese .16 @ .20, Chickens .15 @ .25, Hens .10 @ .20, Turkeys .20 @ .28, Live Poultry: Chickens .10 @ .20, Hens .12 @ .20, Geese .14 @ .20, Ducks .20 @ .28.

PAY FOR COUNCILLORS

Goderich Town Council, by a majority vote, last year approved payment of its members at the rate of \$5 for regular meetings and \$3 for committee sessions. The step was criticized on general principles, and on the ground that the matter had not been an issue at the municipal election. The result of the 1924 election was defeat of two out of three councillors seeking return, and the slogan of new members elected was "No Pay." The ratepayers evidently decided that the laborers were not worthy of their hire to the extent of \$1,080, which was the total of the indemnity for the year. A proposal to pay \$5 a meeting was submitted to Streetsville ratepayers a few days ago and was turned down. Lisowel Council will discuss at the next meeting the payment of members at the rate of \$5 per regular, special or committee session.

Public opinion is undeniably hostile, as a rule, to payment of the members of civic bodies. Among the towns at any rate, there are few exceptions. Elora pays councillors and hydro commissioners \$50 each per annum, which is about \$2 a meeting, and The Elora Express notes a certain advantage in that, "if these representatives take pay, it makes them doubly public servants and justly open to ensure if they do not discharge their duties, whereas it does not seem fair to be too harsh with men who give their services voluntarily and without remuneration." Since the introduction of salaries for aldermen in Kitchener, the desire for a seat at the board has apparently increased and a contest at every election seems assured. The Kitchener Record thinks it likely that if commissions and trustee boards decided to inaugurate salaries, there would soon be an end to the system of repeated acclamations for incumbents of these positions.

Certainly, in larger cities, where remuneration is customary, there is keen competition for municipal service, and as a natural consequence,

more electioneering than in smaller centres. Saturday Night is moved to mirth by "the annual grand stand play of Toronto's aldermanic coterie." It notes that "along about December first every year, the prospective candidates get busy and from that time up to election day, they are a different lot finding excuses as to why they should be elected."

The gist of the matter, in respect to towns, at any rate, is that sufficient personnel of adequate ability is usually available to meet the needs of the corporation, and the attitude of ratepayers in general appears to be that if enough good men do not offer themselves under present conditions for the purpose of serving their municipality without remuneration, a few dollars a year by way of salary will not induce them to come forward.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. George Hughes of Little Falls, Minn., is visiting his sisters, the Misses Hughes, for a few days.

Mrs. C. Elvidge left on Tuesday to visit her mother and other relatives at Dauphin, Manitoba.

Mr. Leo Casey, of the local Royal Bank staff, has been moved to London and left for that place Monday.

Mayor Murdoch, Messrs. H. W. Wilson, George Kress and Secretary Elvidge of the local Hydro Commission are in Toronto this week attending a hydro meeting.

Miss Pearl Krahling, who has spent the past few months in town, has returned to her home in Stratford.

Miss Ruby Philip left Wednesday for her home at Yeovil, having completed her training at Durham Memorial Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lawrence entertained a few friends Friday evening, the twenty-ninth anniversary of their wedding.

Advertise in The Chronicle. It Pays.

Every Day Is Bargain Day AT THE PEOPLE'S MILLS Sovereign Flour Eclipse Flour White Lily Pastry Flour Wheat Cereal and Rolled Oats Bran Shorts Feed Flour Oat Chop Crimped Oats Mixed Chop Mixed Grain for Poultry Food Blatchford's Calf Meal Pig Meal and Poultry Feeds Our Feeds are of the Best Quality, and our Flour is Guaranteed. Prices right for Cash Highest Price Paid for Wheat delivered at the Mill Goods Delivered in Town Every Afternoon Phone 8, Night or Day. JOHN MCGOWAN The People's Mill Durham, Ont.

CHESLEY N.H.

(Continued from) eral brilliant rushes Chesley's goalkeeper man they had on a forward line broke n dangerous, but were ized by the poke- blue and white. The ky defense players, y teresting for McDo twice.

The first goal wa three minutes after y by Schutz. The fir battle, and no mo notched till about the second stanza, when the twice for Durha Third came from the end of the second ley was weakening of the second, and counters came in minutes of the final local aggregation y guns at the end of their opponents' winded.

The Masters of K game well in hand it was remarkably e up on the offside the game was fast y interrupted by the referee's bell, with Hanover. The go to Hanover to wishing their luck.

The line-ups: Buckley; defense, Durham Goal, fense, Schutz and McGirr; wings, Bvridge; substitutes, Kress; goal substi

Other Games Hamilton 4, St. Ottawa 2, Mon Varsity 3, Hui Stratford 3, G

D.H.S. WON A IN THURSDAY

Girls Defeated 3-0 Winners in 7-5

Following the boys of Durham High Schools, the sportive institution on an exhibition, their brother stud stration of just bo dian game of "sh played. The Mo blanked the local or combination, hard and fast sho

Miss Katherine goal-keeper, play in the net and s fire drives, and the credit for k down. However, fortunate in hav received a blow, the last frame the Claire Rowe and up a bang-up an the former, put exceptionally pl well. Miss Kress scintillating rush forwards looked more finished pos and sold the Mount For

The Durham in K. Lavelle; defen Rowe; forwards, Hines, F. McDon Pickering, N. G

The Mount I School hockey t defeat at the h experts from the edge to the tunc evening at the id test was fast and was the local b the visiting ager fact, for the fir the play was t Durham's favo final frame, the local team laid play because a the opening sta stalled three tin ers managed t twice. The seco what livelier, a two more and clear. The last Forest's. They made several se scored three of Elvidge showed ice as he can Wilson played hockey and net ers, Durbar s maining two, s den was reason Lack of comb locals from me the boys' couti mek instead, the way down not only put a brand of hocke spectacle of birds' stando

The Durham Snell; defence, son; forwards, Vollett; substi bar and Clark

Inter The prisoner a dozen times "Your honor like to have n a week. My I "But you w hand in this m your counsel s precisely s is what I am.