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Notes and Comments

On Being Kept Track Of

Not long ago, a Canadian immigration officer was heard to remark, as regards travel across the boundary, that he hoped that the regulation requiring passports would continue. He said it helped to keep track of people.

And now comes a Canadian Press Despatch from Ottawa suggesting that some Ottawa people think it might be a good thing to continue national registration in time of peace. Provincial authorities, it is argued, find the registration cards useful in various ways, including the sale of liquor. And they also help in cashing a cheque.

Being skeptical of "think" stories that come out of a bureaucratic centre, we suggest that the Ottawa report is the product of some civil service brains which have been realizing that it would be a shame if all that neat filing system established in 1940 to learn which of us can milk a cow were discarded after the war. It's a filing system that must make a lot of jobs. It would be a pity, from the bureaucratic point of view, if the filers were sent out into the cruel, hard world to do something useful.

As for keeping track of people, there may be a few people so strangely unorthodox, in these times, as to think that free people who are law-abiding should not be kept track of. Parents and wives and sons and daughters and other relatives, not to mention neighbors do a fair job without the assistance of a perpetual national registration. And if a citizen who is not wanted by the police doesn't want to be kept track of officially he should have that privilege.

It used to be his privilege. Why not again?

Hepburn Gets Back of Drew

Mitchell Hepburn's strange colorful career in politics has taken another turn or twist. The now independent Liberal member of the Ontario Legislature for Elgin County, the man who resigned dramatically as Liberal premier in October 1942, has announced that he will now support Premier George Drew in the Ontario Legislature.

"I am going to support his government because he is a good soldier, a good citizen and a hard-working public servant," a remark that most people will agree with.

Cryptically, Mr. Hepburn added, I won't say I'll do it blindly, but so far as my conscience will permit—it is almost unbelievable how far you can stretch your conscience."

Mr. Hepburn praised Col. Drew for his tenacity of purpose, and described the Premier's record as enviable, and in closing his address before the "Property Owners' Convention," in Toronto, expressed the hope that Ontario would not see another election for some time.

Are Fire Insurance Rates Justified?

A few years ago the Government threatened to turn the spotlight on the fire insurance companies, with a view to forcing their rates downward. This move was countered by the companies who at once gave more liberal clauses in their policies. Since then the matter has been allowed to stand.

It would be an interesting statement if we knew the thousands of dollars paid by Stouffville people every ten years for fire insurance. We believe that the losses in the same area are surprisingly small as the receipts of the companies are large.

If our county council want to do something worthwhile

they might appoint a committee to investigate insurance rates in towns of 2500 and less. Then ascertain the amount of insurance premiums paid in the same area. We believe the results would show that we are paying amazing rates.

In Stouffville, for instance, years ago it was realized that plate glass insurance was high, and a local fund was established by the merchants. Result is, the rate is less than one percent of the premiums we would be called on to pay in regular line companies, and there is not a claim for breakage that has not been met in 20 years.

If towns like Newmarket, Aurora, Uxbridge, Richmond Hill, and other places would collectively study the fire insurance situation, there could, we believe, be a lasting financial benefit accrue to all who now pay insurance rates.

The experience of carrying front street plate glass insurance through a local firm with such tremendous saving, is practical in any small town, but it would not be practical to carry general fire insurance that way, but that is no reason why we should be paying the fire rates we are called upon to maintain.

John Bracken and Canadian Agriculture

According to the Farmer's Advocate there is no more important pronouncement in the whole 30-point program for Canadian agriculture, submitted by the Honourable John Bracken, Leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, than the unequivocal recognition of the farming industry as the Cinderella of our whole social and economic structure. The objective, he says, is "to correct Canada's greatest social inequity" and to raise agriculture from the inferior position into which it has been allowed to fall, and for all too long, except for a few years of the last war, to remain

Other political parties will now have to successfully attack this pronouncement or set about to draft a more acceptable programme than Mr Bracken has presented. The whole problem involved in Canadian agriculture, with all its glaring inequities, has been thrown into the public forum. Hand-clapping, arm-throwing and hair pulling will no longer suffice. Political leaders will now be obliged to put themselves on record, as the Leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party has done, with a suggested programme "to correct Canada's greatest social inequity."

There has already been too much back-slapping and log-rolling. The time has come for sound, statesman-like action, and the farm organizations should see that we get it, the Advocate concludes.

'Blessing or a Curse?'

"Will a community hall be a blessing or a curse?" asks a highly skeptical individual who has failed to disclose their name to the newspaper. Because the suggestion is so unusual and because it advances such ideas as it does, we pass it on to our readers under the heading of the "Editor's Mail."

We have never heard of a town hall or community hall turning the young people into drunkards and dancing maniacs, as the writer suggests, and if we are not to build an assembly hall for fear it may make drunkards and dancing maniacs, then we should not have parks, for who knows what might go on in a park.

Our young people have a right to a place where they can develop dramatics and enjoy other forms of entertainment from time to time. As we have said before most High Schools have an auditorium, but the Stouffville Schools lack such an assembly place, and a community hall or music hall would fill a dire need in our community. Since the ownership would be vested in the town, it would be the duty of the municipal council to see that it is properly conducted, but we have not heard of any towns having trouble from this source.

No community can get rid of dark alleys and hangouts, but we can provide bright, wholesome places to which young people may be attracted. To suggest that drunkards emanate from a town hall is not borne out by facts at all. Ask the people at Markham, Uxbridge, Sunderland or Beaverton. They all have such a place as Stouffville lacks, but no such trouble emanates from them.

are members one of another.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for November 23th
TRUTHFULNESS AT ALL TIMES
Golden Text—Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbors: for we

Eph. 4:25
The Lesson as a Whole
Approach to the Lesson
While the Ninth Commandment forbade particularly all falsehood that would work harm to another, it is clear from our Lord's teaching

that it was designed to prohibit dishonesty of every character. Lying is a sin no matter what excuses may be offered for it. "All liars," we are told, "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." This in itself should be sufficient to show God's abhorrence of this evil habit. Yet lying is almost as natural as breathing. No child ever had to be instructed in how to lie. All need to be instructed as to the importance of telling the truth. "The wicked... go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies." Satan himself "is a liar, and father of it." By lies he corrupted our first parents, and the virus of deceit is in the very blood of all the race. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

Some have attempted to palliate certain kinds of lies, on the ground that even Scripture recognizes them as at times helpful and even necessary. In trying to sustain this theory they point out to the fact that many of the Bible characters, who are commended by God, as Rahab, the woman who hid the messengers of David and others, prevaricated in order to save life. But while God commends their devotedness, He never approves their deceit. He is the God of truth and He delights in guilelessness and absolute honesty. Our Lord calls Himself "the truth." He who would have fellowship with Him must walk in truth.

Verse by Verse
Exod. 20:16—"Thou shalt not

bear false witness against thy neighbor." This Ninth Commandment definitely forbids all misrepresentation and evil speaking. It applies not only to witness in a court of law, but to all that one might say to another concerning a third party.
Chap. 23:1—"Thou shalt not raise a false report." It is so easy to do this. Sometimes just an unkind suggestion, which is taken up by others, will exaggerate, as it is spread abroad, until one who is utterly innocent will be blackened beyond the possibility of clearing himself. This in God's sight is wickedness. To be "an unrighteous witness" is abhorrent to Him who is the God of truth. Our Lord Himself suffered in this way when false witnesses rose up against Him, perverting His words and charging Him with offenses of which He was guiltless.

Verse 7—"Keep thee far from a false matter." This is the only path of safety. Avoid all fellowship with those who indulge in the evil habits of slander and misrepresentation. God's ear is ever open, and He hears every false accusation, and will in His righteous government, cause all such falsehoods to react against those who are guilty of promulgating them.

Matt. 5:33—"Ye have heard that it hath been said... Thou shalt not forswear thyself." God had so spoken, as in Leviticus and other Old Testament passages. This, however, had been narrowed down by Jewish traditionalists into a pro-



A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada
(By Jim Greenblatt)

Canadians are ample savers as indicated by the fact that savings on deposit in Canada's chartered banks at Sept. 30 last amounted to \$1,998,904,000. Remember, that's savings alone.

An interesting trade angle: because of the need of foodstuffs at home, Canada so far this year hasn't filled quotas allocated under trade agreements with the U.S.A. Under preferred duty arrangements, for instance, we could have sent three million gallons of whole milk, but to Oct. 2 had only sent 5,585 gallons; out of a quota of 1,500,000 gallons of cream only 702 were shipped. We

hibition only of testimony sealed by an oath.

Verse 34—"Swear not at all." The Lord here forbids the use of strong asseverations of every kind. Such oaths are not needed to give any added force to the straightforward declarations of an honest man. It is wrong to appeal to Heaven as a witness to the truthfulness of one's words, for He who sits in the heavens may detect guile where one is hardly conscious of it himself.

Verse 35—"Nor by the earth... neither by Jerusalem." In spite of our Lord's solemn words, how many are guilty of the very thing he condemns, even those who profess to acknowledge His authority over their lives. Even Christians often use such expletives as "Heaven," "Jerusalem!" and so on, in the most careless and, to God, offensive way.

Verse 36—"Neither shalt thou swear by thy head." This was a common Oriental oath and is still, in Eastern lands. The folly of it is emphasized by one's helplessness to change even the color of his hair permanently.

Verse 37—"Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than this cometh of evil." He who is conscious of speaking the truth needs to add nothing to it in order to give greater force. "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin." The Christian should learn to be careful in speech as in all else, that thus he may bring no dishonor upon the name of His Lord. Paul seems to have had these words of Jesus in mind when he wrote to the Corinthians. This might imply that Matthew's Gospel was in circulation already when this letter was written.

John 8:42—"I proceeded forth and came from God." In these words Jesus affirmed the truth of His pre-existence. Before He was born on earth, He was one with the Father in the past eternity. He humbled Himself by becoming man in order that He might bear witness to the truth and die at last as a substitute for sinners.

Verse 43—"Ye cannot hear my word." The self-righteousness and determination not to acknowledge their true condition blinded the eyes of the opponents of Jesus so that they failed to understand who He was, and so rejected His Word.

Verses 44 and 45—"Ye are of your father the devil." Those who definitely array themselves against the testimony of Christ manifest the fact that, whatever their profession, they are not the children of God at all, but children of the Devil—the seed of the serpent. Note how this effectually negatives man's prideful conception of the "Universal man." All men are God's creatures, and all are brothers in Adam. But it is by regeneration, through faith in Christ, we become sons of God and brethren in Christ. The devil is a person—not merely the personification of evil. He is an apostate angel who "abode not in truth." Since his rebellion against God he has ever since been characterized by deceit. He is a liar, and father of it." By his lies he deluded our first parents, in Eden, and he has used the same methods ever since. Hence we are warned against "the wiles of the devil." To lie therefore is to imitate him, something of which no child of God should ever be guilty. Yet so perverse is the human heart that even when Christ Himself spoke, men believed Him not, but rather accepted the testimony of Satan.

The Heart of the Lesson
We are told that "out of the heart the mouth speaketh." Where deceit is cherished in the heart the lips will speak falsely. But where the truth of God is known and loved we will delight to speak the words of truth and soberness and will learn to hate lying and dissembling even as God Himself hates them.

The Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of truth." As we yield ourselves to His control, our lives will be transparently honest and our lips will never be defiled by falsehood.

did better in fish, shipping nearly 13 million pounds out of 15 million; only 1.6 per cent of allotment of 1,500,000 bushels of seed potatoes went. The calendar-year quota for red cedar shingles is 2,506,072 squares with only 44.9 per cent being shipped. We could send 100,000 pieces of silver or black fox furs on a preferred rate, but only 45.6 per cent went across the line. We filled our quota of 795,000 bushels of wheat for the 12 months beginning May 29.

This will interest housewives who like salmon, or will it? Although 200,000 cases of British Columbia's 1943 salmon pack may be available for the Canadian market, the greater part will be eaten by other Allied Nations. We will be doubling our 1942 shipments of frozen fish to the United Kingdom, and the entire exportable surplus of dried, boneless and green-salted fish, some 27 million pounds, has been allocated to various countries under a United Nations plan.

The Department of Labour, in commenting on measures taken to alleviate impending shortage of pulpwood and conserve existing stocks, has in preparation a vigorous programme of waste paper salvage. Did you know that many of the pulpwood industry's products enter into essential war use, such as shell cases, as a substitute for metal. Wood pulp is nitrated into explosives; plastics substitute for metal in component parts of electrical apparatus, radios for the Navy, Army and Air Force Components for land and sea mines, submarine detectors and many other devices are made from wood pulp. Millions of feet of lumber have been released in the packaging field, and ingenious uses made of paperboard thus ensuring safe delivery of food, delicate instruments, clothing, etc., to the front line, whatever conditions prevail there. From dissolved pulp, synthetic fibres are made for tire cords, fragmentation bombs, self-sealing gas tanks. These essentials comprise about 55% of the total pulp wood consumed by the industry. The balance is used for newspaper, of which Canada's consumption is only 3%. A notable contribution is British Columbia's aeroplane spruce, providing 70% of total requirements.

Agricultural notes: In connection with ranches furs, the government was able to see that additional outlets were available and 100 shipments were made to South American countries, during the past season. Approximately 103,000 or 6 percent of the telephones in Canada are operated by rural co-operative companies in which there is a total investment of \$20,000,000. We are asked to send out the reminder that distributors of milk and manufacturers of dairy products must obtain permission of the Agricultural Food Board, Ottawa to purchase milk or cream from any producer from whom they were not buying milk or cream at September 9th last.

In view of the fact that the experimental farm system has developed a sawfly resistant wheat, it is interesting to know that the wheat sawfly is a native insect which has spread from wild grasses to closely allied cultivated plants such as wheat and rye. The benefits of experimental work is accepted as matter of fact by the public; for instance people who enjoy the luscious Vedette Vallant and Veteran peaches from the Okanagan Valley may not realize that they are collecting a dividend from the Experiment where these varieties originated.

Seeing we now have our first Canadian Minister to Brazil, it is well to note that Brazil is making a big contribution to the Allied cause. Her mines and industries being virtually turned over to war production. To Canada she sends crystal rock, an essential material in the manufacture of optical instruments and stabilizers.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has been making an estimate of the national income. You know your own but what about Canada's. In September it was tagged at \$745 million as against \$646 million in September of last year. Total for first nine months of 1943 was \$6,579 million as against \$5,515 million same period in 1942. The advance in national income has been sharp since war started.

Women in rural communities, as well as those in the cities, as stand to benefit from the price ceiling on cabbage, beets, carrots and parsnips. If they have this produce in their root cellars, they are assured a fair price for these vegetables when they or their husbands sell them on the market. A slight increase for storage costs will be allowed up to next May in order to help prevent any uncontrolled rise in the price of storeables, the Consumers Branch, W.P.T.B., are asking all Canadian women to familiarize themselves with ceiling prices on these vegetables.

Sufferers of bleeding and protruding piles should know Bunkers Herbal Pills treat the cause at its source. Money back if the first bottle does not satisfy. Buy from your druggist.

PILES

