

# The Stouffville Tribune

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## Notes and Comments

### Is The Butter Shortage Real ?

There seems to be a very strong feeling that the much talked of butter shortage is largely imaginary, and that had the issue never been circulated in newspapers, and people had gone on doing their normal buying of butter, the present predicament would not have arisen.

To this view we are strongly inclined. If there was any possibility of a shortage, the authorities should have dealt with it in a strong manner such as converting millions of gallons of whipping cream into butter, and the release of necessary storage butter to meet the situation.

Instead of that, nothing was done, but a great deal of talk was heard and people whose sense of loyalty is very shallow, began to hoard. Even in Stouffville, located in the middle of a butter producing area, it was hard to buy any quantity of butter last Saturday. Stores were handing out a pound to each customer and then they hadn't enough to meet the demands.

It is almost inconceivable that any housewife would be mean enough to grab up a supply of butter that should be on the shelf of some other housewife who had to go without because she would not be guilty of hoarding, yet the situation is quite apparent. If some punishment could be meted out to this sort of person, it would meet with widespread satisfaction among those who have a proper sense of fair play and loyalty to the cause.

If everybody would just go along and buy their normal supply and no more, we are strongly of the opinion that no one would have to go without their customary requirements.

### Street Cleaning Problem Not Settled

Putting teeth in the village snow cleaning bylaw, and appointing a sidewalk inspector, cannot in themselves stop accidents on the streets of the village. This action properly directed can only assure the corporation is not negligent in its duty. The inspector of sidewalks will see that people clean their walks, but it is a human impossibility to keep them bare through the kind of wintery season we experience in this particular section. Everything possible should be done to avoid accidents, and make going safe for the pedestrian, yet when that is done, there will be accidents, but perhaps not so many.

We note that on one day last week three people were taken to hospital in the city suffering from fractures due to falls on city streets. We mention this to emphasize that accidents will happen even in a large city where a close check up on negligent householders is made by the police.

### Asks Why Farm Returns Are Less

The recent beef shortage should serve as a lesson just how important farming is. Industry couldn't get very far if the farmer did not produce, and because his commodities are so important he should at all times receive good pay for his wares.

In an article in Canadian Business of November of this year, Mr. J. C. Turgeon makes several observations on the relation of the farmer to other business men which will bear consideration. First he says—"Why is it that the return on capital expended in farming operations is always so much less than the return on capital expended in business and industry?" and "The farmer provides food without which industry of any nature could not be carried on, yet in days of depression the farmer is faced with starvation and in ordinary times the fruits of industry reach the farmer in much less degree than they reach those whose capital has been invested in industry itself," and further, "Why is it, for example, that in the days of big stock market trading, money could be borrowed at very low rate of interest for purposes of pure speculation in bonds, but farmers who wished to borrow money to carry on their agricultural operations were forced to pay rates of interest which farming, as we have known it in many parts of Canada, cannot possibly absorb?"

Now these are questions which thoughtful farmers have been asking themselves and others for some time back. The answers are not yet apparent but it is a hopeful sign that they are being considered as a post war problem from the standpoint of business and industry. T

### No Incendiary Bombs to Spare for Markham

To a lot of people it could seem like a waste of printing ink and effort to organize Air Raid Precaution Warden and shower printed instructions in any place outside a populated city district. The government as much as told Markham township so when the question was asked as what should be done at Unionville to further such an effort. The government said Unionville district was in no danger zone, and A.R.P. wardens were therefore unnecessary. It is just as unnecessary to distribute literature among the school children of the township. There will be no bombs falling over Markham. That period is long past in this war.

Why, over in England, they are putting up the old sign posts again between London and Folkstone, indicating the belief that those people there feel they have the Germans in hand. Nothing could require the imagination to be stretched to the point where Germans or anyone else would bomb a district like Markham. Markham's action in distributing this literature will only encourage over-zealous government departments to print more of it to be wasted.

## Sunday School Lesson

### Lesson for Sunday, December 20 THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Golden Text—"Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

—Matt. 1:21

#### The Lesson as a Whole

To millions of earth's inhabitants this Christmas will be the saddest they have ever known. Celebrated as the birthday of the Prince of Peace, it seems almost mockery in a world torn by strife and deluged with blood. But the reason is plain to all who believe the Word of God. He who came to speak peace to our troubled race was rejected from the very first. There was no room for Him in the inn. Herod sought to slay Him as a child. His own townsmen would have hurled Him from the top of the cliff, or Mount of Precipitation, to the vale below (Luke 4:29). He was "despised and rejected of men" (Isa. 53:3) as He went about doing good (Acts 10:38) and at last, spurned by His own nation, He was crucified on a Roman cross and buried in a borrowed tomb. But, thank God, He lives again, and some glad day will return in glory, to fulfill all the predictions of the prophets of old and ratify the angels' message, that it is through Him alone peace shall come to earth, and good will be the portion of all men.

The story of the birth of Christ is ever new. It is a privilege to pause in the stress of modern life and go back in spirit to stand by that manger bed and gaze again upon that lovely Babe, who is God manifest in flesh. In all the annals of earth, there is nothing else to be compared with it. Heavily mythologized, inspired by Satan, sought to imitate it by grotesque and corrupt tales of women who became mothers of demigods by association with the grossly carnal deities of paganism. But these were the Devil's counterfeit, designed, as Justin Martyr said, to blind men to the truth when at last the promised Seed of the woman was revealed. It was by the direct creative power of God, working through His Holy Spirit, that the blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:48) became the mother of our Lord. His incarnation was the first step in the fulfillment of the program of redemption. Bethlehem was the prelude to Calvary.

The Historical Setting It always seems strange to some that the date of our Lord's birth is given in our Bible chronology as 4 or 5 B.C. But the reason is simple. In arranging the Christmas calendar a mistake was made as to the exact year of the death of Herod the Great. Later, research proved that he died 4 B.C., and we know the birth of Jesus Christ was sometime earlier, as it was this Herod who commanded the destruction of the babes of Bethlehem, in order to put the Lord Jesus out of the way. We do not know the exact time of the year when Christ's birth took place.

#### Verse by Verse

Luke 2:8—"Shepherds abiding in the field." Across the road from Bethlehem there are still wide pasture lands where shepherds tend their flocks. It is seldom, however, that they keep them out in the open as late as December, although this sometimes happens.

Verse 9—"The angel of the Lord . . . the glory of the Lord shone . . . and they were sore afraid." The awe-inspiring events of that wondrous night, at first filled the hearts of the simple shepherds with fear. Their reaction was akin to that of Jacob, when the Lord appeared to him in Luz, and he changed its name to Bethel (Gen.

28: 16, 17). The revelation of the supernatural to men causes them to realize their own littleness and unworthiness.

Verse 10—"Good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The angel's proclamation was one of gladness. The long-awaited hour had struck for the fulfillment of the prophetic word as to the advent of the woman's Seed, who was to bruise the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15) and bring in blessing for all the world (Gen. 12:3), for Abraham's Son and the woman's Seed are one and the same.

Verse 11—"Born this day in the city of David a Saviour." Long centuries before, Micah the prophet had foretold the exact city where this promised Deliverer was to be born (Mic. 5:2). Now the word had been fulfilled. He who came to earth that night is Christ the Lord. Christ is the same as Messiah, both meaning "the Anointed."

Verse 12—"Ye shall find the babe . . . lying in a manger." Thus, in lowliest guise and among the humblest surroundings, had the Eternal Son of the Father appeared on earth. He who created the cattle chose to be cradled in the feedtrough of the creatures. His own power had brought into being.

Verse 13—"A multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying." We might have expected Luke to say, "singing." But, singularly enough, in Scripture we never read of angels singing, after that first creation anthem of Job. 38:4-7. The new song is the ecstatic utterance of redeemed sinners, saved by grace. But doubtless the "saying" of the angelic hosts was in tones sweeter than any earthly song!

Verse 14—"Glory to God in the highest." God's glory ever comes first. In all things He must be magnified. But His glory and our blessing are linked together. So the added words: "On earth peace, good will toward men." It is a divine proclamation—peace offered to a weary distracted world through Him, who is the Prince of Peace. God's good will is shown in thus sending His Son to bring men back to Him. But the peace offered will only be the portion of those who receive Him.

Verse 15—"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem." The glorious vision past, the amazed shepherd determined to act upon the instruction given and to go to David's city, that they might see for themselves what had come to pass.

Verse 16—"They came with haste and found . . . the babe." Eagerly the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, located the particular cave-stable to which the angels had referred, and there met Joseph and his wife Mary, and with them the special object of their search, the holy child Jesus, lying, as had been told them, in a manger. As they gazed upon the beautiful infant nestled in the straw, they perhaps had little idea that they were looking upon the countenance of God manifested in flesh.

Verse 17—"They made known . . . concerning this child." Leaving the stable, they went forth as the first evangelists of a new age, to tell others the wonderful things they had heard and seen.

Verse 18—"They that heard it wondered." When the strange tidings were carried to the friends of the shepherds, they wondered at what they heard. We are not told, however, as we might have expected, that many more sought out the holy Babe, that they might know for themselves the reality of what had been reported to them.

Verse 19—"Mary kept all these things . . . in her heart." To the blessed mother of our Lord all of these events were confirmatory of Gabriel's strange words when he appeared to her Nazareth to notify her that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God (Luke 1:30-33).

Verse 20—"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God."

### APPOINTED WOMEN POLL CLERKS

Shortage of manpower, a graceful gesture to the ladies, or a bid for the female vote at the approaching municipal elections could be given as reasons, but officials of Amaranth Twp. in Dufferin County explain that "we just thought we'd give the women a shot at it and see how they make out." In appointing women poll clerks at the eight polling subdivisions in the township for the elections on Dec. 7th. This is the first time on record that women had been appointed as municipal election officials in Dufferin County.

Mayor Conboy of Toronto called upon the city people last week to co-operate in keeping the sidewalks safe. If there was a slippery spot in front of their property he asked them to throw on a few ashes or a bit of sand if available in the interest of the safety of the general public. Heads of a good many municipalities might issue a similar request, in the interests of the pedestrians of their own towns or villages.

### THINKS 'AM GROWS

Two little English war guests who hadn't been in the country before set eyes on a pig. "Look 'Ern," said the first to see the creature, "that's where we get our 'am from." "Don't be daft," said the other. "You ought to know that 'am grows like apples." "Who told you that 'am grows?" asked the first, not being himself certain enough of the facts to boldly contradict his friend. "Nobody," came the answer, "but it said in the paper one day that some soldiers ran into an 'ambush."

### LEHMAN'S SHOE STORE

Footwear For All The Family

Women's Hosiery  
GLOVES, SHOES, SOCKS, BOOTS  
and MITTS  
Stouffville Phone 4191  
(Opposite the town clock)

Sure to Please

Practical

## Gift Suggestions

"For Him"

This year buy Practical Gifts and we suggest you make your selection as soon as possible as stock cannot be replaced in time for Christmas.



### Always a Popular Gift

WHITE SHIRTS by "Tooke" make a very acceptable gift in sizes from 14 1/2 to 16 1/2. Price \$2.00  
MEN'S BROADCLOTH SHIRTS, in popular Stripes and Small Patterns. Priced from \$1.15 to \$2.50

### Gift Pyjamas

Made from Cotton Broadcloth in a variety of Stripes in colors of Blues, Wines, Browns, and Greens. Sizes, B. C. and D. Price range from \$2.00 to \$3.00

### A Variety of Scarves

Complete his Wardrobe by giving him a warm Scarf in refer style—A grand assortment of patterns and colors as well as the ever popular white scarf. Price

A few other suggestions — PONY HORSE-HIDE WINDBREAKERS, BATHROBE, GLOVES, BRACES, SOCKS, INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS and a wide variety of TIES in gift boxes.

### Suggestions for Boys

WARM WOOL SWEATERS with Zipper Neck—Mackinaw Windbreakers, Golf Hose, Gloves, Shirts, Ski Caps, Etc., Etc.

R. E. CURTIS

"YES, we're doing without our Long Distance calls to Mary and Dan this Christmas"



THE exchange of Christmas greetings by Long Distance telephone had become a peace time tradition in many a Canadian home. But such calls are a luxury in war time—and luxuries have no place in a war economy. War needs the wires you'd like to use for Christmas messages. War business, and the boys in camps who will be calling home from all parts of Canada, will be delayed unless you avoid your usual Christmas telephoning. If you really must send your greetings by Long Distance, won't you please do so a few days before or a few days after Christmas—not on Christmas day. This will be part of your contribution to Canada's war effort.



WAR-TIME TRAVEL TIP NO. 4

**"Gentlemen, we're Hungry"**

There's nothing we like better than to see people enjoying their meals in the dining car enough to linger over them. We wouldn't hurry you for anything, but wartime travel is heavy and others need your places.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL**