

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

Circulation for 12 months, 1,400

Subscription Price—Five cents per single copy; by mail in Canada \$2.00 per year; to United States \$2.50. Office Hours—9 to 12 M., 1 to 5:30 P.M. except Thursdays, when Office closes at 12 o'Clock Noon.

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, May 5, 1932

KEEPING DOWN THE TAXES

The finding of the deputation from the Public Utilities Commission which waited on the Council last Monday night, informed them there was a deficit of between eight and nine thousand dollars in the operation of the system, and recommended that the town issue debentures for \$14,000 to take care of this and further expenditures, need cause the taxpayers of the town little alarm. It is something which should have been brought to a head long ago. The efforts to keep down the tax rate of the town by past councils is in reality the cause of this predicament. The fact that there is a deficit in the waterworks system means nothing more than poor judgment in not issuing debentures large enough to take care of the carrying charges. Instead of the issue of \$50,000, it should have been at least \$65,000, and at the time this matter was under consideration, the engineers in charge advised that debentures amounting to "not less than \$60,000" be issued. The fact that the waterworks system has a deficit does not mean that it is not a good thing or that the town should not have undertaken it. If a further \$14,000 is issued, the council is but doing now what should have been done long ago.

It would not be very much of a surprise if we found ourselves in a similar position with the paving account. When the paving was completed and the town rate was struck, it was felt by the majority who gave it consideration that the town rate would go up two or more mills. Instead, it was held at the same level, 52 mills, and this has been one of the talking points at nomination meetings. At the time we felt the rate should have been raised, and we feel still that the time is coming when it will be. It cannot be said to be good business to do without necessities just to keep the town rate down. We have pavement and a first-class waterworks system now and must expect to pay for them. We can and will do this, and while none of us relish any higher a tax rate than we are now paying, when the rate is raised we can feel that we are paying for something from which we are receiving real benefit and enjoyment.

It is an admirable thing for a council to endeavor to keep the taxes as low as possible, but when municipal works are gone ahead with on a scale adopted by Durham, there is nothing surer than we shall have to pay for it. In the course of the next year or so the town will be up against the work of laying new sidewalks on our main street. This, too, will cost money, will have to be paid for, and may raise our taxes again.

We do not intend this as a gloomy picture. We do not know of a town that is in any better position financially than Durham. Any rise in our debenture debt in the past few years has been for necessities, and while it may cost money for these things, it also costs money to be without them.

We like to see the council keep the taxes as low as possible and we like to see them administer our affairs economically, but the mere fact that they "kept the taxes down" does not appeal particularly at election time.

The recommendation of the Public Utilities Commission to issue new debentures may be heralded in some quarters as evidence that the town is slipping financially. Rather than hold this opinion, we see nothing strange in it other than we are now paying for accommodations which we should have had years ago, and which would have saved us a good many thousands of dollars.

Keeping the taxes down is to be commended, but if it is to be accomplished by sacrificing health and fire protection, or doing without that which is an absolute necessity, then it is anything but the proper policy.

AND NOW THE STEAMERS!

Germany is the first nation to call a halt in the building of record-breaking steamers for transatlantic service. They do not pay. Whether the other nations will follow suit is not known, but if they do not they should. Why a fast steamer, anyway? Of what advantage is it to the average passenger presumably on a holiday, to arrive in Europe a day earlier? Is not the sea trip worth something? It may be true there are some passengers who want to make every minute count, but the chances are that they,

too, waste all the time they gain after they get there. We have heard of motorists from Durham making time to Toronto that the editor of this paper would never dream of. We haven't the nerve. But it's dollars to doughnuts that after cutting a half hour or so off the trip these same speeders buy themselves a cigar and sit down in the rotunda of the hotel and have a smoke. And this fast travelling costs money. It takes more gasoline, more oil, and is most decidedly harder on the car.

And so it is with ocean liners. An ocean greyhound may cross the ocean several hours faster than an otherwise good steamer that lacks nothing the other possesses except speed. Chances are the average passenger is enjoying the sea passage to the full and feels disappointed when he knows he'll step ashore in a few hours. He has made a record trip, perhaps, but has missed another day on the blue, briny ocean.

The same factor has entered into the construction of ocean liners as the automobile. It takes horsepower to make speed. The more speed the more fuel and the greater the cost; and the greater the cost to the ocean shipping companies, the higher rates they have to charge to break even or make a little money.

This went over big when money was plentiful, but now that the shoe is on the other foot, the average traveller would much sooner spend another day on the ocean and get his passage several dollars cheaper. If you don't believe this, just take notice of the increased passenger traffic on both rail and ocean lines when the companies offer cheap return fares. With slower boats, the same excellent service could be given, the only difference being a longer time on the water.

Perhaps the best indication we have that the world is returning to normal is the way our transportation companies are going after business with cheap fares. A few years ago they would have laughed in your face had you suggested it.

AN OUTSPOKEN CLERGYMAN

Rev. Father C. E. Coughlin, of the Shrine of the Little Flower, Royal Oak, Mich., whose radio talks have been listened to with increasing interest by his audience of millions of radio fans, has been censured by Cardinal O'Connell, head of the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the United States. Father Coughlin, a native of Hamilton, has attained world-wide fame for his radio addresses and it would be a pity if his superiors in the church would deny him the right to discuss other than religious topics over the ether.

We think we can see the point from Cardinal O'Connor's side. As he states in his condemnation of the broadcasts, he has no objection to religious addresses over the radio, but does object to "A priest who talks to the whole world without being responsible to a superior for his statements."

On the other hand, we believe Father Coughlin has been doing a real service to his country in some of his utterances. His condemnations come straight from the shoulder, and when his address is over there is no misunderstanding what he means. There seems to be a general belief among the higher-ups in all churches that a man of the cloth should fulfill his function of guiding his own parish, not, as Cardinal O'Connell says, "attempt to set up an unlimited sphere of influence."

We do not know why this should be so, but it is. We never could understand why a man, because he is a minister of the church, should be expected to steer shy of controversial discussions in public, providing he does not make them from the pulpit, and is satisfied to get out on common ground and take his bumps with the rest of us. From the addresses we have heard by Rev. Father Coughlin, we imagine he can hold his own, and while we do not agree with everything he says, one must admire him for his earnestness and fearlessness, and the confidence that he is fighting for the principles in which he believes.

CIRCUS TIME IS HERE!

Depression or no depression, the folks just will go to the circus. Down in New York the Ringling show opened recently for a three weeks' engagement. And what a business they were doing! From the walls that have come out of the United States about bread lines, no business, stagnated industry and what not, one would judge a circus in that metropolis where jobs are at a premium would find money scarce and patrons very few. But it is not so. The Ringling show always opens at Madison Square Garden, and in this year of depression, 1932, the first nine days' estimated gross receipts amounted to over \$220,000, and on one Saturday the big show took in \$45,000. The advance sale for the final two weeks was \$70,000, beating all former advance sales by \$55,000. It is thought the total takings for the full three weeks will amount to something like half a million dollars.

We are passing through a depression. We

have our bread lines, no work, and everything seems blue. In the face of all this, however, we are able to buy a new tire for the car, fill her up with gasoline, and—go to the circus. It is a great life.

Whether the Ringling show will continue the season as it has commenced when it swings out around the circuit is yet to be learned, but anyway, it has got off to a magnificent start in spite of the "greatest depression of all time," which makes one wonder if the matter of "depression" is not largely one of mind. We seem to have plenty of money to spend when something turns up that we want to spend it on.

A Chicago judge says bridge breaks up homes. Canadian married men declare it is very hard on the shins.

A radio artist is known as "The voice of a thousand shades." One, we suppose, for the traffic cop, and the other nine hundred and ninety-nine for the pedestrian.

A man in New York state, who says he found a million dollars has been charged with bigamy. If we had a million dollars we wouldn't be charged with anything.

Montreal boys between 10 and 16 years of age will be given an annual pass to the baseball park if they sign a pledge not to smoke, use profane language, or abuse players or umpires. If the Montreal team gets much closer to cellar position that pledge is going to be hard to keep.

A House of Commons committee has vindicated the Imperial Oil Co. of the charge of taking advantage of the dumping duties in fixing the price of gasoline. We hope it doesn't vindicate them too much or they may be tempted to add another cent or two to the retail price.

Mrs. Eveline Spencer of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, lectures on "How to manage a husband." Old stuff! Frinstance, when Angeline calls us "dearie" we know we're going to buy it, and that it is going to be expensive. Also, she says the best way to manage a husband is to feed the darn thing.

Ninety-foot rails are to replace the sixty-foot ones on English railways. It is found with the present ones a passenger coach jolts up and down 117 times per minute at 40 miles an hour; with the 90-foot ones the jiggling is reduced to 39 a minute. This will be a comfort to corpulent passengers with oscillating tummies.

A girl in Lawrence, Massachusetts, is a champion of phonetic spelling. She says it doesn't matter how a word is spelled. With the dropping of spelling as a course in our higher educational institutions, and the efforts of some of our so-called intellectuals we are inclined to the opinion that the majority of university graduates already agree with her.

One of our exchanges gives the interesting information that Reno, Nevada, is approximately 80 miles West of Los Angeles, California. It might have told its readers something equally interesting. The Western entrance to the Panama Canal is farther East than the Eastern entrance. There are some funny truths in this old world if one looks for them.

They simply will do these things, and apparently nothing can be done about it. Harrison had a school fire last week and the dispatch said, among other things: "There was only one casualty, a teacher being struck on the head by a flying dictionary. The damage will amount to several thousand dollars, covered by insurance." The teacher's head or the dictionary?

Miss Macphail in her weekly letter says that Senator Meighen in the Beauharnois investigation is "presumably the Crown Attorney, but actually the gleeful Tory partisan, exulting in his traditional enemies' downfall." But we thought that the Grits and Tories, while sincere in their political Donnybrooks, presented a united front when the chance to plunder the country presented itself.

Canadians are not money hoarders, according to recent investigation of bank note circulation in this country. The survey just concluded shows that Canadians have confidence in the Canadian banking system. This might explain something to President Hoover of the United States. Residents of that country cannot be blamed for "hoarding." If they put their money in one of the country's numerous banks it is likely to be gone by morning. The only other alternative is to "hoard" it in the good old pioneer manner—keep it in their sock.

How strange that everybody can get along on less except those who live on tax money.—Publisher's Syndicate.

The trouble with a good many people is that when opportunity does knock they are out gadding in a flivver.—Galt Reporter.

Perhaps the reason the East refuses to call a war is because the West calls the Versailles peace a peace.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Spring is welcomed by everybody except the man for whom it means only another experience with housecleaning.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

No Sorrow At Parting

People will so deeply regret the passing of the present depression that it will be like unto the story that is told of an old curmudgeon who died. After the funeral, as the grave was being filled in, a stranger who had gone in to have a look at the cemetery asked the caretaker: "What complaint did he die of?" And the caretaker, who was somewhat deaf, only partly got the question, replied: "There ain't no complaint; everybody's satisfied."—Shelburne Economist.

"Soaking" the Rich

Miss Agnes McPhail, M.P., for South Grey, is advocating that the Government confiscate the wealth of the rich to raise money needed to carry on the affairs of the country. "Soak the Rich," is, we know, a grand soap box slogan. But its great trouble, as a policy, is that one good soak can put your rich man and his fortune so completely out as to make a return engagement impossible. In other words, if a government once started, confiscating fortunes, there would soon be no more fortunes to confiscate. The blessed things don't grow. Obviously, therefore, this plan of seizing fortunes and of "soaking the rich" would hardly work. It might be fine for one year, or two, when the government would have a grand spree with someone else's money, but when all the fortunes had been soaked out of the ring, we should be in for a bad headache.—Southampton Beacon.

MANY AND VARIED USES FOR HUMBLE "HEN FRUIT"

An egg, an albuminous egg, though to most of us just a filler or a spiller, is a whole day's work for the hen. Egged on by insistent demand for a market, the editor of the National Poultry Journal lists a surprising number of its uses, aside from its use as an interior decoration. Eggs, he points out, are used extensively in the manufacture of imitation ivory, drugs, ice cream, adhesives, pigment fixers, printer's ink and glue; for tanning, bookbinding, cleaning of the leathers and gloves, sizing paper, art varnishes for photographs, cards and paintings, dyeing textiles; and in addition to their use by bakers, makers of candy, pastries, mayonnaise and salad dressing, they are indispensable in the preparation of films for your camera. Even the antiques, though not extensively collected, are, instead of being wasted, used for fertilizer. And they are used (we really ought not to tell you this) for—Listen!—clarifying wine. May the hen's son never set! He won't!—Pathfinder Magazine.

THE YOUNG MAN WHO "QUIT" SCHOOL

Young man, I notice that you are not in school any more. What's the matter? Think you have received enough education to carry you through the world or do you stay out just because you don't like to go? Didn't like the teacher, eh? Well, let me tell you that you will find the meanest teacher on earth now a dream of love beside the bosses you will work under in the hard and unfeeling years you will plow into when you have to get out and hustle for yourself.

AN EASY WAY OUT

The new museum guide didn't know his job very well, but he tried his best. "Here, ladies and gentlemen, is a monument erected to a noble cause," he told his party. "And what does it stand for?" asked a young lady. "E-r-r-r, I don't know, miss," the guide faltered, "but it'd look silly lying down, wouldn't it?"

SMILE, SYMBOL THAT HAS NEVER CHANGED MEANING

A mile seems a steady, dependable measure, 5,280 feet long as we learned in school, a fine old Latin word meaning the equivalent of a thousand paces. But a learned English colonel, writing in the Geographical Journal, points out that a life means whatever it is held to mean, and very little more. In 1344 Dover was 12 miles from Canterbury; in 1633 the same Dover was 15 1/4 miles from the same Canterbury; the mile had changed. And a widely travelled Englishman, writing in 1617, noted that "five Italian miles, or three French, or two and a half English make one Dutch mile, and that one Dutch mile and a half makes a mile of Switzerland. Even in England the miles seem, and indeed are more short, neerer London, where the ways are faire and plaine.... but towards the north and in some particular places of England, the miles are longer."

So when we read old English travel books a mile may be a mile, or two miles, or hardly a quarter of a mile. But then, as a matter of fact, almost all words are like that. They do not mean precisely the same thing in the Twentieth century as in the Sixteenth or in England as in America. The only symbol which seems to survive the centuries and transoceanic transplantings without change is a smile. That is understood across all the boundaries of space and time.

ROOM FOR EXPANSION

A statement just issued by the Dominion Live Stock Branch with respect to testing and production of dairy cows is of special interest at this time. It shows that there is in the whole of Canada a total of 63,336 cows out of an aggregate of 3,683, or only 1.72 per cent, now under official test. Cow testing in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia is now carried out under the supervision of the provincial Departments of Agriculture, while in the other six provinces the federal Department is carrying out the work. There are at the present time a total of 447 associations in the several provinces engaged in carrying out this form of activity.

Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day

We have a splendid display of tokens suitable for a remembrance of the day.

Gloves, Scarves, Hosiery, Purses, Handkerchiefs, Framed Mottos, China Cups and Saucers, a favorite Piece of China.


And don't forget the famous SMILES 'N CHUCKLES Chocolates in Special Mother's Day Wrappers. 50c per pound. Guaranteed fresh.

Mother's Day Cards and Booklets

SPECIAL! Cut Flowers and Potted Plants From Northern Nurseries See our window displays.

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

Featuring Economy



FORD HOTELS

3000 ROOMS IN FIVE CITIES SINGLE

\$1.50 to \$2.50
NO HIGHER
MONEY SAVING RATES POSTED IN EVERY ROOM

FOR AN ECONOMICAL TRIP PLAN TO STOP AT

TORONTO
Bay of Dundas Sts.
750 ROOMS
BATH IN EVERY ROOM

BUFFALO
Delaware Ave. near Chippewa St.
750 ROOMS

ROCHESTER
Elm and Chestnut Sts.
350 ROOMS

ERIE, PENN.
State St. at Perry Square
400 ROOMS

MONTREAL
Dorchester St. at Bishop
750 ROOMS
BATH IN EVERY ROOM

FORD HOTELS