

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, August 11, 1932

THE CARE OF INDIGENTS

The Town Council had a rather peculiar situation to handle at the meeting Monday night when a bill was presented by the Durham Red Cross hospital for \$14.00, due on the keep of one Harvey Gordon, said to have come from Amherst, Nova Scotia. Gordon was picked up on the highway this side of Mount Forest, brought to Durham, and taken to the hospital. He was a well-mannered young man, in fact, gentlemanly all through, but "out of luck." The Council refused to pay the bill. The question now arises, "Who should pay it?"

There are a good many angles to this case, so snap judgments are not in order. A man was found on the side of the road. He needed help. He got it. He couldn't pay. Would the hospital have been justified in refusing him admittance until means of payment were forthcoming? Is it right that the hospital should not be paid for the services they rendered? On the other hand, should the town of Durham foot the bill? The patient was found some thirteen miles south of here. Has Mount Forest, or Normanby or Egremont townships, more right to pay for this service? Or, should the man who brought him in have let well enough alone and allowed the unfortunate patient to look after himself?

Payment of the bill was opposed on the grounds that the County Council would refuse to pay their half, and with this statement before the Council the bill was shelved.

But is there not something more behind situations of this kind? Surely we in Durham do not wish to become known as a community of heathens! We can and will be humane to the stranger within our gates, and when a man is down and out, sick and hungry, who is there amongst us who would question the "pay" end of it when handing out our charity?

It is a curious situation, to say the least. We all believe we should care for the sick and unfortunate. We would all censure the local hospital if it refused help for no better reason than that payment was problematical. What should we do about it? It might be worth finding out who is responsible for cases of this kind, and why.

POLICEMEN AND SPEEDERS

There is quite a furore because the police chief at Barrie checked up on a Toronto motorist for travelling through that town too fast, an argument that even the secretary of the Ontario Motor League could not keep out of. At a Toronto Rotary Club luncheon, one of the members said that Barrie's police chief had qualified for the presidency of the Guesstimators' Association. Cute joke, what! And similar outbursts of this nature because the Barrie official used his judgment in laying an information, did not possess a stop watch, and was minus a road trap to catch his prey.

Now that the squawking has subsided, we somehow or other think the policeman was right. It is no longer necessary to "clock" a motorist for going through a town too fast, any more than it is to see a man consume liquor before you can say he is intoxicated. Any man of ordinary judgment can tell the difference between twenty and forty miles an hour, and we are somewhat astonished to learn that a Motor League official had joined in the argument.

We have little use for the small town police official who hides behind the "Welcome" sign and lays information for too fast driving, or a sneaking official of any kind, but an observance of motor traffic here in Durham will show that most of the offenders are city drivers—from Toronto and elsewhere. We have little use for the man who pulls some of this stuff and then squawks when brought to task. We have never heard, except in very few cases, of police officials going out of their way to lay informations for technical violations of the traffic law, but usually it turns out that when one of these fellows is met with, he has a magistrate behind him who thinks more of the fees to be collected than other things. In this case it is well to get rid of the magistrate and his tool, and it can be done if sufficient evidence is forthcoming.

NEWSPAPER GNATS

A Toronto morning newspaper says that an evening contemporary "is never happy unless each of its editions includes a dozen half-truths to the detriment of the Canadian Gov-

ernment and the Imperial Conference. It displayed across its front page a heading which ran: 'Bennett's Hand Hidden, London Complains.' The claim was based upon cables from England quoting the Manchester Guardian and the London Star, two London newspapers who still stick to free trade.

But why worry? This same "evening contemporary" often carries scare heads on its front pages, and denials the next day in some insignificant corner in the inside pages. What can one expect editorially from a newspaper whose news columns are so often unreliable?

Like the gnats about the bull, the "evening contemporary" is not even a worry to the Conference or Canada.

THE JOY OF LIVING

There is a "kick" in living if we have sufficient sense of humour to soft pedal the hard stuff and enjoy that which appeals to us. Few sections of the country that do not present different problems. We had this brought home to us a couple of weeks ago when attending a garden party at Clarksburg. We had almost decided not to go on account of the rain, but, strange to say, encountered none east of Priceville. We attended the garden party and returned home after midnight, and during the whole afternoon encountered no rain. Farmers here were nearly rained out; at that time the farmers of the Thornbury-Collingwood district were about burned up. We believe that since then they have enjoyed a few good rains, their crops were garnered in good condition, and there is nothing to complain of. In Durham vicinity, the rains which were to ruin everything did not do it, and crops were safely housed. At that, it is quite a contract to work under adverse conditions and a person can scarcely be blamed for finding fault, but the trouble with this method is it does not change conditions a whit, and the worrier is that much weaker to fight the battle when the time arrives.

"School Boards Asked to Curtail Expenditures." Let's see! Where did we hear that remark before?

Most Western Provinces lead in divorce, according to dispatches. We shall have to change that slogan to: "Go West, old man, go West!"

According to statistics, Russia will not be a factor this year in throwing grain on the market to the detriment of the Canadian farmer. Instead, she is "short" in almost every product of the farm and will be a customer.

United States firms are buying up land and preparing to build plants in England to get inside the British tariff walls. This is a statement of fact. The Toronto Star will now likely say they are doing it for the exercise and to scare the British.

Is there any connection between the fact that the lawyer retained to defend the mysterious Dan Malone, Sinn Feiner extraordinary, arrested at Toronto a few days ago, is also the lawyer who defended Tim Buck and the other Reds and Communists now doing time in jail?

A Port Stanley youth burned off his moustache when he put cigar lighter fluid on his face instead of shaving lotion. The fire was not a big one. It couldn't be. The man with a cigar lighter and a moustache usually has a small moustache.

Ye Editor has the snorts and the sneezes this week. Some say it is hay fever we have contracted, but we do not know. Anyway, it is somewhat different from the having fever of the farmers just now. They want to get theirs in. We would like to be able to take one big kerchoo and blow ours out.

The Flesherton Advance man is jealous of the Chronicle editor's streamline shape and in his comments on the Civic Holiday picnic in that village says: "Frank Irwin of Durham was present and judging by the number of ladies he attracted he must still have a good figure. But maybe they didn't look below his eyes."

Judging from the size of the legal bill sent Durham Council last week by a well-known law firm, it does not pay to arrest outsiders for intoxication. This happened in town recently and the town pays \$12 for the privilege of sending Joe Fletcher to jail for 21 days. Next time, a similar offender will be given so many seconds to make himself scarce.

Francis Nash, Michigan murderer, was sentenced to life imprisonment in solitary confinement at hard labour for the murder of a 17-year-old girl. Capital punishment may be brutal, but we believe fewer murders would be committed in the State of Michigan had the death penalty statute been carried at the election last year. Death for himself is about the only punishment that the murder-minded criminal fears.

Questionable Representatives

When people purporting to represent the unemployed of Canada put up to the government demands for the release of Communists from the penitentiary, removal of the embargo against Russian goods, the release of Indian political prisoners, withdrawal of British troops from India and refusal to sell goods to Japan, they reveal their bad faith and expose the fraud which they are engaged in. Such delegates do not represent the legitimate unemployed of Canada, and Premier Bennett told them most frankly what this country is prepared to do so far as such fantastic demands are concerned.

The delegation that appeared at Ottawa represented a radical element in the population that is not endorsed generally by the laboring classes, but which is capable of influencing many decent people in hard circumstances because of their ability to talk glibly on all manner of irrelevant subjects.

Genuine Canadians upon whom the blow of depression has fallen heavily are not worrying about Soviet Russia or the imprisoned Communists. They are sufficiently intelligent to recognize that these problems have only a minor connection, if any, with the unemployment situation in Canada and that such matters may not be affected to any great extent in any case by efforts of those who are in temporary destitution in this country.

Premier Bennett made it clear that the government recognizes the unfortunate plight of those who are unable to obtain work to support themselves and their families. It is not alone the casual laborer who is in distress. Many people who were in comfortable circumstances a few years ago have lost what they had saved to support them in their old age and such people cannot be accused of being wasteful or improvident. It is difficult for such individuals to get the benefits of organized relief because the world believes that they still have means. Their case presents one of the most tragic phases of the depression.

It is a simple matter to criticize members of governments, but it is quite another thing to provide the constructive suggestions of means to overcome the difficulties that confront us. If Canada is not doing all that is possible to meet the situation, what other nation is making a better job of it? The United States, Great Britain, Germany, Italy are all as badly or worse afflicted than we are and most of these countries have had a wider experience as to relief measures than is the case in Canada.

To be unsympathetic to those who are facing great trials because of unemployment and poverty is unthinkable and the private and public record of most citizens in this respect is excellent. There are few refusals of aid on the part of those who are in a position to extend it. Our principal duty is to ensure that no one is permitted to starve, but fake promoters of the cause of the unemployed cannot be given recognition if they insist upon thrusting the problems of Russia, India, Japan and the jailed Communists into the arena that ought to be devoted exclusively to the task of caring for our own people.—Galt Reporter.

Sensational Announcements Hamper the Conference

There is danger in the sensational announcement made the other day by one newspaper that a change in the regulations restricting the movement of beef animals from this country to the United Kingdom will result in exports, beginning next year, of 100,000 to 400,000 head of Canadian cattle per annum. Statements of this sort are calculated to prevent the Conference from arriving at the desired understandings. It has to be remembered that the agreements reached at Ottawa have to be ratified by Parliaments on both sides of the Atlantic. The prospect of sudden tremendous shipments of cattle from this country may cause some interests in the Old Land to oppose the adoption of such an arrangement at Westminster. The fact of the matter is, moreover, that there is no prospect of an immediate huge movement of cattle from this country to Britain. The cattle are not here to move, and it will take some years to build up the export trade to the proportions indicated by the sensational newspaper story to which we have referred.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Now that they are frying eggs by radio, will the static scramble them?—Christian Science Monitor.

The United States is worrying for fear the Economic Conference will mean the loss of considerable Canadian trade to that country. However, the height of their tariff walls doesn't indicate that they are very anxious for that trade.—Chatham News.

With England again assuming the financial leadership of the world, there will be a tendency on the part of Canada to turn to the London market for the sale of securities. With people today thinking Imperially, this will be particularly true.—London Free Press.

Uncle Sam has been running away with the sprinting events at Los Angeles but when it came to the big walking test a British contestant scored an easy victory. In the matter of sustained and steady work John Bull always has the call on all the rest of them.—Brantford Expositor.

There is to be an eclipse of the sun on August 31, and warnings are issued to use dark glasses or smoked glass when looking at it. Some folk will be well equipped because they have been looking at everything that way for months.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Empire's Political Unity

Whatever the economic differences of the various parts of the Empire, there is no doubt but that the world is getting an impressive demonstration of the British Commonwealth's political unity.—Ottawa Journal.

Acid Test

If Harry Nixon, the Progressive leader, had endorsed the agreement Hon. George S. Henry has made for the transfer of bonds of the Abitibi Canyon undertaking, we would have thought there was something wrong with it.—London Free Press.

What Premier Bennett said to the committee of the unemployed at Ottawa yesterday should ring throughout the country. The law of this country is the considered judgment of representative men elected to make law, and it will be enforced if it takes the last Canadian dollar. Mr. Bennett declared that Section 98 of the Criminal Code, whereby Communists are in jail would not be revoked, neither would the Canadian embargo on Russian products be withdrawn.—St. Catharines Standard.

According to the records of the Motor Vehicles Branch of the Ontario Department of Highways, motor vehicle accidents during the month of August last year averaged more than 33 per day. Included in this number there were 77 fatalities and 1,025 persons injured. This record, be it understood, is for the province of Ontario alone, and not for the whole country as one might imagine from the size of the figures.—Gananoque Reporter.

It would really seem that a better day is dawning for the pedestrian. First an Ontario magistrate rules that a person on foot is entitled to as much room on the highway as a motor car; then the Pedestrian Rights Association springs into being, and now along comes a Vancouver judge with a decision that pedestrians do not have to scurry out of the way at the sound of an automobile horn to avoid responsibility for being run down.—Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin.

OTHER PAPERS' OPINIONS

Changing Conditions

The world is passing through another era since the economic depression has made itself felt to such a marked degree. The people are adopting new methods of living, and they are doing this in the majority of cases because they have been forced to do so. Money is not so plentiful, unemployment has increased to an alarming extent, and while to change from the comparative carefree ways of more prosperous times to a period when one must be frugal and thrifty in order to get along in the world has not been an easy process. Canadians are proving that they are equal to the occasion and that they are capable of measuring up to the standard expected of them. In times of affluence and prosperity there was little thought there might come a time of depression, and they were times of free spending and enjoyment, and now that another era is here the situation must be and is being met. Luxuries are all right if one can afford them, but if not then they must do without and that is what the majority of people are doing; they are fast changing their methods of living and doing without things they formerly thought they could not get along without. Canada will come through the depression in good shape; there will be another era of prosperity, and conditions will change, but until such time as they do, everyone will have to keep within bounds, work hard, make sacrifices and get what enjoyment out of life they can.—Southampton Beacon.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Never strike while the head is hot. By their laughter ye shall know them. The long winded are usually short sighted. Hard work is the father of the Success family. Happiness increases as you spread it around.

Many men can argue over religion they do not have. No man is wise who cannot learn from his mistakes.

We are what we are when we are doing as we please. He who peddles gossip is no worse than he who listens.

Some folks seem to think they have religion just because they have indigestion.

Some men spend more energies defending their failures than in making their successes.

Let us do the forgetting and let the forgiving to the Lord.

"JUDGE NOT, LEST....."

Pray, don't find fault with the man who limps

Or stumbles along the road, Unless you have worn the shoes he wears

Or struggled beneath his load. There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,

Tho' hidden away from view, Or the burden he bears, placed on your back,

Might cause you to stumble too. Don't sneer at the man who's down today,

Unless you have felt the blow That caused his fall, or felt the same. That only the fallen know.

You may be strong, but still the blows That were his, if dealt to you In the self-same way at the self-same time,

Might cause you to stagger too. Don't be too harsh with the man who sins

Or pelt him with words and stones, Unless you are sure, yea, doubly sure, That you have no sins of your own.

For you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice Should whisper as soft to you As it did to him when he went astray,

'Twould cause you to falter, too.

EMOTION SLOWS UP WORKERS

Under the above heading, the Science News-Letter called attention to the work which has been done at the Western Electric Company by G. A. Pennock, in an effort to find out the effects of various conditions on the efficiency of workers. It was discovered that the emotional state of the employee was much more important than fatigue.

A harsh foreman who frightens the workers under him will decrease the output of his department by such tactics. The man who precedes his working day with a quarrel at the breakfast table with his wife is a most unsatisfactory worker, both from the standpoint of accident and health hazards and from the viewpoint of working efficiency.

SEE GOOD PEAR CROP

Prospects are exceptionally good for a large pear crop in the Province of Ontario, according to latest estimates of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. The trees came through the winter with very little injury and weather conditions have been excellent for the development of the fruit. Niagara district looks for a yield double that of last year and Burlington also expects to top last year's figures. Taken as a whole, the production for the Province should be far in excess of 1931.

In Nova Scotia, however, conditions have not been so favourable. Cool weather has reduced the set of the fruit and the crop will probably be about two-thirds of that of last year.

British Columbia should have a crop about equal to last year's. Kelowna, Penticton and Summerland, the leading pear growing areas, expect slightly reduced yields and other districts vary considerably.

Taken generally, Canada's pear crop for 1932 should be considerably greater than in 1931.

A SCOTCHMAN'S TELEGRAM

A catastrophe happened in Sandy's family and, wishing to communicate the news to a friend by telegram not exceeding ten words, he dispatched the following: "Bruises hurt, erased afford, erected, analysis hurt, infectious dead, Sandy." The story in full: "Bruce is hurt. He raced a Ford. He wrecked it, and Alice is hurt. In fact she is dead, Sandy."

If you want to Save Money take advantage of these BARGAINS!

Ladies' Full Fashioned Silk Hose, all new shades. Reg. \$1.00 for pair 79c
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