

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

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Whoever 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 truth.—WATSON.

Thursday, May 13, 1926.

EARLY CLOSING BYLAWS

The question as to the authority of a Town Council to pass an early closing bylaw requiring all places of business to close at 7 o'clock p.m. is a live one in many towns, and especially so in Durham at present, where, we understand an effort is about to be made to test the validity of the bylaw passed some years ago by Durham Council.

As in other questions of this nature, some of the merchants of the town are in favor of the bylaw, while others are not. It is not our intention to take "sides" with either faction, but rather to discuss the matter from an independent standpoint. The local Retail Merchants' Association want the bylaw enforced, but some of the merchants claim the bylaw is illegal, that there is no statute on the books of the Province that forces them to close and that until it is shown to them, they do not intend to observe it. This may not be the words used by those who favor the open nights, but the meaning is the same.

A year or so ago, a representative of the Retail Merchants' Association was in town and told the local association that the bylaw was perfectly legal and that any Town Council upon being petitioned by the merchants, had it in their power to pass such a bylaw and enforce it. Merchants who are not in favor of closing their places of business at 7 o'clock claim that this stand is wrong, and at least two of them have told THE CHRONICLE that they have secured legal advice on the matter and intend to stand by their guns.

The decision to fight the matter out is, we think, a wise one, and the result will be watched with interest. The decision to settle once and for all a question that has been a bone of contention for many years has, we believe, been arrived at in a perfectly peaceable manner, and there seems to be no hard feeling in the matter. The idea, according to both factions, seems to be to find out where they are "at." If the bylaw is illegal, then it is well to know it; if it is legal, then it does seem unfair to the merchants who close to have an opposition store open up in the evenings and take trade that would possibly go to some other store during the regular business hours.

The basis upon which the early closing of places of business is operated is that seventy-five per cent of the merchants engaged in a particular line must agree to close. This means that in a town where there are only two business men engaged in the one line of trade, if one will not agree to close, the bylaw cannot be enforced.

The next thing to be arrived at is just how to classify the majority of business houses in Durham. There is no one store here that sticks to one particular line of trade. The most of the stocks held are of the "general" kind, and while a store may lean heavily to dry goods, it also carries a stock of groceries and the like. On the other hand, stores that lay claim to groceries as their chief stock-in-trade, in some instances carry a line of dry goods or other wares foreign to a bona fide grocery store. If these stores are all placed in the category of "general" stores, which they are in reality, and the law as outlined to the Merchants' Association last year by their representative is correct, then it does not seem that the forced closing of the business houses should be a very hard thing to accomplish if put to a test.

We give below a reply in last Saturday's Toronto Star to a query to that paper as to the legality of a bylaw compelling the closing of purely grocery stores in Toronto. The Star's answer makes it quite clear that the bylaw is in force in Toronto, and that if the police are notified of any infractions, they will prosecute. So far as we are aware, the city of Toronto has no privileges along this line not accorded to any other municipality in the province, and if Toronto Council can pass and enforce an early closing bylaw, there is no reason why the same cannot be done by any council in the smaller municipalities. The answer says:

The Toronto bylaw, No. 8276, passed December 1, 1919. (Appendix B. to City Council Minutes, page 537), and which came into force December 12, 1919, provided that all grocery and fruit stores in the city should close on every week day at 7 p.m., except on Saturdays, and the day preceding a public holiday, when 11 p.m. was appointed to be the closing hour. On June 4, 1920, the royal assent was given to an amendment to the Factory, Shop and Office Building Act (Statutes 1920, chap. 86), providing that all by-laws heretofore passed under the Act, should, on and after April 30, 1920, cease to be effective in so far as they applied to the sale of fresh fruit. The fine for a breach of the bylaw is a sum not exceeding \$50. The bylaw is still in force. Are you not drawing largely on your imagination—generalizing from the exceptional—when you say that this bylaw "is taken as not being in force by the community and by grocers in general?" If you find that a grocer is breaking the bylaw, then complain to the police. There are more than 1,700 grocery stores in Toronto, and the police force is not large enough to have a constable stationed at the door of every grocery store in the city to make sure that the by-law is obeyed.

THOROUGH INSPECTION WARRANTED

The collapse of the north-east wall on the Garafraza street bridge early last week, and the persistent report of the dangerous condition of the bridge on Lambton street near the Queen street

church, has placed the Town Council in a peculiar position. None of the members of the present Council are responsible or in any way connected, we believe, with the construction program of these two structures, but nevertheless, it is up to them to keep traffic moving in town with the minimum of delay. The wall on the Garafraza street bridge is a wreck, and if this is all, the town has something to be thankful for. But the arch of the bridge may also have been weakened by the flood waters, necessitating in this event the construction of a new bridge.

For some time past we have heard it said that the Lambton street bridge was not in any condition for heavy traffic, one rumor being that the steel work was rusting out in some places. So far as the eye can see, the bridge has always appeared strong enough, and it may be that the rumor of its weakness is all rumor. The report may have started, too, from the condition of the flooring, which is not in good condition, but which is being repaired this spring.

We think that under the circumstances, the Council is fully justified in employing a competent engineer and having him make a thorough examination on both bridges. The Lambton street bridge is a County-Provincial affair, and Reeve Bell, we understand, has been told by Road Superintendent Johnston that an inspection is not necessary. In view of the rumors that have been passed around lately, we beg to differ with this county official. A most thorough inspection is necessary, and if any weak points are discovered, they should be looked after. If the bridge is in good condition, then the engineer's report will clear up a lot of the rumors that have been set afloat. It should be borne in mind that though a County-Provincial bridge, if any accident should occur, the town is liable.

The same rigid inspection of the Garafraza street bridge is also in order. Goodness knows, we hope that nothing is the matter with it more than we can see, but it is our duty to the public and ourselves to find out. Even experts make mistakes, but we contend that the inspection of the structure spanning the river at the foot of the hill can be made much better by someone who understands the game than by someone who does not.

There is not very much to be done until the water lowers, and apparently both bridges are still in shape to carry all the traffic likely to be asked of them, but with the lowering of the water, we would like to see a thorough inspection made of both structures, and made by someone whose report will be worth something.

Of course all this will cost money, but what is a few dollars in comparison with loss of life and a possible expensive lawsuit? In both instances, too, we believe that if the proper representations are made, both County Council and Provincial Department of Highways are ready and anxious to render all the assistance in their power to make the roads of this part of the country safe for the various classes of traffic that pass over it.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Don't pity the man with the hoe. He's probably after bait.

Wouldn't it be nice if we were as nice as we wish our friends were?

It is a sure sign of spring when the small boy hides the rake and the carpet beater.

A horse will pull your car out of a ditch. And very often a little horse sense will prevent you getting there.

Thank God, pedestrians don't have to lose time changing gears when getting out of the road of a speeder.

There is a lot of opposition to Britain's proposed tax on bets, the populace evidently being of the opinion that it is better to be a bettor.

Another good job for Constable Allen would be the repairing and airing of the Marshall cushions in the local opera house. Gosh, but they're hard!

Brantford sewers are to be flushed out shortly when 134 barrels of confiscated "real" beer will be emptied. Some of the town toppers are forced to admit that even a sewer has its day of greatness.

CRISP COMMENT

Some girls can't even wear a smile without looking into a vanity mirror to see if it's becoming.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

The downward trend of the price of eggs suggests that the busy hen is again on the job.—Kingston Whig.

A woman seldom takes up any reform seriously until after men cease paying attention to her.—Petrolia Advertiser.

Levels of the Great Lakes were lower last month than in March, 1915, which ought to please Chicago.—Detroit Free Press.

Many a man in public office improves the country roads to pave the way to re-election.—Kingston Standard.

The silence is significant. Mr. and Mrs. James Stillman seem to have been successfully psycho-analyzed.—Ottawa Journal.

Mussolini's real test of power will come when he tries to dictate to the women of Italy what they shall wear.—Detroit Free Press.

There is always a way of salvation, and the Charleston is doing wonders for muscles almost ruined by the flivver habit.—Washington Star.

Some Canadian and United States customs officials seem to entertain the idea that the jobs were created for their benefit and emolument.—Guelph Mercury.

When you spill ink on the living-room rug and your wife says it's all right, it isn't. You have handed her the entering wedge for a new rug.—Acheson Globe.

A scientist has stated that man runs faster than woman, but it's astonishing the number of men who don't take advantage of this natural gift.—Hamilton Herald.

DISTRICT B. Y. P. U. HELD RALLY LAST WEEK

Enthusiastic Meeting Held at Williscroft Friday of Last Week—Next Meeting at Owen Sound.

With beautiful weather in force, between 150 and 200 Baptist Young People of the Owen Sound District gathered at Williscroft on Friday of last week, the 7th inst., to give reports of the season's work, to hear of new methods from leaders, and to listen to an inspirational address by the Rev. D. A. Hackett of Pape Avenue church, Toronto.

The following Unions were represented and responded to roll call: Warton, Owen Sound, Southampton, Paisley, Hanover, Strathaven, Williscroft, Durham and Port Elgin by letter. Those present from Durham Union were Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Griff, and Misses Thelma Bell, Ada Holmes, Grace Ritchie and Margaret Mc Donald.

The session opened at 3.15 with a devotional period conducted by Miss Ina Hughes of Owen Sound, and was followed by an address by Mr. H. S. Griff of Durham, whose topic was in the form of an announcement, "Why We're Here." A meeting of the Executive committee, and a short programme brought the meeting for the afternoon to a close about 5.30, when all adjourned for supper.

Following a bountiful repast provided by the Williscroft Young People, the evening programme was resumed about 7.45, opening with a song service conducted by Mr. Griff. This was followed by music by the Williscroft B. Y. P. U. A feature of the evening session was the subject: "What are you doing in your Union to make it a success?" This was handled by a member of each Union and was a most interesting part of the Rally.

The speaker of the evening was the Rev. Mr. Hackett of Toronto, who gave a most excellent address on "Love's Gifts." The gathering dispersed after the benediction, to meet next fall with the Owen Sound Union.

GAME WARDEN FOUND DROWNED IN CREEK

Wife of Unfortunate Victim Was Formerly Miss Florence McKechnie of Priceville, a Cousin of Principal J. A. Graham of Durham Public School.

A dispatch from Belleville under date of May 9 tells of the tragic death of Clarke Russell, game and fish warden of Bancroft who had been missing since the previous Monday. A party of 75 searchers discovered the body in Deacon's Creek, about 50 miles south of Bancroft. The body had the appearance of having been in the water for some time, and it is presumed that he was drowned early in the week. His equipment was found with him. As he was not using a boat, it is thought that he was fording the creek and stepped into a deep hole. There is no suggestion of foul play. Whether an inquest will be held is not yet known.

On Thursday last fears were expressed for the safety of the game warden, and parties of searchers were organized. It was feared that as he had not returned by Wednesday, as he promised he would, something might have befallen him. His wife, however, felt that he would return and would not give up hope until Saturday.

Inspector Coffey of Ottawa was in Belleville Saturday in connection with the search for the missing warden. Clarke Russell was a highly esteemed official of the department.

Mrs. Russell was, before her marriage, Miss Florence McKechnie, of Priceville, and a cousin of Mr. John A. Graham, principal of Durham Public school.

MRS. (CAPT.) McNAB DEAD AT OWEN SOUND

Former Resident of Bentinck Died in Owen Sound Hospital Early Yesterday Morning.

A message was received here yesterday morning from Owen Sound informing Mrs. Duncan McQuarrie of Bentinck that her cousin, Mrs. Mary McNab, had passed away. Mrs. McNab was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arch. McLean of Bentinck. She was about 57 years of age.

The late Mrs. McNab had been ill for some time, and since last fall had been confined in the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital. Besides Mrs. McQuarrie, she leaves two other cousins, Mrs. Sinclair of Sault Ste. Marie and Mr. Alex. McCormick of Durham. A daughter, Islay, an only child, survives.

At time of going to press, we have no particulars as to the time of the funeral or where interment will be made.

Reception Poor "How's your radio?" "Fine, wonderful! Last night I got a quartette and tuned out the second tenor."

DURHAM MARKET

Table with market prices for various goods: Live Hogs, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Buckwheat, Peas, Mixed Grain, Hay, Eggs, Butter, Potatoes, Sheepskins.

HYDRO POWER DAM OPENS FOR FISHING

Saturday First Day of Angling at Eugenia, When License Fee of Fifty Cents a Day is Charged.

In response to a flood of requests which have come from the sportsmen anglers of the province for some time past, the Ontario Government has passed an order-in-council opening the hydro basin at Eugenia Falls to speckled trout fishermen.

The basin will be opened on the 15th of the present month, when sportsmen may angle there upon payment of a license fee of 50 cents per day, one-half of which goes to the Government and the remainder of which is retained by the issuer. The Eugenia Falls is the location of one of the largest hydro generating plants. The basin is one of the notably good speckled trout grounds of the province, and ever since it has been closed by order-in-council on account of the hydro developments, there has been a clamor upon the part of sportsmen for its reopening.

LADY BOWLERS ORGANIZED FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK

Durham lady bowlers met in an organization meeting last Friday afternoon in the Y. P. A. rooms, and though the attendance was not as large as it might have been, the enthusiasm of those present made up for any lack of numbers.

It is a foregone conclusion that the lady bowlers, as in former years will have a large membership, the indications being that the 1926 season will be the banner year so far, and the fact that they did not turn out for the annual meeting is no indication of a dying interest in the sport.

The various reports presented showed last year to have been a successful one, and with a goodly amount in the treasury. Of this, two hundred and forty-five dollars were turned over to the men's club for the purpose of helping out in the building of the club house this year.

Following are the officers elected for the coming year: President, Mrs. R. Macfarlane; Vice-President, Mrs. T. Henderson; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. C. C. Middlebro'; Convener of Games Committee, Mrs. R. J. Moorhead; Convener of Tea Committee, Mrs. H. Morlock.

ATTENDED FUNERAL OF RELATIVE AT PORT ELGIN

Mr. J. A. Aldred and Mrs. J. W. Blyth Left Yesterday to Be Present at Last Rites.

Last week we announced Mr. J. A. Aldred of this town, and his sister, Mrs. J. W. Blyth, of Varney, as being in Toronto in attendance at the funeral of their cousin, Dr. Watson. On Sunday they received a message from Port Elgin telling of the sudden death of another cousin, Mrs. John Agar, who died that evening. Mrs. Agar was about 60 years of age, and though no particulars are to hand, it is thought she died from an attack of heart failure, from which she suffered for some time. Besides her husband, she is survived by one daughter, Mr. Aldred and Mrs. Blyth left Wednesday morning for Port Elgin, to be present at the funeral, which was held from the home at 2 o'clock.

IN MEMORIAM

Allen.—In loving memory of our dear Grandma, Mrs. Robert Allen, who departed life May 14, 1916.

Long days, long nights, she bore her pain, To wait for cure but all in vain, Till God Himself knew what was best, Took Grandma home and gave her rest.

—Nieces, Lottie and Myrtle.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. Thomas Tuck of Markdale was the guest of Miss Jessie Reid and other friends for a couple of days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bauer and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. D. Gibson and daughter, all of Kitchener, were guests of Mrs. Bauer, in Bentinck, and other friends in this vicinity over the week-end.

Mr. Howard McDonald left Monday for Hamilton, where he intends spending a few days, afterwards going to Detroit, where he will engage in his trade as mason and bricklayer.

Mr. Ernest McGirr of Galt spent the week-end with his mother and sisters here.

Mr. C. H. Darling and nephew, Master Jack Gagnon, were in Simcoe over the week-end, and were accompanied home by the former's father, Mr. J. A. Darling, who is visiting with his daughter, Mrs. George Gagnon.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Dean and daughters spent Sunday with Meaford friends.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland of Priceville visited friends in town on Monday.

Mr. Johnson, teacher of the Priceville school, called on friends in town Tuesday evening.

Rev. and Mrs. Matthews of Lion's Head are visiting the former's brother and sister, Mr. Robert and Miss Minnie Matthews, Upper Town.

Miss J. A. Weir visited with her sister, Mrs. B. Smith in Guelph on Saturday.

Messrs. Percy and John Lawrence of Stratford spent the week-end with the Hardy brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Watson visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. S. Watson of Dundalk.

Miss Laura Truax is spending a few days in Toronto this week.

Mr. D. M. Saunders has tendered his resignation as Lieutenant in command of D. Company, Grey Regiment, here, and has been succeeded by Mr. C. G. Middlebro'.

Mr. Ed. Kress was in London this week attending Synod.

Rev. and Mrs. Whelan left this week on a two-weeks' holiday with friends in and around Alvin and other places.

Mrs. Finley Graham of Montreal is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. W. Calder.

Mr. and Mrs. Little of Owen Sound are visiting with Mr. and Mrs. S. McComb.

Messrs. Harold and Irvin Sharpe and Miss Eva Rodden motored from Toronto and spent the week-end at their homes here.

Beginners The difference between learning golf and motoring is that in golf at first you hit nothing and in motoring you hit everything.—Boston Transcript.

Advertise in The Chronicle. It pays.

Two Great Bargains For This Week

Ladies' First Quality Silk Hose (not seconds) all shades 39c a pair

Large Size Bath Towels, good weight and nice patterns \$1.19 a pair

Shop in Durham Wednesday nights. Special Bargains for next Wednesday night

The Variety Store

R. L. SAUNDERS

WHEN HANDCAR MADE MORMON

Joseph Rogerson, the age of eighty-six City a few days ago the few surviving Mormonism. He was famous handcart everlasting respect by one of the rugged were drawn in surprising numbers to the relief Young. The feat of probably be as the zeal, though under also the motive in fields in the unexplored United States. Fully responsibility for the of Edward Martin, the pioneers listened of one of their number would have attempted the time they did, to walk from Iowa City, a distance of miles, begun in the summer and not coming grip of winter had plains and mountains 600 in the party who made, and 450 when it despite a few birds Rogerson was one of walked the distance, though he had to endure hardships.

First Shortland The great... versions were its own from the United States were sent to Scotland to gain had no reason to expect success, since a com mean merely that on miraculous stories of Young. It involved Land and setting forth perilous journey to Brigham Young and others close at hand and over the face of the Salvation Army. The young boy in England, sionaries were making vertis. He was work fice of Benn Pitman, brother, Isaac, devis of shorthand which tion for most of those Ben used to give instruction in shorthand for running errands, kept up his practice, master of the art. It only the first short Utah but probably of in the United States ness as a stenographic importance in Utah, being a witness to events of which he had a record should.

Walked 1,300 Miles It was Brigham Young the Mormons on their should walk and push belongings with them. Those who had good plains first in the had walked most of the save the oxen and seemed to him altho that other followers on foot. There was a gained also. In the cost of transportation, pool to Salt Lake City and ox team was left twelve pounds. It that if the last forty he walked, those would from one to three it was to save this most of these notable marsh Speaking of crossing the Rogerson said to Art of The New York Her "I was with the com by Edward Martin, a companies had preced Iowa City earlier in. These were comman Ellsworth and Dan They left Iowa City and though a few most of the people panies arrived in good condition. It starting. The first took along to carry bedding and other not be made fast on was one handcart to a shallow, wooden two wheels.

The Handcart Each handcart was carry a total of about pounds of supplies and or twenty pounds of women and children, panies were supposed pushing or pulling the saw several drawn by We did not leave July 15. A company James G. Willie was weeks ahead of us, the overland route from Iowa City was take along to carry bedding and other not be made fast on was one handcart to a shallow, wooden two wheels.

Waiting for D Streams to vehemen had to be ordered in 22 The handcart gave m The slender supply of used to grease the ax order to lighten loads, ding and extra cloth thrown away which befey was completed wou