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Editorial Comment

Legislature Takes Wise Course

The two year municipal election term is not to be forced on the people of Ontario. It seems that when the party got into caucus and the private members made it clear just how the average elector stood, Mr. Hepburn wisely decided that he would not force the measure, and we are glad he had seen fit to make a change of front.

After all, the Hepburn Government has given the country some exceptionally good legislation. Among the measures it has adopted which have been much appreciated in the rural parts have been the mill and a half rebate to municipalities, a modification in rural hydro installation terms, reduction in motor license fees and an increased grant to townships for upkeep of roads. These are only a few of the good things this government has given us and it would be unfortunate if an unpopular measure such as the two year or "duration" term for municipal councils was forced on an unwilling province.

Facts About Your Hockey Sticks

Ice hockey has now become a popular sport in almost every country in Europe, in parts of Asia and even in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Where natural ice conditions are not available the hockeyists enjoy the Canadian sport on artificial ice, and whether professionals, major league stars, amateurs or rank beginners, the majority of the players in most of these countries are playing the game with Canadian-made equipment. Almost like a geography book index reads the export shipping records of the C.C.M. Choquette Wood Products that at St. Johns, Quebec, one of the world's largest manufacturers of ice-hockey sticks—whose product is distributed by the world-wide known C.C.M. organization. Thousands of sticks every year leave this factory for the towns and cities of most foreign lands where ice-hockey is played.

These countries buy their stick supplies here because the most suitable types of wood for this purpose grow in Canada. Second growth rock elm, grey elm and ash, averaging from fifteen to thirty inches in diameter, have been found to be the best for hockey stick lumber; the elm because of its soft, workable and fibrous texture, the ash because of its straight grain, lightness and stiffness. Great stands of ash are to be found in the rugged, coarse soils of Quebec's Eastern Townships, while the extensive limestone areas of Eastern and Northern Ontario produce fine rock and grey elm.

The choice of lumber is a most important factor in the manufacture of high grade hockey sticks, especially when they are destined for a world-wide market where temperatures vary to both extremes of the thermometer. Wood experts employed by the stick manufacturers actually go into the areas where the ash and elm are available, mark the trees to be cut, follow the logs through the mill and direct the sawing operations to ensure care in each step. Nor is the task of choosing the most suitable trees an easy one. It is not advisable, for instance, to use lumber grown on low land or very old trees where deterioration may be hidden in the fibrous texture, because it is difficult to detect old or partially dead wood once it has been cut into billets—short lengths of lumber—and air-dried. Hockey stick lumber must be taken as close to the tree bark as possible. Therefore, light slabbing of the logs is important, as is the sawing into billets to insure flat, straight grain in the finished blade.

Perhaps the most important operation in the life of the stick is the scientific removal of the moisture from the lengths of lumber before they are stripped into hockey stick blanks. This operation is vital to prevent the wood from working or warping. If dried too fast in the specially constructed curing kilns, the pores on the outside surfaces will close or case-harden and prevent the removal of the moisture from the centre or core of the billet. After the bone-dry lumber has passed through the chain of operations which turns it into a finished hockey stick, precautions must be taken to guarantee the finished product retaining its proper moisture content and thus remaining stiff and free from warpage.

The average twenty-ounce hardwood shillelagh starts life in the raw as a twelve-pound piece of green lumber. Skilled machinists and modern machinery convert the log of ash or elm into a finish stick through a chain of varied operations. The job of supplying the general market is comparatively simple because the one-piece sticks are all of standard patterns. The difficulty enters the work when custom-made sticks are made for the professional hockey players, especially the players in the National Hockey League, who demand no less than 125 distinctly different models. The blades required by the pros vary in all possible ways—in length, thickness, width, shape and weights of handle and blade. The weights required range from 19 to 25 ounces and in length from the short 49-inch sticks to the long 55-inch models. With each of the seven N.H.L. teams using an average of 400 sticks per season and each player averaging about 30 per year, the manufacturers are busy all-year round producing these special made-to-order models for the pros, semipro and amateurs throughout the country.

BAKER VOTED DOWN Sunday School CENSOR MOTION Lesson

The member for North York in the Ontario legislature, Morgan Baker, is getting a good deal of local credit for being one of the ten Liberals to bolt from his party leader in the house on Thursday on the issue of Ottawa's persecution of the war by Mackenzie King.

Before the vote Mr. Baker had a chance to address the house, and attempted to get after Col. Drew for making extravagant charges, when Premier Hepburn interrupted him and enticed him to include him in his chastisement, but Mr. Baker avoided this which the premier evidently didn't appreciate.

Mr. Baker, replying to criticism of Col. Drew, read from Hansard a speech made by Premier King last September.



Morgan Baker, M.P.P.

"What is that you are reading?" asked Mr. Hepburn suddenly. "I am reading from a speech delivered by Premier King," Mr. Baker replied.

"Why should we be subjected to that kind of twaddle?" asked Mr. Hepburn, amid laughter. Mr. Baker also read a telegram he had received that day from Premier King's secretary, stating that there was "the fullest and closest co-operation" between Canada, Britain and France.

"Such vitriolic attacks as those of the opposition leader will do more to break down the morale of our people and do more harm than German gunfire," the North York member declared.

"I hope," Premier Hepburn interjected, springing to his feet, "the honorable member includes me in that. If my remarks weren't vitriolic, they were intended to be."

"No, Mr. Prime Minister," Mr. Baker rejoined, "your speech was not vitriolic, but that of the opposition leader was."

Mr. Baker insisted amid conservative shouts of "no, no" that an attack on the Canadian government involved also an attack on the governments of Britain and France.

Mr. Baker stated he had received much information from Ottawa relevant to the debate. "To show how unfair the criticism can be, I have here the figures relating to the payment of soldiers' allowances. There have been 42,000 applications and all but 3,600 have received final disposition," he said. "Allowances have been paid to 26,000 wives and the allowances of 6,000 have been applied to life insurance policies. Approximately 90 per cent of the applications have been disposed of."

"Why should the department be criticized? It couldn't work any more quickly than it has. Why, I have gasoline rebates standing in the department of highways for three months, but I have not criticized the department. I know the work they have to do."

"Are we talking about the war or what?" demanded Col. Hunter, as an argument arose between Mr. Baker and Mr. Macaulay.

"No, gasoline tax rebate," a Conservative member suggested ironically.

"The sooner the opposition leader comes to a true realization of his own worth the better," Mr. Baker shot back amid heat. He maintained it was "absolutely untrue" to say no preparations had been made for war. He stated preparations had been made by the King govern-

ment, for the last four years. "The previous government," he charged, "had allowed our defences to go into disrepute and disrepair."

Mr. Baker suggested that a committee be appointed to study the question of Canada's war preparations, "and that we stop all criticism until we know all the facts."

The motion of censor on Premier King which Premier Hepburn later introduced, and told the house he would resign if it was not carried, read as follows:

"That this House has heard with interest the reports made by the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition of the result of their visit to Ottawa to discuss war measures with the national government, and this house hereby endorses the statements made by the two members in question and joins with them in regretting that the federal government at Ottawa has made so little effort to prosecute Canada's duty in the vigorous manner the people of Canada desire to see."

While the whole cabinet stood by the Premier, also Col. Drew and 18 Conservatives, ten Liberals voted against their leader and many other Liberals scurried from the floor and did not vote.

Lesson for January 28
JESUS DRAMATICALLY PROCLAIMS HIS MESSIAHSHIP
Golden Text — "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee.—Matt. 21:5
Approach to the Lesson
Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of his last week of public ministry had been foretold long before and was in exact accord with the prophetic Word as recorded in Zechariah 9:9. The joyous cries of the multitude who welcomed him were also prophesied beforehand by David in Psalm 118:25 and 26. Thus there were two distinct Scriptures fulfilled on this momentous occasion. Then when Jesus cleansed the Temple (for the second time), he referred to and quoted Isaiah 56:7 as his authority for acting as he did. All this is in keeping with the character of Matthew's Gospel, which, as we have seen, is designed throughout to link the Old Testament promises and predictions with their New Testament counterparts. It might be said that everything Jesus did, and all he taught, was in exact accord with that which had been foretold by the voice of inspiration throughout the ages. In this, as in all else, we see the perfection of the Word of God. Prophecy is the seal of its divinely unique character. No other book is thus accredited. The Bible is in fact the only book of prophecy in the world. The so-called sacred literature of the great religions is without this mark and is puerile in the extreme when contrasted with the revelation given in the Holy Scriptures.

The Historical Setting
We are now within a week of the death of our Lord, but what an eventful week it was! According to the best authorities, it was in the spring of the year A.D. 30, just preceding the Feast of the Passover. Jesus had come down from Galilee to die at Jerusalem in accordance with the plan of God.

Verse by Verse
Matt. 21:1—"Unto the mount of Olives." They entered Jerusalem from the east, having come up from the Jordan valley, along the regular highway between Jericho and the capital.

Verse 2—"Ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her." As Lord of creation, Jesus knew just where the beast was to be found upon which he chose to ride into the city, in accordance with the prophetic declaration of Zechariah.

Verse 3—"The Lord hath need of them." It is evident that the owner of the colt was one who knew and believed in Jesus, and was therefore glad to be of service to him.

Verse 4—"That it might be fulfilled." This is a characteristic expression of Matthew's record, which aims to show definitely that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Verse 5—"Behold, thy King cometh unto thee." At last the word of Zechariah, spoken four hundred years before, was to be fulfilled, and that literally.

Verse 6—"The disciples . . . did

as Jesus commanded them." By implicit obedience they acknowledged his authority.

Verse 7—"Put on them their clothes." It was an unbroken colt, and they made a kind of saddle with their own garments. The creature knew its Creator and was docile at once.

Verse 8—"A very great multitude." They gave him a royal welcome for they evidently supposed he was about to proclaim his Messiahship and deliver Israel from subjection to the Romans.

Verse 9—"Hosanna to the son of David." Hosanna is the Hebrew term rendered "Save now" in our translation of Psalm 118:25. "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." This could only refer to the promised Messiah, Jehovah's Anointed One, who was to be the Saviour of Israel.

Verse 10—"All the city was moved, saying, Who is this?" The majority of the inhabitants of Jerusalem were amazed at the demonstration, and wondered what it could portend.

Verse 11—"This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee." The multitude declared his identity, leaving it to the others to draw their own conclusions.

Verse 12—"Jesus went into the temple of God." This was in accordance with the prophecy of Malachi (3:1). The Lord had come to the Temple to free it from its deceitful commercialism, which was abominable to God. He acted as Lord over his own house in driving out the money-changers and sellers of sacrificial victims who were making dishonest gains through their dealings with the worshippers from distant lands.

Verse 13—"The house of prayer . . . a den of thieves." Citing Isaiah's solemn indictment against the covetous formalists of his day, Jesus applied the passage to those who then had polluted the Temple courts.

Verse 14—"The blind and the lame came." As he taught in the Temple area (according to the custom of the time), many needing physical help came, and he demonstrated his power by granting the healing they desired.

Verse 15—"The chief priests and scribes . . . were sore displeased." Instead of rejoicing that God had visited his people, these hypocritical self-seeking religionists were angry when they saw the display of power in miracles of Jesus, and heard the children crying out as their elders had done before, "Hosanna to the son of David." They well knew the term implied that Jesus was the Messiah, who was to come of David's line.

Verse 16—"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings." Jesus answered their cavils by referring them to Psalm 8:2, as translated in the Septuagint version. It was God's Spirit who moved the little ones thus to acclaim him, and he would not have them silenced.

The Heart of the Lesson
Nothing that man can do will be able to hinder the fulfillment of what God has set forth in his holy Word. Prophecy is but history written beforehand, given by the inspiration of him who sees the end from the beginning. It was only self-will and unbelief that kept the leaders and others from seeing how prediction and fulfillment were united that day in Jesus and his experiences. Faith takes God at his word and has no difficulty believing what he has said;

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and so it is rewarded by seeing the glory of the Lord (John 11:40.)

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