

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 the truth.—WATSON.

Thursday, January 20, 1927

FORMING OPINIONS

It doesn't pay, sometimes to jump at conclusions and form an opinion on any matter on which one is not at least partly informed. There are, in every community, some people who do this and, for some unaccountable reason, they seem to acquire a following. Whether they know anything about a question or not, they simply will have their opinion, and, right or wrong, seek to force other possibly better-informed people to agree with them. Usually they are wrong, but that makes little difference to them, for they are Johnny-on-the-job when the next question comes up.

Barnum, the great showman, was more than fifty per cent right when he said that the great American public liked to be humbugged. When we hear some people giving "authentic" information on topics upon which it is very apparent they know very little, we think of the temperance lecturer who was one night holding forth on the evils of the strong drink traffic.

"What was it the rich man called for in hell?" he demanded frantically. "Was it whiskey? No! Was it rum? No! (crescendo on the last 'No'). It was water; clear, cold sparkling water from some brook or mountain stream! Now, brothers, what does that show?"

It is quite evident to us the point the temperance lecturer wanted to bring out, but what a different answer he got from the man in the back of the hall, who, quickly forming an opinion, jumped to the conclusion that he was right, and glibly answered:

"It shows where all you teetotal fellows go to!" There is still another argument we have in mind which, though ludicrous in the extreme, is not more so than some of the conclusions that have been reached in arguments we have heard.

A chick can walk as soon as it breaks from the shell. A baby cannot walk for many months. Therefore, a chick is smarter than a baby. Not a bit. A chick's balance, university scientists say, is automatic. A baby's is not. A chick's muscles control its legs. A baby must learn to control its legs by using its brain. A baby which has learned to walk has learned more than the oldest hen that ever fluttered after its head was cut off. Life is harder for human beings than for animals because it is richer.

Unless reasonably well informed on a subject, we are of the impression that a person's "opinion" is not worth much. At this, we do not wish to insinuate that a person should be devoid of opinions. He should, though, be prepared to listen to reason, and be open to conviction when a worth-while argument is put up against him. There is no place in this modern, progressive world, for the bull-headed and cannot-be-changed ideas that are entertained in many quarters.

A PIONEER MANUFACTURER

The death of John D. Ronald a week ago Sunday is of more than passing interest to residents of Durham. Mr. Ronald was the man who built the first steam fire engine in Canada, and the man who built the present engine in use in Durham, purchased as far back as 1894. Mr. Ronald was a native of Paisley, Scotland, where he was born 95 years ago. He came to Detroit when 18 years of age and later moved to Chatham, becoming a partner in the Hyslop and Ronald Steam Fire Engine Works, in 1856. In this plant every form of land and marine engine was built, and the company also built steamships and tugs.

He was the man who built the first fire engine in Canada and his engine sold in every province in the Dominion. His engine won two medals at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876, one at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and a gold medal at the Western Fair, in London.

The quality of the fire engines produced by the company controlled by this pioneer Canadian manufacturer is attested by the present engine in use in Durham which, after 32 years' service, is still in good repair and able to throw three good

streams of water when the occasion demands.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

There aren't many of us who can not enjoy a joke—on the other fellow.

A Chicago mother is dead as a result of spanking her son. Any eight- or ten-year-old boy can see the moral in this.

One Durham citizen informs us that he thinks this Government Patrol system should be all right, once it gets working.

And still another one was heard to refer to the South Grey Electoral District as the South Grey Electrical District.

Deathbed confessions may be all right, but somehow or other they always remind us of the fellow who wants to bet his money after the election is over.

Some one has truthfully remarked that a man's business ability cannot be judged by his adeptness in banging the nose ball in the side pocket.

If you've got a million dollars, your idiosyncrasies may be referred to as temperaments. If you haven't, the ordinary public tabs you as a plain everyday darn fool.

We congratulate Barrister Currie of Newmarket, a former Reeve of Durham, in successfully contesting the mayoralty of Newmarket, where he now resides. He was elected to the chief position of his home town with a majority of 338.

Lita Grey, in her divorce proceedings against her famous husband, Charlie Chaplin, describes him as "a beast." Evidently Charlie's occupation of throwing custard pies is not so humorous in the home as on the silver screen.

A country is not made great by the number of square miles it contains, but by the number of square people it contains. The Dayton, Ohio, News is responsible for the above assertion. The News has a wide field in which to start a rousing missionary campaign.

A Durham woman was called out of bed at five o'clock one recent morning to answer the telephone, and the following dialogue ensued: "Hello." "Hello." "How are you this morning?" "All right." "Well, then, I guess I must have the wrong number."

A disastrous fire was recently averted at Forest, due, a newspaper dispatch says, "to the abundant supply of water available through the new waterworks system." Durham should be similarly equipped in case of need. With us it is not a question of whether we can afford it, but, rather, can we afford to be without it?

The Kincardine Review says that a married man may be down, but he's never out. That may be true of the Kincardine married men, but not of those in Durham. One married woman in this town says that before marriage she could never get away from her future hubby. Now, she never knows where to find him.

Huron County Wardens are selected on the party politics system, one year a Liberal and the next a Conservative, the members of the County Council of the proper political faith selecting the Warden for that year. Personally, we think there is no room in municipal life for party politics and trust that such a proceeding will never be adopted in Grey County.

Barney Parsons has been appointed the new train announcer at London station. Barney, we understand, has always been a rather decent sort of fellow heretofore. "Stoo bad. Now he'll have to learn another of those foreign languages for fear some of the passengers in London station will understand what he is saying. Another good man gone wrong!

The Montreal theatre disaster of Sunday of last week, in which 78 children were crushed to death and a score more injured in the rush to get out of the show house in which a minor outbreak of fire started a panic, is a tribute to the farsightedness of Ontario provincial officials. In this province the theatre "Exit" law is very strict. Had it been so in Quebec province it is thought the tragedy in Montreal never could have happened.

Captain Lovelace had strong objections to what he called the "new minister's high-brow talk." The captain's own language was of a primitive and unadorned variety, and nothing pleased him more than a chance to translate the minister's remarks to another old retired mariner, Captain Williams. The latter was deaf, and the minister's voice often failed to reach him. One night at a neighborhood gathering Captain Williams in the course of a vivid narrative, had referred to the "big fire in '81." "Was it the consensus of opinion," said the minister, "that the conflagration was the result of some accident or the work of an incendiary?" "Hey?" said deaf Captain Williams, turning to his faithful friend for light. "What he wants to know," called Captain Lovelace, in his shrillest tone, "is whether the big fire was set or ketched."

Children should be tanned in the sun, a doctor says. In olden times the woodstove was the usual place.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

BRIEF GLIMPSES OF JAPAN'S EMPEROR

Since the war the personality of a reigning monarch is of much less importance than the personality of a Prime Minister or a Foreign Secretary. But this generalization does not apply to Japan, and that is why the character of the new Emperor Hirohito is a matter of the first importance to the world generally. In a sense he is Japan. While Japan has been modernized in many respects its awe for its Emperor remains unchanged. Its regard for its royal family is part of its religion. This regard is illustrated by a little story Anne Hard tells in the New York Herald Tribune Magazine. An American, one day looking out of a hotel window in Tokio, was amazed to see hundreds of men in the street below with their little brooms, sweeping the dust into pretty patterns to make it more beautiful for the young Prince Hirohito, who was expected to pass that way. Probably the new King does not regard himself as a god but if his people wish to endow him with supernatural attributes it is not likely that he will seek to disabuse them.

In one important respect he is different from any of his predecessors. He has had a Western education and he has travelled about the world, being the first of his long line ever to have left his kingdom. He also dresses in the European fashion and plays European games such as golf and tennis. He likes the old Japanese sports of fishing, swimming and wrestling, too. He is fond of watching baseball games. In tennis he used to take regular instruction from Kumenai, the noted Japanese player, who was bade to forget that his pupil was the regent, and remember that he was merely a youth who desired to learn to play a decent game. It would be no flattery to say that Hirohito gave Kumenai some of his most anxious moments on the tennis court. It is difficult if not impossible for an outsider to get any clear idea of the character of a Japanese Emperor in Japan. He is not on exhibition. He is not to be visited. He does not make speeches which are quoted. He is a mere mysterious presence. But Hirohito, when he took his world tour, came into the open, as it were, and many people had an opportunity of observing him.

Kindly and Considerate

His trip broadened him but his education beforehand had broadened him. It is related that one night he sat on the deck of the Japanese warship "Katori" watching motion pictures. The crew on the ship had crowded on the deck to see the show and had been crowded back so that the men might not approach too near the Royal presence. But the Prince gave orders that they should be allowed to come closer. Then he asked his royal brothers and the gentlemen in his suite who were occupying the front seats to bend down so that the view of the sailors might not be obstructed. One day a dog on the ship gave birth to nine puppies and it was decided that three were as many as should be permitted to live. The others were about to be cast overboard when Hirohito heard of it. He stayed the execution and used to amuse himself by feeding the puppies and playing with them. Later on they were sent to the Imperial palace, where they are said to be flourishing today even unto the second and third generation. On his twentieth birthday he gave special orders that the sailors in the Japanese navy should share in the honors and special festivities were thereupon provided for them.

Never Touches Money

At Gibraltar the Governor invited the Prince to a race meeting and an American naval officer arranged a sweepstake for the benefit of the visiting Japanese. The horse won, and the American, quite naturally, handed the money to His Royal Highness. But no Japanese Emperor in history had ever been known to touch money, and besides Japanese royalty is not fond of gambling. The Japanese in the royal suite were in consternation. But Hirohito received the money and, subsequently, handed it to his Admiral that it might properly be dealt with. His people have a new and curious emotion for this sallow, solemn looking young man. Until 1924 when the imperial ruler passed along a street the crowds immediately fell upon their faces, not daring to lift their eyes to the royal countenance. But when Hirohito appears they stand up in his presence and cheer. The new emperor has not objected. Probably he feels that so long as his subjects can cry "Banzai" with such heartiness his throne is secure.

Not Like Wales

Emperor Hirohito is not very much like the Prince of Wales. Though he is several years younger he appears to belong to an older generation. We doubt if he has the

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Elvidge, and Mayor and Mrs. Murdoch are in Toronto in attendance at the Hydro Commission meeting this week.

Congratulations to Mrs. J. W. Vickers of town, who last Sunday celebrated her 77th birthday. Present on the day, observed very quietly, were sons Frank, of Renfrew and E. H. from New Brunswick, to be with her on her natal day. Other members of the family from nearer home were also present. The Chronicle joins in wishing Mrs. Vickers many happy returns.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Vickers and family arrived in town Wednesday night of last week and spent over the week-end with his mother and sisters here. As reported last week, Mr. Vickers has been sent out to Saskatchewan to open up that country for the Renfrew Machinery Co., and is the first representative to be sent there.

Mr. F. E. Vickers of Renfrew was in town over last week-end visiting his mother, Mrs. J. W. Vickers, and his sisters and other relatives in and around Durham.

Mr. C. B. Lawrence returned this week from a six weeks' business trip out West.

Mrs. Carrie of Albert street, had the misfortune last Saturday to fall in her home and sustained a fractured arm as a result.

Mrs. (Rev.) J. Morris of Woodstock is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Limin.

Mrs. Elvin Laybourne of Tuganoke, Sask., is spending the winter at the old home, helping to nurse her mother, Mrs. R. Banks, who is still very ill.

Mrs. James Banks of Riverview, spent over the week-end assisting Mrs. W. Bourne in caring for their mother, Mrs. Wilson, who has been very poorly, suffering from an abscess in the ear.

REALISM KEYNOTE OF DRAMATIC PICTURE

Public Demand For the Real Thing in Films is Gratified in "Steel Preferred." Realism in motion pictures—this has been the demand of the motion picture public ever since the screen became an entertainment factor in everyday life.

When the rights to "Steel Preferred" were purchased by Metropolitan Pictures Corporation, the first move was to send a company of players to the heart of the steel industry—Pittsburgh and its environs—where the big scenes were photographed.

During the filming of the picture one of the big scenes in the production was the destruction of a complete ladle train carrying many tons of molten metal. A portion of the railroad track was weakened, so that when the train with its burden of red hot steel reached this point, the track collapsed, causing the ladles to spill their contents of liquid steel down the hillside, where Vera Reynolds and Nigel Barrie were standing.

All the members of the company followed the flowing metal from one stage to another, and many of the gigantic furnaces, Bessemer, mixers and converters, as well as the ladle train, play a big part in the production. "Steel Preferred" will be the feature at the Veterans' Star theatre on Thursday and Saturday of this week.

The picture is thrilling and there are many laughs. The story has to do with the struggles of an ambitious mill worker who loves the daughter of a steel magnate, to rise in the world. How he wins against almost insuperable handicaps is graphically pictured.

Prince's gift of getting fun out of things, and no doubt he has been so rigidly trained that he does not understand what it is to get bored. He went through his appalling official program without the slightest sign of impatience. It is related that when he went to visit the Duke of Athol in Scotland he heard the Japanese anthem played on the bagpipes and expressed himself as pleased with it. Making a speech in the London Guildhall he showed his royal composure to good advantage. He began reading from a large roll of paper. It became unwieldy and he lost his place. There was a dead silence as the young Prince wrestled in a gentlemanly manner with the roll. His hearers were wanting to shout or scream to relieve the tension, but he was calmness personified. When he got the paper straightened out he proceeded where he had left off. Why should he permit himself to get nervous because a crowd of people, most of whom could not trace their ancestry for even a thousand years, were waiting? He probably considered that most of them were lucky to be within sound of his voice.

"You seem to have had a serious accident."

"Yes," said the bandaged person, "I tried to climb a tree in my motor-car."

"What did you do that for?"

"Just to oblige a lady who was driving another car. She wanted to use the road."

It Will Pay You to Advertise in The Chronicle.

GREY PRESBYTERY FIRST 1927 MEETING

Held Last Week in Owen Sound, and Business Was Largely of Routine Nature.—Two Markdale Pastors Ask for Change of Pastorate.

Matters of routine principally characterized the meeting of the Grey Presbytery of the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada, which convened on Tuesday of last week at Knox church, Owen Sound, with a good attendance of both clergy and laity. There were sessions in the morning and afternoon, and a number of matters of importance to the various charges in the Presbytery were introduced and dealt with.

Messages of Sympathy

Rev. W. H. Smith of Durham, the chairman of Presbytery, presided, and the business was disposed of with as much dispatch as possible. At the morning session a resolution of sympathy was passed with regard to the death of Mrs. (Rev.) J. E. Peters of Durham, and a letter ordered to be forwarded to the bereaved husband. The secretary was also instructed to send a letter to Rev. Dr. J. B. Fraser, who is at present in a Toronto hospital, expressing sympathy in his illness and hoping for his complete recovery.

Charges Are Re-Arranged

A re-arrangement of the charges of McIntyre and Maple Valley was announced whereby the two congregations will unite, with Rev. Hugh Shannon, the present pastor, in charge. Mr. Shannon, however, made application for a change of pastorate at the close of the conference year.

At the noon luncheon hour, while the members sat around the tables in the basement of the church, Rev. Ernest Thomas of Toronto delivered a very fine address on the subject of "Evangelism" which was greatly appreciated by all.

Reports Were Excellent

Excellent reports were received from the various committees regarding the progress of the work through the Presbytery and the collections reported with regard to the Maintenance and Extension Fund was exceptionally gratifying.

"Books and Reading" was the subject of an admirable address during the afternoon by Rev. D. M. Solandt, business manager of the United Church publications.

Rev. William Coultis and Rev. F. N. Bowes, both of Markdale, made application for a change of pastorate at the close of the conference year. These will be dealt with at the next meeting of Presbytery.

The Presbytery went into private session for the members of the cler-

gy only for a short time during the afternoon. They dealt with matters pertaining to the conduct of ministers. This is a regular proceeding at all meetings of Presbytery. Rev. Ernest Thomas was asked to make arrangements for a three days' retreat for the clergy of Presbytery some time during May or June. The next meeting will be held in Erskine United Church, Markdale, on the fourth Tuesday in April.

It was Children's Day in a small country community in Oregon. The very young and inexperienced minister seemed to be somewhat disconcerted by the row of little boys and girls in their starched best who sat in front of him. After several starts, which seemed to get him nowhere, he suddenly stopped, clasped his hands, raised his eyes to heaven, and with a beatific smile said: "And what is so sweet as the face of a little upturned child?"—Life.

BORN

Grant.—In Normanby, on Friday, January 14, 1927, to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Grant, a daughter.

DURHAM MARKET

Table with market prices for various goods like Hogs, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Buckwheat, Peas, Mixed Grain, Hay, Potatoes, Butter, Eggs, Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys.

Hosiery Sale 129 Pairs Ladies' Silk & Wool Hose. Guaranteed first quality. All shades & sizes. Regular Price \$1.00. Sale Price 59c. Don't miss getting a supply of these Hose at this Reduced Price. The Variety Store R. L. SAUNDERS, Prop.

JANUARY SPECIALS Men's 15 inch leather top rubbers, red sole, sizes 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; to clear at \$4.85. Misses 4 eyelet gum rubbers, sizes 11; 12; 13; 1; to clear at 1.00. Women's Hockey Boots, a mixed lot, to clear at \$1.75. Women's Boudoir Slippers all sizes to clear at .90. Special Bargains in Women's Hosiery Repairing a Specialty J. S. McIlraith The Cash Shoe Store Durham, Ont.

McKECHNIE MILLS For Best Quality FLOUR and FEEDS Feed Prices Oat Chop, per ton \$40.00. Mixed Chop, per ton \$34.00. Corn Chop, per ton \$34.00. Shorts, per ton \$35.00. Bran, per ton \$33.00. Feed Flour, per ton \$42.00. Flour Prices Maple Leaf Flour, per bag \$4.50. Cream of West Flour, bag 4.50. O Canada Flour, per bag 4.35. King Edward Flour, bag 4.00. Pastry Flour, 24 lbs. 1.10. Tankage, per bag 3.50. Vim Feed, ton, sacked 22.00. Poultry Feeds, Calf Meal, Oil Cake, Ground Flax, Rolled Oats, Wheatlets, Whole Wheat Flour, Salt, Bone Phosphate, Beef Scrap coarse and fine, Oyster Shell. Chopping and Oat Crimping Every Day We pay Highest Market Price for all kinds of Grains. Get our prices before you sell. J. W. Ewen & Son Phone 114 Durham, Ontario

Unfortunate... BARNUM'S TALK... He relates... Barnum's... showman... Marimba's... London... Henry... upon his... had heard... interesting... King Marimba