

The Stouffville Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1888

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association
and Ontario—Quebec Newspapers Association
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations
Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa
Issued every Thursday, at Stouffville, Ontario
In Canada \$2.00 In U.S.A. \$2.50
A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

NOTES and COMMENTS

A New Year Message

Once more the season has come when it is customary to put aside care and make merry. We are able to do this each year, and have demonstrated part of it the past weekend. Next weekend we will try it again, to mark the New Year season.

We of The Tribune family have every good reason to enjoy this season to the fullest. While we do this let us remember the religious festival of deep significance. It is a time to thank God for the manifold blessings bestowed upon us.

We in Canada should be especially thankful because ours is one of the few countries in the world where personal freedom still exists. This is perhaps the most priceless gift which we will receive. Without that freedom none of us would be truly happy. Our freedom is unbounded, save when it trespasses on the rights of others, so do not trespass, otherwise you will not enjoy the freedom to its full meaning.

We wish one and all our readers a Happy New Year.

Did you ever hear about the fellow who was "berried" in a swamp? He was picking cranberries.

In picking these ripe, round berries, so delicious on the festive-season turkey plate, the fellow was playing his part in an industry that is still minor in Canada but which offers an excellent opportunity for expansion. Our berry-picker might have been picking berries in one of Canada's comparatively few cranberry swamps, or bogs as they are called by the growers. These exist in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and British Columbia. In these provinces there are many more acres of unused land still available which is suitable for the production of this much-demanded crop.

When the fact is considered that most of the cranberries sold in Canada are imported from the United States, amounting annually to millions of pounds and valued at over half a million dollars, it is surprising that the culture of cranberries in Canada has not been much more highly developed than at present.

To most folk, the tasty, vitamin-rich cranberry is known only as a relish with fowl or meat — like a Christmas dinner when it becomes the turkey's delight. But, for the favored few who have access to a full winter's supply, no more popular fruit exists for pies or tarts, jelly, juice or preserves.

The raising of cranberries is exacting work. Visit the cranberry bogs in the Berwick and Aylesford districts in Nova Scotia and you will learn that while there are areas of wild cranberries, most of the marketed berries are from bogs that have been taken over from nature. It is no simple matter to make a cranberry bog, not to maintain it. There are problems of ditching, soil conditions, weed control, sand supplies and proximity to markets. One of the cranberry wonders readily appreciated is the manner in which waste land — forgotten marshes — is changed to highly productive ground.

As mostly sand marsh land is desirable, we do not know whether the Holland Marsh would grow cranberry bushes, perhaps it is worth a try, so we pass on the idea, perhaps not new, to the District Representative, M. F. Cockburn.

Save Those Western Straw Stacks

Probably the most glaring waste in western Canada in past years has been grain straw. Each fall mountainous straw stacks were set aflame as an easy way of removal from the fields. Appalled at such waste, chemists began studying various straws to determine if they could economically convert straw into paper. The early Chinese and Egyptians had employed crude methods of paper manufacture from straw hundreds of years ago.

Research was begun in earnest. Laboratory procedures were developed to produce a good grade of straw pulp. Paper of a glassine or parchment was made from wheat, oat and fibre flax straw. The Howard Smith Paper Mills undertook to manufacture cigarette and other specialty papers from flax straw. The rough straw is first concentrated in its Winnipeg plant and shipped to Beauharnois, Quebec, for further processing.

Last year the first commercial mill for production of newsprint from 100 per cent wheat straw went into operation in Cleveland, Ohio. The establishment of a similar industry here will undoubtedly be influenced by the increasing consumption of our wood resources. According to a senior official of the Canadian Forestry Association, it is entirely possible that no marketable timber will be left in this country in another 58 years — unless more effective conservation measures are enforced.

Warts and Charms

Something new has been added to the long list of magical cures for warts. A story from Birmingham, Eng., tells of a druggist there who claims to cure these blemishes simply by entering the sufferer's name, age and number of warts in a "charm book" — whereupon the pesky things disappear. Already warty citizens are making a beaten path to his door.

His treatment has the advantage of being less messy — if less romantic — than some of the older methods, thinks the Edmonton Journal. These include rubbing wet matches over the warts, dusting them with earth from a graveyard, bathing them in "spunk water" (rainwater that has collected in a hollow stump or tree) or even swinging a dead cat nine times around the sufferer's head with appropriate incantations. But the oldest and most universal of these cures consists of touching the growths with a live toad. This is a real survival from ancient witchcraft. The theory apparently is that the toad, being so warty itself, will somehow absorb the "evil spirit" which is causing the warts.

The popularity of all these weird procedures is probably due to the fact that warts, if left alone tend to disappear of their own accord, especially in children and young people. When this happens after an application of toads or dead cats, the power of the magic is considered proved.

There is at least this to be said for the magical treatments; they are much safer than the "scientific" method of burning the warts out with nitric acid, silver nitrate or other caustic chemicals. As the Edmonton paper says, a charm has never been known to get in the patient's eye, burn a hole in his best suit, or irritate a harmless wart into becoming a dangerous growth.

Sends Cocker to Console Child



Ace, a jet-black cocker spaniel, started a 3,000-mile trip by air. She's going to Vancouver to try to console four-year-old Dianne Drummond, Butler St., Vancouver, whose dog was killed by burglars.

Ace was a member of a North York, Ont., kennels, owned by Mrs. M. H. Page. Mrs. Page was touched when she read the story of Dianne's loss. Herbert Spence, four, is shown saying good-by to Ace.

A Glimpse of Things at Time of Incorporation

Next week Stouffville enters on its 73rd year of incorporation. Heretofore the village formed part of Markham and Whitchurch Townships. Population at time of incorporation was around 1200, hence we have only gained 300 in all these years, but isn't it just as well. Stouffville has all the services the city dweller has excepting street cars, and we are well rid of them, because they are not needed to get about a village of our size.

Even when the village was incorporated the railway served its inhabitants as it does today, and there were strong church organizations operating at that time.

Silvester & Dougherty had the leading hardware, although there was live opposition with Booker Bros. In the dry goods and grocery trade S. M. Warriner was a leading advertiser therefore the leading merchant in this line. W. B. Sanders advertised dry goods and made to order clothing, groceries and glassware, while R. J. Daley at time of incorporation was in his prime and his display space was pushing boots and shoes, biggest stock in town. John Urquhart in his space claimed for men's and boys' overcoats, warmer goods and cheaper prices. The leading millinery store (perhaps the only one) at time of incorporation was operated by Mrs. Fred Wilson, who carried knitted goods as well. R. Brown, chemist, was pushing the sale of Dr. Rowan's cough medicine, and another preparation for chafed hands. H. Johnson invited the public to see his stock of tobacco and cigars, 3 plugs for 25c or 4 for 30c. On Fridays Hamilton's tobacco store next the station was giving away clay pipes when selling groceries, oysters and stationery.

The churches carried advertising

DAVID KEAN, ENGINEER FOR 30 YEARS RESIGNS DUE TO ILL HEALTH

Ontario County Council on Tuesday accepted with sincere regret the resignation of its engineer and Road Superintendent, David J. Kean. Active in the capacity for the last 30 years, Mr. Kean has lately been in poor health and hospitalized for several weeks, though now he is at home again and rapidly improving. The resignation is effective December 31.

Though resigning from his major position, it is learned that there is other engineering work which Mr. Kean may be in a position to take when his health permits again.

Dave Kean was the first Ontario County roads superintendent, although similar work has been done by the late ex-warden R. R. Mowbray, prior to Mr. Kean's appointment on March 15, 1919. The Ontario County road system was set up in June, 1917, and comprised a comparatively small mileage. Then, there were no provincial highways. What is now No. 2 highway was the Kingston Road, or county road No. 2; county road No. 2 was from Oshawa through Columbus to Seagrave; county road No. 3 ran straight through Brooklin on the route followed by No. 7 today.

Indicative of the vast increase in Mr. Kean's work during the past 30 years is the fact that the 1919 road budget stood at only \$28,721.22 as compared with \$220,000 in 1949. Mr. Kean's starting salary was only \$1,400 per annum. At first he had no mechanized equipment to use on the roads. Horses and drags were still the main equipment.

In his youth, Mr. Kean taught school for a short time and then was engaged in railway work.

space in 1889 were the Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, Baptist and Church of England.

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— DECEMBER OFFICE HOURS —

Dec. 24th, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Dec. 31st, 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

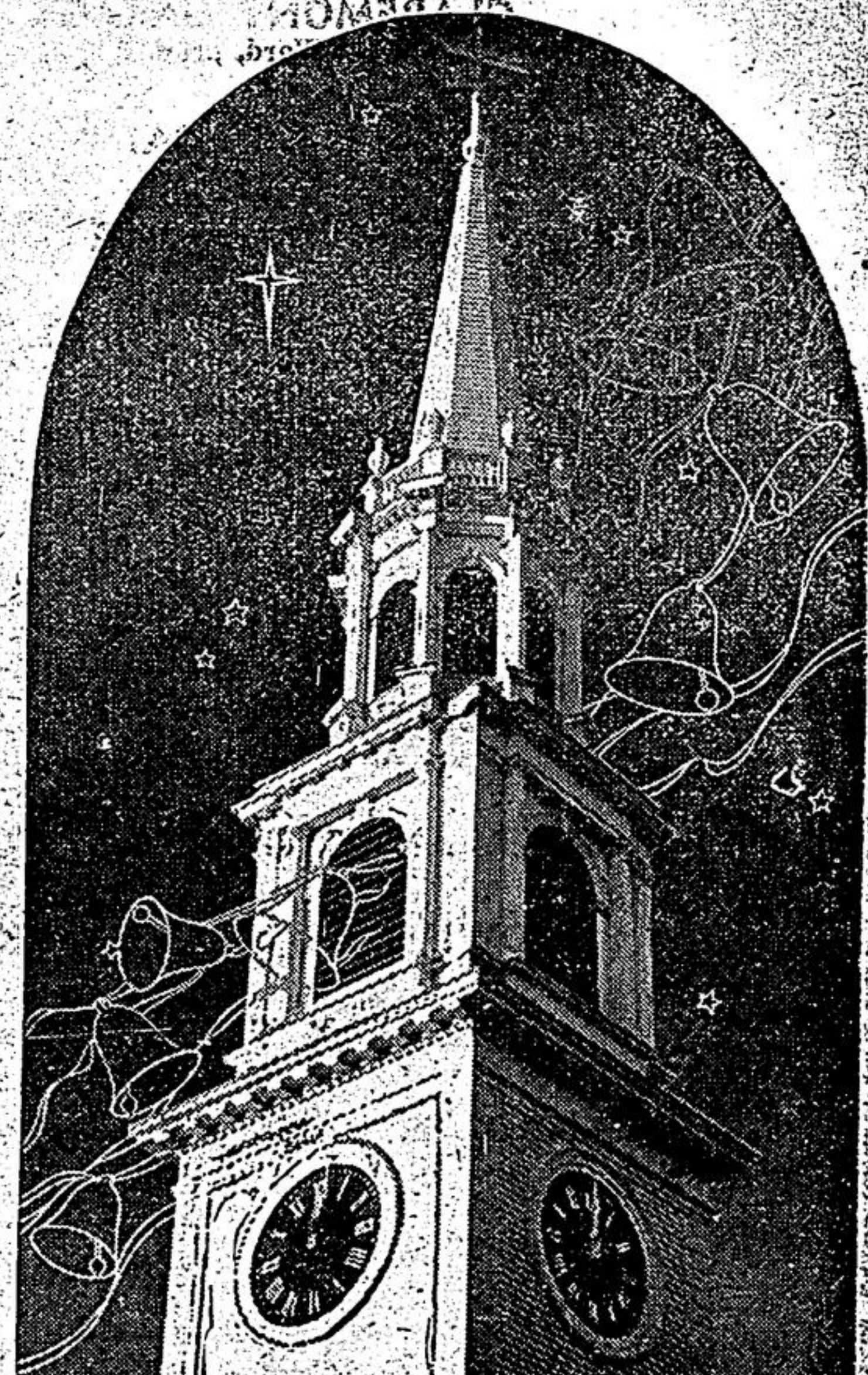
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176w

NOTE: For your convenience you may phone for eye examination appointment any time during the week.



Wherever a Church steeple rises to pierce the blue skies of daylight, and combine with the stars of night — there is Peace. And as we enter our Church, this holiday time, the full spirit — meaning — and essence of the word shall enter our beings and inspire each of us to fulfill our own small roles in achieving for all time Peace on Earth. Good Will to Men.

Stouffville Bakery