

The Stouffville Tribune

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Notes and Comments

The weekly press has been discussing editorially ways and means of improving church attendance among the protestant denominations. Could attendance at these churches be materially improved if the hours of service were changed is a question asked by the Owen Sound Times who thinks they could. He suggests that the eleven o'clock hour was originally chosen for morning worship in order that the farmers might have time to get to church after doing their chores without having to get up too early, and that the seven o'clock hour was set so they might get home and do the evening chores after service before it was too late. That was all right in those days, but now with cars so plentiful, there is not much excuse for continuing the practice. He believes most people would like to make use of the afternoon for visiting friends, trips to the country or to the beach, but the lateness of the morning service makes it impossible to get away much before two o'clock, and if one wants to get home in time for the evening service at seven a powerful lot of rushing has to be done. If the morning service were held at ten and the evening service at eight people would be able to have more time for visiting or recreation and would have less excuse for missing church.

The Whitby editor backs up the Owen Sound idea when he says: "Many Churches have lately adopted the 10.30 a.m. hour with Sunday School afterwards in order to leave a free afternoon. The later evening service is also becoming more frequent both in city and country. We have heard the suggestion made lately that 7.30 p.m. would be a more suitable hour for Whitby Churches. It would give the farmers a better chance to get their chores done and would perhaps be more popular with town folk who would like a longer day for driving over to the next town or township to visit their friends."

The editor of The Tribune does not think that changing the morning hour of worship would add anything at all to church attendance. People who are bent on running the roads all day Sunday will continue to do so. There is a more real and deeper sense of their obligation to the church to be instilled into them before any good is done. Plenty of people who are accustomed to the 11 o'clock time of service might be missing if the time was changed to an earlier one. No, it isn't the time of worship that is at fault at all. Unfortunately it is something more serious. The lure of the open road and desire for pleasure has a stronger pull than the call to worship, we fear.

For the balance of the year the province will pay 45 per cent of direct unemployment relief costs, municipalities will pay 30 per cent, and the Federal Government will pay 25 per cent. Hon. Eric Cross, minister of public welfare, informed a deputation of Ontario mayors recently.

This announcement resulted from the decision of the Ottawa authorities to continue to pay \$465,000 a month to the provinces for relief for the balance of the year. There is no unemployment at the present time in Stouffville or the townships adjoining. In fact farm hands are impossible to hire, and The Tribune is being daily appealed to by those seeking help. A farmer told us the other day he would gladly pay \$85 per month for an experienced man who would take employment until next fall.

A Break for Rural Mail Carriers

Hon. W. D. Euler has intimated that he will consider a suggestion by a member of the House of Commons to put rural mail carriers on the same basis as city letter carriers and have them appointed by the Civil Service Commission. This would mean a substantial increase in pay for these men who carry His Majesty's mails through the country in all sorts of weather and under less favorable conditions than their city cousins. The Renfrew Mercury says that the present system of cut-throat tendering finds some carriers without sufficient funds to do their work and maintain themselves and their equipment on a proper basis. This is quite true judging from some of the facts revealed at the convention held in Whitby last summer by the rural mail carriers.

Holidays Should Be Adjusted To Popular Convenience

Though the King's birthday falls in December, it is officially celebrated in June, that month being regarded as more seasonably appropriate for the ceremonies associated with the celebration. The festivities are thus shifted over a six-month interval without any loss in observance or in honor to His Majesty.

If the observance of a royal birthday can be shifted in this manner without destroying its significance, it seems that it should be possible for us in Canada to shift some of the statutory holidays the few days necessary for their celebration to fall on a Monday. Christmas and Good Friday do not, perhaps, lend themselves to observance on any other days but the 25th of December and the Friday before Easter Day, but even the New Year could be celebrated as well on the first Monday after December 31st, and Victoria Day and Dominion Day could most conveniently be celebrated on the Mondays before May 24th and July 1st. Thanksgiving Day, which is fixed by proclamation, should be definitely set for a Monday in October and not, as has sometimes been the case, for a Thursday in November.

From a business standpoint, a holiday in the middle of the week is a nuisance and to some industries is unnecessarily upsetting. Monday as a holiday date would be generally popular as permitting weekend trips which would be otherwise impossible. Unless it is to be decided that people are not to make trips on statutory holidays, but are to sit at home and fix their minds on the observance of the particular anniversary which is being observed, it would be well to adjust the incidence of holidays so that most people could get the maximum of enjoyment out of them.

BUY AT HOME THE BEST PLAN

"Buy at home" as a slogan has been in effect in small towns for years, and, like many phrases, it has been robbed of much of its value by constant repetition. People hear the phrase and pay little attention to it, beyond agreeing in an offhand manner that it is a good slogan and that out-of-town shopping is what is handicapping small town merchants. They forget all about it, however, the next time they happen to go to the city or a new season brings a new crop of catalogues. There are very few persons who are not guilty of neglecting their own merchants to some degree and in many cases there is no reason whatever for their neglect.

We want our readers this week to pause long enough to read over the presentation of display advertisements in this very paper. Could anything be more helpful for those going to camp or on who are now in camp or who are now in suggestions offered here. They will stand up, we submit, against the advertising of the big city stores in the daily press.

Buying out of town or in town is largely a habit. Then get the right habit. In addition to prices being much the same, shopping conditions in a town are much more pleasant than in larger centres. It is much more agreeable to make a purchase from somebody you know than from an impersonal clerk or from a mailorder catalogue. Altogether there is not much excuse for the city shoppers particularly the kind who run charge accounts in local stores and do their spot cash purchasing elsewhere. Fortunately these are a minority as nothing can be done to change their habits. Much out-of-town shopping, however, is the result of sheer thoughtlessness, and could easily stay in town if people gave a little more thought to the well worn but still good slogan, "Buy at Home."

RECORD COW

The Federal Department of Agriculture Report just released indicates that "Lonelem Rag Apple Doris," a two year old Holstein Heifer, owned by York County House of Refuge, Newmarket, stood first in her Division—completing a record of 13,299 lbs. of milk, test 4.37 per cent, fat 5.81 lbs. Butter 726.25 lbs. on strictly twice a day milking for 365 days.

We wish to extend our congratulations to the Commissioners, Reeve Earl Toole, Whitchurch and Deputy-Reeve Boynton Weldrick, Vaughan, and the Superintendent, Major D. E. Sprague, on this splendid record made by our York County Institution.

Last year Princess Patricia Beauty, one of this herd, made the highest Junior 4 year old holstein milk record in Canada for the year, having regard for age and division.

We understand that the House of Refuge herd, while small, is a splendid one, having regard for type, heavy production and high test, and reflects particular credit on those responsible for its management.

BETTER NOT TRY IT

From St. Thomas there comes one of the most unusual stories of the season. Mr. and Mrs. Darden Bassett of Rodney were driving in their car and were about to cross the railway track at the same time the New York Central flier, the Wolverine, was coming along at 80 m.p.h.

The front part of the auto was on the track just as the engine arrived. Something had to happen and it was a very neat operation for a locomotive to perform. The front wheels of the car and the engine were cut off as clean as though a big knife had been used. The glass in the car was not broken and Mr. and Mrs. Bassett sat there while it was going on and were not injured.

We consider that the most unusual accident reported this year. Trainmen say that had the locomotive been going at forty miles an hour it would have dragged the auto, but at eighty miles it just cut clean through and went on its way. It is indeed a nice trick with a happy ending, but an experiment which we would hesitate to recommend for the general use.

OXEN-TILLED LAND

(Continued from page 1)

lived at the lake too, and is perhaps the oldest living person born in the area. The Helmkeys came next with some 200 acres extending from the 9th to the 10th. This was held by four brothers, George, John, Englehart and Isaiah. Their land included the present park on the south side of the lake. Some of this property also belonged to Richard Graham, father of Andrew, who was then a lad behind the ox team.

Shadow Lake was the old McKeown farm, and the owner met a tragic death there, Mr. Quantz recalled in an interview with this paper. He was passing near the water when a breeze blew away his straw hat which went into the lake. The old man in his frantic effort to retrieve the headgear got into the water and became fast in the weeds where he sank. This property now belongs to the T. Eaton Co.

The site of the big pavilion, now widely known as Cedar Beach belonging to Mr. George Davies on the north shore and the land about was held three quarters of a century ago by a pioneer Edward Gray, father of Russel Gray of Gormley and Mrs. Ira Russell of Stouffville. Other prominent farmers of that time were the Nesbitts, Degeers and Staleys. How they progressed in the light soil may be a mystery, but they accomplished a good deal, and for the most part reared worthy families.

The property now occupied by the church formed part of a 50 acre holding belonging to George B. Quantz, father of W. A. Quantz. Most of these people have passed on, but the memory and the impression they made still lingers and even the coming of a great city population cannot completely efface the landmarks left by those staunch hearts who pioneered the district.

The United Church and the R. C. Church hold Sunday services each Sabbath for the cottagers.

Records indicate that back in 1895 (43 years ago) small parties from Stouffville and Uxbridge came to camp at Musselman's which was hailed as a coming summer resort, but it took the introduction of the motor car to carry out this dream. At that time one could pitch a tent for a month right on the shore for 50 cents. Twenty-two years ago Bishop R. C. Evans, son of William Evans who is a widely known cottager of this day, obtained a small piece of land on the north shore between Shadow Lake and Musselman's. It was the old Graham orchard then, but there was no well on the place and the owner carried his water from the lake. Bishop Evans opened the camp of the Christian Brethren and held hundreds of meetings there. 140 tents might have been counted there at one time.

Slowly the lake was developing but no one invested in a big way. Sixteen years ago George Davies bought the Russel Gray farm. He intended to develop it for his private use as a summer home. However, the turn of events in the city determined him on turning the place into a revenue producing proposition. Much could be said about the expansion program by Mr. Davey, which actually is the hub of the whole development scheme at this lake.

Today the Cedar Beach pavilion is one of the finest dance halls in all Ontario, while other facilities offered bring the Cedar Beach premises with modern store facilities into a thoroughly up-to-date summer resort, and the chief source of attraction for the tremendous crowds which throng the shores of the lake on every weekend and holiday. Mr. and Mrs. Davey are permanent residents of the township and the lake.

Among its many cottagers at Musselman's are to be found substantial citizens and men of prominence in their various walks of life. At the risk of missing many who might justly be mentioned we rehearse a few names, those of E. S. Smith of the Ontario Dept. of Highways S. R. Proctor and R. J. Draper of the York Trading Co.

In close proximity to Musselman's has been opened up the old McKeown lake and now widely known as Shadow Lake for Eaton Girls, where annually hundreds of employees from the company enjoy their vacation

with all its many privileges of the rural country district to which have been added all the nice conveniences that make for pleasure and delight.

Malcolm Connor and John Windsor are perhaps the two farmers who have lived at the lake longer than any other men there today, and can testify to the whole program of development which we have referred to. That the whole expansion has been a good thing for the district about goes unquestioned. Land is more valuable and taxes are more readily earned, and the section has risen from the second to poorest to the second to richest in the municipality.

There are those who deplore the passing of the so-called "good old days," but who is there that would want to go back to the ox tilled fields the barren shores, and the task of carrying water from the lake to the farm for house use and for stock in the dry period of summer?

Eight or ten years ago the campers formed an association known as the Musselman's Lake Ratepayers Association the head of which just now is the dynamic Bert Lloyd of Toronto and H. A. Bevens, secretary. The Association members run into the hundreds, and their interest and enthusiasm has helped to promote lake discipline, etc. The Association advocated the present garbage collection which has been enjoyed for a number of years, and are now bending their efforts to obtain a hard top road from the highways in to the lake.

The lads just now are giving great praise to the Whitechurch Council for providing a satisfactory dust layer and doing a good job in abating this nuisance around the lake. All-in-all there is a happy family of people at Musselman's and the campers find a real delight in passing a few short weeks at this little lake which is fed by springs unseen and which has no visible outlet.

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