

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, May 26, 1932

HAPPINESS

What is happiness? From the long, drawn-out countenances on far too many of us, one would be justified in thinking there is no such animal. We clip a recipe for happiness from one of our exchanges. It says:

"The happiness of your life depends upon the character of your thoughts.

"Keep your fears to yourself but share your courage with others.

"Diligence is the mother of good fortune.

"A little pluck when hope burns low,
"A little laugh when life seems slow,
"These are the things that wise men know."

The dictionary defines happiness as: "A state of well-being characterized by relative permanence, by dominantly agreeable emotion ranging in value from mere content to positive felicity, and by a natural desire for its continuation. Mental and moral health and freedom from irksome cares are its normal conditions."

It will be noted that "happiness" is not hilarity by any means. A person can be happy without vociferously advertising the fact. One does not necessarily have to register a continuous laugh to be happy. There is, too, in the definition, that while happiness is an agreeable emotion, it is obtained only by "a natural desire for its continuation." This is where most of us fall down. It takes very little sometimes to make us forget that we should desire a continuation of this "agreeable emotion," when even the slightest obstacles cause us to fly off the handle, get in the dumps, and imagine the whole world has its hand against us. This brings us to that part of the definition in which "mental and moral health and freedom from irksome cares are normal conditions" for the enjoyment of happiness. Happiness is primarily a mental condition. We dwell too much on our troubles. We see too many of the bad points in humanity instead of trying to look around for a few good ones. We spend too much time worrying about the other fellow instead of looking after our own well-being. We fail to see that while the other fellow's ways may not be ours, this is no proof his are wrong or that we are the final authority on what is correct and what is not. We drift too much with the stream. We are too prone to be fair weather sailors, enjoying ourselves too enthusiastically when the sun is shining, and lacking the courage to buck up and fight when the black clouds gather. We remember and agree that "It is easy enough to be pleasant when life goes along like a song, but the man worth while is the man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong;" but get crabby and morose when the time comes for us to don our fighting togs when things go wrong, and in the end are not only unhappy ourselves, but spread this discontentedness among those with whom we associate.

Happiness is a game. Too many of us regard every kind of toil as irksome, get no pleasure out of the battle of accomplishment, and see positively nothing further in life than an existence of drudgery that ends with the trip to the cemetery.

Happiness is altogether a matter of mind, and one of the main points is well expressed in the lines of Coleridge: "It is one main point of happiness, that he that is happy doth know and judge himself to be so."

PREMIER BENNETT'S HOTEL BILL

Premier Bennett is being criticized in Parliament because he pays at the rate of one dollar a day for each of 15 rooms he occupies at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa. With his extensive entertaining, he is said to spend approximately \$24,000 a year as a guest of the hotel. The management of the Chateau say he is their best paying guest.

Personally, we think Premier Bennett's occupancy of the rooms at the Chateau is good business for the hotel, and we are of the opinion he is not getting any more favorable a rate than any other man would receive under similar conditions. If anyone doesn't believe it, let him step up to the manager of any high-class hotel in Canada, engage 15 rooms on a yearly rental, satisfy the management he will entertain extensively, and see what happens. The hotel business is not what it used to be, by any means, and a yearly guest with an extensive entertainment programme can secure the rooms at almost his own figure.

THURSDAY GAINING FAVOR

It would seem that the Durham merchants were not so far wrong when they adopted, and stuck to, Thursday afternoons as the most suitable for the weekly half-holiday during the summer months. As the years go by, the day is becoming more and more popular, and it will not be long before the majority of towns observe it from May to September. Among the two latest to change from Wednesday to Thursday are Creemore and Palmerston.

Commenting on the change, the Creemore Star says, after trying both Wednesday and Thursday, business men of Creemore "are unanimous in favoring Thursday, with Wednesday evening an open night." As the Star suggests it would be a decided advantage if all urban centres would decide on the same day, but we scarcely hope to see this occur. Perhaps it is an advantage in some towns to hold Wednesday, or some other day, but as the various towns select the day that suits themselves best, they are entitled to hold any day they care to select.

Mount Forest holds Friday afternoon, and commenting last week the Confederate says that Thursday is gaining in popularity over Wednesday, and that only two or three places, including Mount Forest, hold Friday. The Confederate says, however, that many Mount Foresters would prefer Thursday, and it will be no surprise if the town swings over to Thursday afternoon perhaps next year.

About the only ones inconvenienced by the weekly half-holidays are the travelling men. They, naturally, would like Friday afternoon, but, failing this, would like some one certain day. Whether they will get it or not depends. We believe there are some towns which will continue to hold Wednesday, just as Durham stuck to Thursday when it was about the only town in this locality taking that day.

THE FAITHFUL DOG

All hail to the dog! For hundreds of years he has been man's best friend. The dog is the only animal that will leave his own kind and follow his master—man. He is faithful unto death, something we often cannot say of our friends, and, rich or poor, the devotion of the dog to those whom he knows is a lesson to humans.

We were interested in a report that came from Windsor the other day, of a man and his wife, unable to pay their dog tax, and offering their two-dollar relief slip in the police court to keep their canine friend from being destroyed. The Canadian Press used the happening for a news item, and as fast as the mail services could carry them, letters were received from different points in Ontario. A Woodstock resident wrote the magistrate asking that he be sent the bill for the dog tax, an unknown from Ottawa mailed the owners a two-dollar bill, and an East Windsor woman paid the tax and refused to give her name.

There's something wrong with a man who does not like a dog, and those Windsor officials who demanded the last pound of flesh must have felt rather sheepish when they found out that outsiders were willing to do for one of their citizens what they and their municipality had refused.

HONESTY IN BUSINESS

A dispatch to one of the Toronto dailies tells the story of a certain grocery merchant in an Ontario town who was caught short-weighting his customers. He pleaded guilty in police court to the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses. A phase of the conditions that makes the crime appear worse in our eyes was the fact that those who were cheated out of their dues were persons having orders from one of the relief committees. It is bad enough to steal from those who have, but to deliberately steal from those who are in want is worse.

If there is anything more despicable on this earth than the man who gives fifteen ounces to the pound, we do not know what it is. What a wonderful opinion a man of this kind must have of himself! What a comfort it must be to him to find himself in the company of decent people, those who believe in practising the golden rule. What a feeling of pride in himself a man of this class must feel surging through his body when, before him, stands the little, hard-working widow, slaving to keep a roof over the heads of her small and numerous family, from whom he is systematically stealing the half-ounce, the ounce, or the quarter-pound of the necessities of life! It must be a gr-r-r-eat, and gr-r-r-and and glor-r-ious feeling!

There has been quite a lot said and written recently regarding certain men who picked up a million in one instance and a quarter million in another. To our mind they are princes of philanthropy when compared with the under-handed, snivelling, shister business man who pinches a quarter ounce off the pound of rice, or butter, or sugar, or whatever it may be, and fattens his bank account at the expense of hungry little stomachs.

NO GUESS WORK HERE

There are still some people who think the world is run on the guesswork principle. Perhaps science, which has recently been trying to dispute some biblical truths, has been responsible for this. Science has convicted itself, for now it has been discovered that a rise of two or three degrees would cause the glaciers to melt, raise the level of the oceans 150 feet and destroy our largest cities. Again, science has discovered that a drop of six to eight degrees in the earth's temperature would bring back another ice age. According to this, the earth's existence depends on a rather slim margin of temperature—some ten to twelve degrees. Who said guesswork?

An exchange says the hippopotamus is not a sensitive beast because his skin is two inches thick. Perhaps not, but don't try tickling his ribs to find out.

The annual Presbyterian church supper last Monday evening was a complete success. A large crowd assembled, had fifty cents' worth of eatables for twenty-five, so what could be more successful than that?

Perhaps one reason for our present condition is we paid more attention to transoceanic fliers, automobile speed demons, baseball and hockey games than we did to the fellows who stayed home and did the work.

Mexican jumping beans in Brantford post office nearly caused a riot when the heat of the office started them into action. Beans always were erratic little rascals, whether in Brantford or elsewhere.

A speaker at Kitchener said that the world is "tariff-mad." We can all agree with him, but who is responsible? It will not solve the trouble to have any one country repent and get the tariff down to something sensible. This necessitates a world-wide movement, and the country that hopes to fight the present world-wide tariff madness by reducing its own is simply looking for disaster.

A Toronto grocer grappled with and held a bandit in his store until the police arrived. The bandit shoved a gun against a police officer's chest, pulled the trigger, but for some reason the firearm failed to go off. The officer then clubbed the bandit over the head. No doubt someone will raise the cry that the police are too enthusiastic in making arrests.

Englishmen resent the climate of that country being made the butt of countless jokes, and recently several have voiced their disapproval through the press. But what of the Englishman who said the Canadian year had but three seasons, "July, August and Winter?" or Bill Nye of the United States, who said we had but two seasons, "nine months' winter, with the other three darn late in the fall?"

A writer in the Toronto Mail and Empire points out that the Scots call Burns "Rabbie," not "Bobbie," "Robbie" or "Robert." But what difference does it make? Burns no longer belongs to Scotland; he belongs to the world, and no matter what he may be called, he will still be known as one of the world's greatest poets, beloved and honored wherever his poems are read.

A youth at Mount Forest stole a dollar watch, was pursued, captured, found to have only a nickel in his pocket, expressed full penitence for his waywardness and was let go. He very nearly had "time on his hands" in more ways than one.

The Dundalk Herald thinks John Aird, Jr., has been getting rather rough handling by the Hydro probers, and the "next thing we know will be wishing he had not received that \$125,000." Tut! Tut! The editor of the Herald could well submit to being handled by Gus Sonnenberg if there was \$125,000 in it. Look what the editor of the Chesley Enterprise did for a measly little old \$5,000!

Husbands are certainly a long-suffering, patient lot of people. Man in Detroit shot by his wife refuses to lay a complaint.—St. Catharines Standard.

The business man who retired to escape salesmanship has returned to his office to avoid house-to-house canvassers.—St. Catharines Standard.

A lion ran amuck in a Boston radio station the other night. We always knew those crooners were bound to start something.—Peterboro Examiner.

Ivar Kreuger, the financier, took more than \$400,000,000 out of the U.S., and spent it in Europe. The big Swede!—Sault Daily Star.

Can this be only the centenary of the penholder? Why, the postoffice pens must be older than that.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

Most people have a far greater capacity for accomplishment than they ordinarily exercise.—Guelph Mercury.

Hon. Dr. Manion considers both railway lines were asleep at the switch when they ignored highway competition. The fact is they have not wakened up.—Wingham Advance-Times.

In this age of labor-saving devices, it is disconcerting to be told that the time has come when Canadians will have to think for themselves.—London Advertiser.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Beware of Peddlers
From down Ingersoll way another "racket" in suit selling is reported. In this case a stranger, taking orders for an alleged Toronto firm which appears to be non-existent, collected \$3.00 as a down payment on a suit, or \$1.00 on odd trousers, as the case might be. Nothing more was heard of the vendor of the suits, it is alleged. People who want to avoid being "done" by out-of-town peddlers of clothing and other merchandise, can easily do so by patronizing the home dealer.—Amherstburg Echo.

Observe the Motor Laws

The motor and vehicle law provides that cars or other motor vehicles may not go faster through the streets of a town or village than twenty miles an hour or across intersections at more than ten miles an hour. This law is transgressed by the majority of car drivers notwithstanding that the majority of accidents are the result of too high a speed. Children playing in the street are frequently injured and too often one is killed. The injury or fatality could have in almost every case been avoided had the driver been observing the speed limit. The faster the car is going the less the margin of safety. A car travelling at the rate of from ten to twenty miles an hour can be halted in much less space than one going at from thirty-five to forty miles an hour. Much trouble and sorrow could be avoided were motorists to strictly observe the law. Why should motorists take the chance of going through the populated districts at a high rate of speed?—Southampton Beacon.

Educating the Unemployed

Can a man or woman with neither job nor income still accumulate capital for future use? Yes. That paradox is accomplished by equipping the unemployed with increased earning capacity through instruction during periods of enforced idleness.

For an actual demonstration one can go to Massachusetts where a state emergency committee on unemployment with the aid of 15 universities and other educational institutions is doing that very thing by means of free instruction in accounting, stenography, business law, business organization, English, salesmanship, marketing commercial art and similar branches.

Almost 4,000 persons have enrolled for these courses which are free with the exception of a 25-cent entrance fee to keep out the trifiers. Private subscription and public funds make them possible.

When one is employed from eight to ten hours a day it requires considerable initiative and ambition to devote the few leisure hours to study. But with the jobless there is no excuse for not salvaging most of the unproductive hours by preparing oneself for a better position and greater usefulness when opportunity returns.

One of the tragedies of the present situation is the failure of some of the jobless to apply themselves to self-education while they have the chance. With libraries at hand it costs nothing but a little effort. As for the dividends, they will amaze those who do the collecting.—Galt Reporter.

Man's Memory Is Short

The other day, a citizen of Palmerston, taking advantage of the sunshine to do a bit of loafing, fell into conversation with a man who was going from town to town searching for work. News of the construction of a cement highway from Palmerston to Lis-towel brought him to this district in his search.

According to this man's story, he went to headquarters of the construction company which has been awarded the contract and on making his request for a job was told by a foreigner "to keep on peddling." This man, now a transient, stated that no one told him to "keep on peddling" in 1914 when he

applied for enlistment. According to history, he left a good job which he did not get back when he came from overseas, and, had he remained at home, he would still have this position.

Perhaps this man's story was made out of whole cloth, but it is more probable, for the most part, it was true. The irony of the situation is that often the man, who has the power to refuse or grant his request for work, will be one who has obtained his present position by shirking his duty to his country in time of need.

What can be done about it? Nothing, probably. The glib promises made when this man went overseas were sincere when they were made, but much water has flowed under the bridge since 1914; and unfortunately, in some cases, man's memory is short.—Palmerston Spectator.

Letters to The Editor

Durham, May 25, 1932.

To the Editor of the Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—In your last issue I noticed an item regarding the High School teachers and their voluntary reduction of salaries. The article read as if it were only hearsay, so it would be of interest to know if it is a fact that they have tendered their services for next year at reduced rates.

If they have agreed to take a reduction that will amount to one and a half mills on the tax rate that would mean less than 10 per cent of their present salaries. Many ratepayers consider this not enough and think that a payroll of over \$11,000 per year for five teachers might easily be reduced 20 per cent.

This seems especially so when it is considered that four teachers are women with no incumbences.

The same applies to the public school teachers and it is up to the Trustees of both schools to give some consideration to the economic conditions now prevailing.

SCHOOL SUPPORTER.

"My papa's a bookkeeper," said little Albert proudly.

"Yes, I know it," replied small Dorothy. "He's keeping several that he borrowed from my papa."

IT PAYS

To Shop at THE VARIETY STORE

- Ladies Cotton Hose, all colors and sizes. Good quality pr. 19c
Ladies' Broadcloth Slips, all colors, and sizes ..... 19c
Ladies' Full-fashioned Silk Hose. First quality, all new shades 79c
Children's Cotton Hose, ribbed, all sizes ..... pair 19c
Blue Lined Envelopes ..... 50 for 9c
Good Quality Kid Finish Envelopes, Reg. 15c for ..... pkg. 9c
Clove Leaf Cups ..... 4 for 25c
Fine Glass Tumblers ..... 4 for 15c
Special 5-string Brooms ..... 35c

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White Fruit Sets; 6 fruit saucers and large bowl ..... set 49c

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