

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 the Truth.—WATSON.

Thursday, January 16, 1930

THE TOWN CLERKSHIP

The proposition put before the Town Council last Monday night regarding the consolidation of several of the different offices in town into one and the payment of an adequate salary is something that should be well considered before it is thrown into the discard. Naturally, there are those who are opposed to this move, and they should be heard. Whether or not Mayor Hunter is following a suggestion put forward in these columns in our December 5 issue last year we do not know, but on the face of it his proposition is along similar lines. At the time we advocated this consolidation of offices we had no opinion as to its feasibility from a legal standpoint, but we have been assured by Mr. Hunter that he spent two days in Toronto and finds there is nothing illegal in it, rather, the Hydro Commission favors it and this is one of the reasons why he failed to press the matter at the last meeting of the Council. There is more to know on the question before any further steps are taken. This is something that will have to be worked out by the Council as a body. If *The Chronicle* was responsible for the idea, we leave the working out of this idea to the proper authorities—the Council. Like Governments of any kind, they are put into office to solve problems.

There is one thing in the consolidation, however, that should not be overlooked. As we see it there is one reason for the combining of the positions of town clerk, hydro secretary, the public library and the like and this is for efficiency purposes. Granting this, another feature of the case will have to be considered. It would be a pity, indeed, if the town clerk's position in the future were to be such that he might find himself the football of each succeeding Council. For a long time we have listened to a recital of the shortcomings of our police department, but we find less fault with our individual constables than we do with a good many of our Councils. It has been many years since any constable has received the whole-hearted co-operation of the Council, and this being the case, he usually did not know where he was "at". If the new town clerk's position is to be in the same category, then it is better as it is, as the Ontario Hydro Commission will stand for very little horseplay in its business and would withdraw from the new arrangement.

There is a lot of work yet before Durham's business can be placed in such a position that it is possible to appoint a town clerk along the lines suggested, and in the meantime it might be good business to secure a temporary official to carry on until the details have been worked out.

THE SAME OLD STORY

There is an old saying that whenever you have nothing else to talk about, talk about the weather. This seems to have been juggled around a bit down in the United States and the modern news writer seems to have adopted the slogan: "When there is nothing else to write about, write about the non-enforcement of prohibition."

We have little doubt that prohibition non-enforcement in Uncle Sam's domain is all that is said about it, but down in that country they do not seem to be especially efficient in enforcing any kind of law. Naturally, prohibition is the "goat". The United States stands pre-eminent in the world as the country where laws are made to be broken, and that if one has sufficient money he can successfully break every law on the statutes and get away with it. For a country that sets itself up as the Eureka of civilization we would think she would take a day off in an endeavor to have her own internal laws enforced before she attempts to dictate to the rest of the world about morals.

If there is anyone who doubts the truth of this statement, let him subscribe for almost any of the United States dailies and he can refresh himself every twenty-four hours with tales of riot, rape and rottenness. If there does happen to be any really decent news it is crowded into the back pages in order that those nearer the front can tell their tales of crime, emphasized with two-, three-, and four-column scare heads.

There is a large percentage of residents in the U. S. A. who receive no "kick" over the common news items, but it is a poor tribute to the great majority of newspapers in that country to say that they pander to the class of reader who wants the sensational class of news that is usually carried.

This old man "booze" is in the one breath the most popular and unpopular fellow in the universe, and it is altogether likely that were the proper statistics available it would be found there were no more infractions of the eighteenth amendment than any other of the multitudinous laws passed by United States parliaments. There happens to be more said about it, that's all.

There may be some who do not see the question in the same way it appears to us, but the fact remains that the paper with the sensational news and scare headings is often the one with the largest circulation. Instead of educating United States citizens along the lines of conservative news, the greater percentage of the United States press is giving its public what it wants. And like children, the public often wants something that is not good for it. Take away the newspaper publicity and the general run of criminal would throw up the sponge. Cheap notoriety is what he is after and at the present time that is exactly what he is getting.

THE "GUEST" TOWEL

It has been said that "actresses may happen in the best of families." Another enigma is: "Why the guest towel?" Every family may not have an actress, but nearly every family has a set of guest towels. Why? Nobody uses them, not even the guests. We all know the line-up of towels on the rack near the bath-tub. There are the ones for the family and those for the guests. No matter whether there are any guests or not, there must be guest towels. The family dare not use them, and the guests, usually trained in the same manner in their own homes, also refrain for no other reason than "What is good enough for the host is good enough for me."

They know the commotion that would be caused at home should they at some time, with their eyes full of soap, inadvertently grope around and connect with one of these guest fellows to wipe the grime off, and as a consequence when visiting are always careful to grab the old fellows put up for family use. As a bathroom decoration the guest towel may be all right, but as a utility it is about as much out of place as a corset manufacturer at a flappers' convention. So far as we can see the why of the domestic guest towel must go down in history with that old chestnut, "How old is Ann?"

DOLLARS AND CENTS JOURNALISM

We have before us a circular from the *Toronto Telegram* defending its position in the recent town planning campaign in Toronto in refusing to accept advertising because it believed it contained misleading information. This circular is issued in defense of articles in the *Toronto Star* denouncing the *Telegram* for not accepting certain advertising of the "Citizens' Committee" which favored the town planning scheme, and which was not favored by the *Telegram*. In its defense the *Telegram* says that there was "some it accepted and some it refused", and makes the statement that "advertising intended to deceive is not admitted into the *Telegram's* columns." Naturally, the *Telegram* asks: "has the press of Canada a cash conscience?" and states further: "An increasing number of publishers in the United States (and even in Canada) regard their establishments as factories turning out papers instead of pins, pencils or pickles. To them the principles of journalism mean nothing. Their whole job is to sell as many copies as they can, and in every possible way."

We are not concerned with the fight between the *Telegram* and the *Star*, nor particularly interested in the town planning scheme in Toronto, but we must admit that there are far too many newspapers and business men who regard the almighty dollar as the only measure of success.

We are getting to be a selfish race and there are far too many who care little what becomes of the other fellow so long as they can prosper themselves. There is far less ethics in journalism now than a few years ago, but it is a peculiar thing that the newspaper with the least honor or concern for its readers is often the one that pays the biggest dividends.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

We tender sympathy to Mr. J. C. Templin, editor of the *Fergus News-Record*, and his son, Mr. Hugh C. Templin, assistant editor, in their bereavement in the death of wife and mother on Sunday of last week.

There is a move on in Walkerton to unseat Reeve Campbell Grant on the ground that he is not a householder. If the movement is designed with the intention of improving the Council not much objection can be taken, but, if, as is alleged, it is merely a conspiracy to cause trouble, then it is wrong. There is little to be gained by holding a grudge and a town's interests should not be sacrificed for no other reason than someone has an axe to grind and takes this means of doing it. Personal differences should not enter into municipal politics, and the man who allows himself to lean that way, not only injures his town, but is as well doing himself inestimable harm.

Thanks to Blundering Bill Thompson and his regime, the city of Chicago is "broke" and thousands of civic employees and officials are waiting for their pay. If Big Bill had spent his time in the mayor's chair in bookkeeping instead of Blustering civic affairs might have been considerably improved.

The weather during the past week has been erratic. From 5 below zero on Saturday, the thermometer has registered as high as 36 and there has been snow, rain and sleet.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

The Old Fashioned Winter
The old folks are telling us this is a real old-fashioned winter. The last two or three winters they told us, that we never had the rigorous climate they experienced in the old days. Meteorological reports disprove this idea. We have been keeping a fair average right along. The snow that has fallen this year is phenomenal. Fifty years ago the snow was only a few inches deep. The forecast held any bit of snow that fell. The sun had not a chance to melt it. The Etobicoke boasted a larger volume of water than it does today because the large number of trees held the moisture and gave it out gradually. Nowadays the rains come and the water runs quickly from the watersheds swelling the river for a few hours and then only the natural drainage enters the stream. In the spring the snow used to melt gradually; now a few warm March suns and it is gone.—Brampton Conservator.

Worth A Trial
A suggested change in municipal councils that seems to be gathering advocates on its side is a system in which half of the council would be elected for two years. In Tillsonburg a complete new council has been elected this year. Such a condition is not common and yet it certainly will not likely result in good municipal government. Every councillor requires several months before he becomes acquainted with the duties of his office. It is usually about the middle of the year before the new member gets his stride properly in the conduct of the town's business. In the event of a complete new council, it is very probable the work of the municipality is completely disrupted. Public utilities commissioners and school trustees are elected for a two year period with half the board retiring each year. In this way, the remaining members of the board may acquaint new members with business already under way and the possibility of a complete new governing body is eliminated. Undoubtedly such a biennial system of election has much to commend it and little or nothing derogatory to the system. It would be worthy of a trial in municipal councils, and we believe would be an improvement on the present system.—Acton Free Press.

The Boy and His Reading
Three boys arrested in Oshawa are said to have admitted to the police that their entry into the world of crime was due to the reading of half-raising detective stories with plenty of shooting and general disregard for the law. This same explanation has been advanced by other juvenile offenders. To hold-up, with the possibility of gunplay, usually is the first step; for unfortunately in most cases it also is the last as these greenhorns in this field are easily caught. Then it is the reformatory or the penitentiary, and all the romance is gone. After all, consider the amount of trash that is available in book form, but a small percentage of boys come under its influence. Where these wild stories find their victims is among the lads who are at a loose end, without guidance, and following the bent of their inclinations. Public libraries are a better class of literature than that provided in the tawdry "thrillers". The unfortunate feature associated with the downfall of a boy because of evil reading is that it would have been easier earlier in his life to have guided his mind toward an appreciation of the innumerable books that appeal to youth without exciting the desire for adventure of the criminal kind.—Toronto Globe.

"Peanut Politics" in Walkerton
There were rumors to the effect that some party or parties were "after Campbell Grant's scalp." We knew that the question had been raised as to the legality of him sitting as a member of Town Council. The conspiracy has come to a head. Roy VanHorne, an ex-Councillor (he and others, many think) has taken steps to test the validity of Mr. Grant's election. November 25th last.

Whether or not, Judge Owens agrees with the claim that the Reeve was not qualified to be a candidate for election to Council, for the reason that he was not a householder and was not rated on the last assessment roll for land held in his own right in an amount sufficient to entitle him to qualify, the whole affair savors of "peanut politics". In the light of broader issues which should concern men like Mr. VanHorne, it is very trivial. Having "sat in" at Council meetings and in close touch with municipal matters since Mr. Grant became a member of Council (over a year now), we have no hesitation in saying that he has proved himself a worthy representative of the electors. The town is fortunate in having him, a well qualified lawyer, devoting talent and time to the transaction of its business.—Walkerton Telescope.

Revive the Christmas Carol!
In days gone by much enjoyment was given to the people of this good town by the Christmas music which was rendered on Christmas Eve through the neighborhood by an extemporized choir that embraced every good singer who could be pressed into it. Led by the late Squire, J. W. Armstrong, the choristers did not stint themselves in their joyous rendition of the beautiful carols and each Christmas had the warmest thanks of the community. Would it not be possible to revive this ancient custom, brought to us from across the Atlantic many years ago? We are all so very busy these days of multiplication of meetings and run-arounds, that we are apt to drop some of these old-time customs, trusting perhaps that the radio or the gramophone can take their place. Vicarious performances of this kind are all very well but they cannot take the place of community singing. That is the real music. As a native African recently remarked music is—that is personal music—is the queen of the arts. It is really part of our life, like speech. The Creator intended that man should be musical as He has given each one of us the most refined of musical instruments, though truth to tell, in some of us it is sadly in need of cultivation. Surely those who can sing should be willing to revive the Christmas Carols. Load up and sing.—Flesherton Advance.

Modern complexions are not permanent, even though the women do use fast colors.

GREY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 1930

Following is a complete personnel of the County Council of the Township of Grey for the present year. There are thirty-six members all told:
Artemesia—Reeve, Herbert Corbett;
Deputy Reeve, J. A. Davis.
Bentick—Reeve E. J. McDonald;
Deputy Reeve, Robert Grierson.
Collingwood—Reeve, W. I. Field;
Deputy Reeve, Emerson Brown.
Derby—Reeve, Ernest Fleming.
Egrement—Reeve, W. H. Hunter;
Deputy Reeve, W. J. Philip.
Euphrasia—Reeve, H. H. Thompson.
Glenelg—Reeve, Thomas J. Brodie.
Holland—Reeve, Alex. Acheson; Deputy Reeve, John Hayes.
Keppel—Reeve, W. W. Shier.
Normanby—Reeve, Chas. Holm;
Deputy Reeve, Henry Seim.
Osprey—Reeve, William L. Taylor.
Proton—Reeve, William Jack.
Sarawak—Reeve, Joseph Gerry.
St. Vincent—Reeve, R. J. White;
Deputy Reeve, Thos. Ashby.
Sydenham—Reeve, Jos. Fretter; Deputy Reeve, Duncan Morrison.
Sullivan—Reeve Jacob Lembke; Deputy Reeve, Donald Hastie.
Durham—Reeve, Allan Bell.
Hanover—Reeve, Robert Brigham.
Meaford—Reeve, E. N. Arthur; Deputy Reeve, F. J. Richardson.
Thornbury—Reeve, J. W. Hutchinson.
Chatsworth—Reeve, S. H. Breese.
Dundalk—Reeve, Dr. A. D. McAllister.
Flesherton—Reeve, Duncan McTavish.
Markdale—Reeve, Thos. H. Reburn.
Neustadt—Reeve, Louis Himmeler.
Shallow Lake—Reeve, David Allan.

Old Friends
Though it is often well to get away from dull routine that rules us day on day, When I leave home I miss such faithful friends, I'm happiest the day my journey ends. The freight greets me here when I get back, Its flames aglow with lights all strange fires lack, And in my corner of the ingle-nook I find my well-worn chair, my dearest book. And here upon the mantel-shelf a voice "Tick-tock, tick-tock," that makes my heart rejoice; The clock, whose steady accents only seem To add fresh quiet to this tranquil dream. Old friends they are, friends honest, true and tried; When I go out to wander far and wide So much I miss their notes from life's refrain, That I am gladdest when I'm home again!

A LEAF
A leaf has drifted downward from the tree, Here, where the grasses twine, Pick up this leaf and note the artistry In every tint and line, A perfect thing to, each small vein that weaves Its lacy pattern there. Look up, and see the countless dancing leaves, That make the summer fair. Uncounted leaves upon one arching limb, And countless trees arise In countless forests, whispering and dim, Against earth's changeful skies. On every leaf the same vast Hand has penned The message of man's hope, As though the Writer for each hour would send A word to souls that grope. Perfection scrawled on every fluttering leaf Which soon must fall to earth! What of man's life that sometimes, too, seems brief—its worth?

Seeing 'Em Everywhere
Mrs. California Condon laid a \$1,000 egg at the Washington Zoo the other day. The high cost of snakes is blamed on the eighteenth amendment.—Washington Herald.



GOVERNOR'S AIDE BUYS FARM
Capt. Ralph Raynor, aide-de-camp, to Lord Willingdon, Governor-General of Canada, has purchased the famous La Prairie farm in the Musquodoboit Valley, Nova Scotia, which is to be a model farm and used as an important feature in the Canadian colonization plan for training young immigrants. It is reported that Lord Willingdon has an interest in the plan.

"My hero, is there anything in this world you fear?"
"There is but one thing."
"Ah, yes, and that—?"
"Enforcement officers."—Banter.

Read *The Chronicle* ads on page 7.

Final Clearance Before Stocking

- A Number of Odds and Ends at Ridiculously Low Prices:
- Ladies' fine Cashmere Under Hose, pr. 10c.
- Ladies' cotton gloves, per pair10c.
- Ladies' Felt Hats, 15c.
- Babies' flannelette crib blankets, ea. 15c.
- Ladies' Collar and cuff sets, each15c.
- Babies' Rubber Pants per pair10c.
- Centre pieces, cushion covers, stamped for embroidery, regular 50c. for15c.

We have many other articles we are clearing just as cheaply. Come in and See Them!

The Variety Store
R. L. Saunders, Prop.
PHONE 4 DURHAM

Every Bell Telephone is a Long Distance Station

Lower rates for Long Distance Calls now in effect

New reduced rates for long distance telephone service in Ontario and Quebec have been in effect since January 1.

The new lower rates affect chiefly calls to points from 75 to 800 miles distant, the reductions being from \$.05 to \$.20 per call. These mean an annual saving of \$200,000 for telephone users.

Long distance telephone service is constantly improving in speed, reliability and scope. Every Bell telephone is a long distance station from which one may talk with greater satisfaction—and at lower rates—than ever before.



CHURCH

KNOX UNITED
The Women's Mission Knox United church met afternoon in the home of Mrs. E. Ledingham, the very ably filled the meeting opened with prayer. The final reports of work were given by the J. S. Mcraith. The by Mrs. Thos. Allan, Hesters by Mrs. Thos. Allan by Miss M. J. Satisfactory. The service was taken by Mrs. N. A. devotional letter was Belle McGirr and the Miss Margaret L. "From Jerusalem to ginning with the stor from its birth at a 1928 conference at paper was intensely it meeting closed with Holy Spirit. Heavenly Lord's Prayer. Tea happy social hour was

GLENELG CEN
The members of the Baptist Mission Church met last at the home of Belle McGirr with Mrs. siding. The Bible re by Miss Flora McFar were given by Mrs. A and Miss Bonar. Mrs. Binnie on "The Test of The topic was a New "Following the Glean by Mrs. J. P. McGillivray were read and the Mary McParlane. and Miss Binnie said the Voice their hearts the lunch collected the Ladies' Aid Society

SPOKE ON
At the Union Pray Queen Street United nesday evening the former Baptist minister but now a secretary Branch of the Bible sent and gave a mo on "The Test of Africa." He showed don's life in the S Livingston in Central in Uganda, of Mary covering most of the Africa. Then he spoc periences. One sto doctor who came to and wanted his six boys were educated at and are doing a home land. His ad picture of what mi in giving others Christ through cont the labor in getting and news translated languages. It was they had support. Rev. H. S. Fiddes Hayes read the less Armstrong and Rev part in devotional p in Trinity Angl Thursday evening R directed the opening A Armstrong had pr and Rev. H. S. F sermon. The topic by Prayer." He su prayer having first the more prayer th is for worry and a

BURNS CHUR
The Women's M Burns church, Rock January meeting at D. A. Clark with It was the annual ection of officers re President, Mrs. J. Miss L. Fletcher; McQuarrie; Home Mrs. D. A. Clark; Watson. Miss L. Fletcher gave interesting rea offered prayer and with hymn 374 a Lord's prayer in un fifth meeting will b of Mrs. James Ewel

BAPTIST
The Women's M Baptist church, Mrs. G. A. Thomp January 8. The pr was in the chair, by singing, "I lay Mrs. Knisley led Scripture lesson, t read by Miss Gra "Perfect Peace" by and "Trust and O ford, were very minutes of the Ded read by the secreta

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BREAD
pensive Good Health baked by us an exquisite invites eag tion. Made day.

Hend Ba