

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, June 23, 1932

HALF-HOLIDAY FOR FARMERS

We were much interested in a recent news item in the *Arthur Enterprise-News*, which reported that a nearby township council had passed a resolution suggesting that the farmers of the township take Saturday afternoon off during June and July for the purpose of indulging in sports, or in some other manner, getting away from the grind of constant toil. And why not?

The idea may not be received with very good grace in some quarters, and it may be claimed that the farmer has not the time for things of this kind, but until the plan is tried out no correct decision can be arrived at. Why should not the farm youth take a half day a week off to enjoy himself? Surely he and his elders are as much entitled to it as any other class in the community! Perhaps a half day of sports would do much to curb that spirit of unrest that is rampant throughout the country, and might, in the end, prove a good thing.

The farmer, unlike the merchant or town dweller, cannot take the week-end to go gallivanting all over the country, but we can see no reason why he should not enjoy a period of pleasure. The chef in the hotel cannot expect to walk out when the six o'clock whistle blows. The dinner hour is when he is needed most. Under our present system the small-town merchant cannot close up his store on a Saturday night. The farmer, with his stock to look after, cannot leave them for more than a few hours at a time.

We are creatures of custom, but we believe if we put forth an honest effort we could change some of those customs with benefit to ourselves. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and this is as true on the farm as in the office or factory. A Saturday afternoon for sports for the farm youth would also furnish amusement for the older ones, and might in time be enlarged to take in the surrounding centres in the different districts, resulting in friendly competitions that would bring together the youth of town and country.

In days such as we are passing through, we have a tendency to take ourselves too seriously. We devote so much time to our business, whatever it may be, that we become narrow and bigoted, soon develop too many private grouches, and miss a great deal of what is good in life. A plan whereby we could all fraternize would do much to counteract these feelings, do away with much of the selfishness we now possess, and tend to make us human again.

We hope the residents of the township near Arthur co-operate with the wishes of their council, take their half-holiday, which if it is found feasible, may have started something which will spread all over the country to the betterment of all participants. We can see no reason why it should fail, and a half-holiday each week during the summer months, with its consequent enjoyments, may help solve the problem of how to keep the boys on the farm.

DE VALERA AND BRITAIN

Leave it to the Irish to do something out of the ordinary. The election of De Valera to the presidency of the Irish Free State was considered a big mistake by many of the citizens who believe in a Free State, but who also believe that in a close alliance with Britain, the new republic stands to gain much more than if she chooses to pull away from the rest of the British Empire and work out her own destiny. The latest "break" made by the Valera government was the leaving off the reception list the name of James McNeill, the Governor-General of the Free State, and as such the representative of the King. The reason given is that Mr. McNeill represents "an alien interest." Under orders from a representative of the Irish Republican Army, the British Union Jack was ordered taken down from one of the Dublin hotels, despite the fact that the flags of many other nations remained above the hotel. These flags were hoisted over the hotel as a compliment to Eucharistic Congress visitors to Dublin, and of the lot only the British ensign was ordered hauled down.

Immediately after his election it was predicted that the Government under the leadership of Eamonn De Valera would fall far short of doing for Ireland what was accomplished by

that under the leadership of William Cosgrave, and it now begins to look as if Valera's critics knew what they were talking about. De Valera and his government, and the people of Ireland, will find out sooner or later, that success for their country can never come from hatred for Britain or any other country. This is about the only interpretation that can be taken from the latest orders, which singles out one flag as an "alien interest." There is little doubt if De Valera and his government had ordered similar treatment for the United States, French, German or other flags, these countries would have demanded an explanation. As time goes on, De Valera shows more and more his unfitness as a leader, and his lack of diplomacy would certainly get his government and his country into a complication of difficulties if taken seriously.

British diplomacy, however, is too deep for a man of Valera's understanding. We doubt if the government at London takes any notice of the "slight" which has been cast at them, knowing it is the work of the new leader and a few of his irresponsible and hot-headed lieutenants rather than an expression of the general prevailing opinion. De Valera won't last long as president of the Irish Free State. His constituents will soon tire of him and attend to that.

NOT EXCITED—JUST CURIOUS

Last week's *Flesherton Advance* says editorially: "The Durham Chronicle gets considerably excited over the fishery question." We cannot see where the *Advance* gets this idea except it be that every paper that does not agree with its findings gets "considerably excited." Several alleged erroneous statements were made by the Chronicle, according to the *Advance*, but we think an investigation will show them to be fairly correct. This newspaper is criticized because it called upon the Lord's Day Alliance to "get busy everywhere at once, miss nobody, and enforce the law fairly and justly in all parts of the Province" and told by the *Flesherton* scribe that the Lord's Day Alliance is a "nebulous body from whom little can be expected in the way of enforcing laws." Isn't this our own contention? And haven't we called on the Lord's Day Alliance to either enforce the law or shut up about it?

Evidently the *Advance* man takes the wrong idea out of what we wrote and thinks we favor Sunday fishing. We don't. This newspaper is no more in favor of a wide-open Sunday than is the most ardent member of the Alliance, but at that we do not believe in the campaign of bluff and bluster carried on by that body in its efforts to make rural communities observe something which they lack the nerve to attempt to enforce in the cities and summer resorts. The Lord's Day Alliance may say they have made no attempt to enforce the Sunday fishing law, but this statement is in direct contradiction to those contained in a letter from that body to the editor of the Chronicle a couple of years ago.

IS PUBLICITY AIDING CRIME?

It has been said that any chance of capturing the murderers of the Lindbergh baby was thrown away by the publicity given over the radio and in the newspapers, and a dispatch from Baltimore, Maryland, this week, will be of aid to other criminals, said to have had designs on the blowing up of the White House at Washington. The dispatch says:

"Lieutenant Cox of the Washington police said the United States secret service in Washington has been notified by their New York agent that men driving a maroon-colored car left New York at 1.10 p.m. for the White House. Car believed to be loaded with gunpowder."

If the dispatch is true, and the inference that there was to be an attempt to blow up the White House is also true, why should advance publicity of this kind be handed out to the press, or broadcast over the radio? Why not have the police force work out the "tip" they have received, go about their business secretly, and do their ballyhoo after they have effected an arrest, not before? What hope of success is there in rushing to the press and the radio before any positive facts are known?

The general public believes that had the Lindbergh case not been bungled from the first, and had the police force worked silently and without so many advance notices of what they were doing and what they intended to do, a great deal more information could have been collected, and possibly important arrests made. Instead, any little chance the police may have had was thrown away through talking too much.

This might be said of a good many things besides the police force. There is too great a tendency to rush to the press with the wrong things, the result being that those who should be kept in the dark have sufficient information to enable them to keep out of the way.

STUNG AGAIN!

The great American sporting public, which apparently likes to be buncoed, had another lashing handed to it on Tuesday night in the Sharkey-Schmeling heavyweight prize fight when the American contender was given the decision, and the world's heavyweight championship, in a battle at Madison Square Garden Bowl, at which the attendance is said to have been in the neighborhood of 75,000. After 15 rounds in which neither fighter demonstrated anything above the ordinary in knockout punches, but in which Schmeling, the German, was the aggressor, and landed two blows to Sharkey's one, the American contender was declared winner.

From this distance it looks like another frame-up, with both Schmeling and Sharkey lending their assistance to the "we" boys to pick up some easy money. According to Eddie Allan, sports editor of the *Toronto Mail* and *Empire*, there was something funny in the whole affair. Eddie says editorially: "The United Press in its descriptive story at 8.29 last night stated that the odds were 6 to 5 on Schmeling, and then just before the fight started, or an hour later, the flash came through that the odds had switched to 5 to 1 on Sharkey." Mr. Allan's comment that "Odds don't fluctuate that fast even on a bull fight, unless there is 'something doing,' is significant.

It is the same old story. The gamblers go next to the fighters or someone who could arrange things, and the fans were gypped. The fans at the mill were certainly surprised when the decision was announced and booed the decision, but anyway, Jack Sharkey is now the heavyweight champion of the world. We cannot think otherwise than Schmeling was "in" on the deal somewhere, too. Barnum would have been nearer correct had he left the last phrase off his famous utterance of more than half a century ago.

The Toronto Maple Leafs baseball team has finally settled down—into cellar position.

A Hamilton doctor claims to have set the "sneeze" to music. We would much sooner he had perfected a melodious and pacifying snore.

A Los Angeles woman obtained a divorce because her husband spanked her. This brings up another consideration to be followed by a man about to be married and who has the hope that he may be able to keep his better half toeing the line he sets by administering an occasional spanking. If he chooses a fat one she is liable to get too heavy to handle; if a thin one he may cut his hand; if he chooses one that is "just right" she gets a divorce. A man's life is getting harder and harder to bear.

The Toronto and York Funeral Directors' Club rightly objects to the scheme of the Toronto General Hospital to employ a licensed embalmer for the treatment of bodies of patients who have died. Hospitals are publicly supported institutions whose duty is to care for us when we are living. In the case of death, the relatives may have a preference, and as they have to pay for it, should have the privilege of exercising it. The Toronto General Hospital has made few friends in its efforts to encroach on the privileges and rights of bereaved patrons.

Euphemi Klemba, a Sudbury Pole, pleaded guilty to attempting to extort money by writing intimidating letters. He was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary and will be deported after he serves his sentence. Why after? Why not deport him now? In these days of economies it seems most uneconomical to board, clothe and look after an undesirable of this class. Would it not be more to the point to deport him forthwith and save the country the price of his keep for the next two years? Canada is more concerned with getting rid of this class of gentry than with handing out punishment.

The kidnaping racketeers started to abduct a broadcasting crooner in New York, but his bleat softened their hearts.—*Windsor Border Cities Star*.

Every time a German gets mad at France he goes out and votes for Hitler.—*Schenectady Gazette*.

A real flower garden is a personal thing, as personal as your own room.—*The Country Home*.

Statistics are now available to prove that the good do not die young.—*Woman's Home Companion*.

About all that Stimpson accomplished at Geneva was to find a lot of things the other nations won't agree to.—*Guelph Mercury*.

The housewife is paying only half as much for pork products as in 1928, but there doesn't seem to be any appreciable reduction in the cost of maintaining pork barrels.—*Hamilton Spectator*.

Golfers used to be out on the course before dawn, to get an early start. When you see them on the course that early these days, they are looking for golf balls.—*Judge*.

When Roxy's theatre in New York went into receivership, Roxy, it developed, had sold his interest and was on his way to Europe. Foxy Roxy.—*Guelph Mercury*.

An Illinois town celebrated a civic holiday on the reopening of its only bank. To lend that O. Henry touch the bank might have closed for the holiday.

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor of the Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—I have been much interested in the remarks and observations of "Rambler" and hope the criticism of the general appearance of the town may result in some improvement in that respect. Not many can complain of lack of time to clean up around their homes at the present time.

"Rambler" spoke of the beauty of the view from the Garafraxa street bridge looking west. He should also have criticized the appearance of the river itself right at the bridge—the amount and variety of foreign material that has been thrown into it, and which should be removed.

Few towns, Mr. Editor, in Ontario, could be made more beautiful and attractive than Durham.

I hope that "Rambler," when he finishes with the physical aspects of the town will turn his attention to other matters that seem to have been lost sight of, but are of great importance and of general interest.

For instance, what of the audit of the finances of the Cemetery Co.? What of the control over the Soldiers' Memorial Monument Fund. What of the question of a saving in the expenditures of the school boards? Is there to be a reduction in salaries to correspond with the reduced cost of living and in line with reductions elsewhere or are the taxpayers still to suffer?

Are outsiders to be given work in the town while citizens walk the streets?

There is a wide field for "Rambler" to wander in and it is to be hoped there will be good results.

TAXPAYER.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Office Should Not Be Moved

Something of a sensation occurred at the opening meeting of the Wellington County Council last week, when a letter was received from the Department of Agriculture suggesting that the office of the District Representative might be moved from Arthur to Guelph. Naturally, the members of the council, were opposed to this step being taken, and a delegation was appointed to present the objections of the council to the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. T. L. Kennedy. It is to be hoped that the matter will end there.

With the Ontario Agricultural College adjoining Guelph and in convenient reach of the farmers of the southern half of the county, it is difficult to see what advantages are to be gained by locating the Wellington branch in Guelph. There is already too much centralization in the cities of Ontario to the detriment of the smaller rural centres which are, after all, a very real asset to our national life.—*Arthur Enterprise-News*.

The Small Town's Problem

The *Almonte Gazette* says that "a lot of Almonte people are so busy buying in Ottawa to save a miserable nickel, sending to Toronto department stores for the same purposes, or buying from a store that never circulates a cent in the town outside of its monthly rent that poor old Almonte is likely to die of slow stagnation. Almonte has an excellent moving picture theatre which puts on programmes second to none in the large cities. But it gives one a gone feeling to step into the show most nights, and see the sparse attendance. Some day, not so long from now, the town will wake up to find itself without three institutions, namely, a weekly newspaper, a hotel and a theatre." Such a lack of local loyalty will soon kill a town. Citizens should make it a practice to spend all their earnings at home. The money one spends elsewhere doesn't help the town in which you live, but helps the city in which it is spent. Then again, there is a possibility that it will come back to you if it is spent in the place in which you live.—*Clifford Express*.

More Paved Roads

There will probably be much bitter comment appearing in Wellington County weekly papers over the decision of the County Council in approving the paving of two stretches of Provincial Highway within the boundaries of the county. Some criticism has appeared already since it became known that an effort would be made to pave the Guelph-Hespeler road, but the paving of the Arthur-Orangeville highway was thought to be entirely out of the question this year. It will be remembered that the County Council went on record at the January meeting as being opposed to any paving of provincial highways in the county this year and at that time the decision was highly applauded.

But since that time, some people began to do some thinking. Every time they went to a gas pump and paid their share towards the construction of paved highways in other counties, the thought was not pleasant, and when more consideration was given to this, the idea began to percolate that the January resolutions did not appear so wise in June. Election politics were forgotten and the reeves began to see that probably election promises were a poor substitute for reason.

As the paving of these two roads will complete the provincial roads in Wellington County, the Spectator is inclined to believe that the latest decision of the County Council is a wise one, particularly if it is possible to defer the payment on one road for an extra year without interest as proposed. Maintenance costs on these roads must be high, particularly on the one in the south and as the County is financially responsible for the upkeep to the extent of 20 per cent of the cost, it may be real economy to have these roads paved.

We cannot but wonder what attitude the *Arthur Enterprise-News* will take on this subject as it was bitterly opposed to the paving of the Guelph-Hespeler road and the same arguments which were used in belittling this project could be applied with more force in opposing the construction of the Arthur-Orangeville highway.—*Palmerston Spectator*.

Tom—"Is he an eye doctor? Why I thought he was a chiropractor."
Bill—"He used to be. He began at the foot and worked up, you see."

Real Bargains on Summer Goods

- Children's Ankle Socks, pair 25c
- Ladies' Summer Vests and Bloomers 25c
- Full-fashioned Silk Hose, Service or Chiffon Weight, new shades, per pair 79c
- White Suede Gloves, long cuffs, per pair 69c
- Ladies' Silk Vests and Bloomers 39c
- Ladies' Silk Slips, all sizes and colors 89c
- Children's Summer Vests 19c
- Ladies' Lisle Hosiery, all colors 25c
- Factory Cotton, 2 yds. for 25c
- Remnants of Prints, 2 yds. 25c
- Remnants of Ginghams, 2 yds. 25c
- Rexoleum Floor Mats, 18" x 36" 2 for 35c
- Olefin Table Squares, new patterns 79c
- Mosquito Netting, 2 yds. 15c
- Straw Hats, all sizes 15c
- Wood Coat Hangers, 3 for 16c
- Earthenware Jugs, floral designs, quart size 39c

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The Chronicle

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