

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

Adults Offend, Too

We know from experience that children are hard on furniture and on walls, but we also know from experience that few children leave cigarette burns on floors or spill drinks on the best rugs. Inflicting this particular type of damage is strictly an adult pastime.

It might be easier for landlords if humans hatched from an egg fully grown and well mannered at the age of 21, but so far this is not a practical system and we must face children as they are. We know property owners have every right to take them or leave them alone, but what a happy thing it would be if they decided to take them.

The costly new Marbleum laid in the York County Council Chambers on Adelaide street, Toronto, show cigarette or tobacco burns, due to carelessness of some stupid smoker who dropped hot ashes on the new floor. Talk about children destroying furniture, if any evidence is needed by us to indicate that some grown ups are even worse than children, we look at those burns down in the York County building. The carelessness exhibited there may not necessarily have been caused by members of the council, since numerous visitors are in the rooms from time to time.

Shoe Fashions

Fashions in shoes have changed greatly since the turn of the century. In recent years particularly the accent has been on comfort.

Fifty years ago white shoes first appeared as a summer fashion. Women's shoes had long pointed toe, wide laces or buttons. French heels were popular and patent leather or thin French kid was in great demand.

Men, even more conservative than they are now, wore high black shoes in winter, low oxfords in summer. Casual shoes, designed for comfort and coolness, were far in the future.

During the years shoe fashions and habits changed quickly. Before 1914 toothpick points had gone out of style. In 1910 the bulldog toe arrived. Buttoned shoes were still worn by women but not by men who preferred high laced shoes. Heels were spindle shaped and many slippers had ribbon lacings. Bows were on the large side.

Between 1920 and 1950 the shoe industry made its greatest advances. Elasticized leather, novelty leathers and new fabrics and other materials for uppers, wedge heels, plastics, carved wooden heels were introduced. Greater co-ordination was developed between costume and shoe colors. New lasts and new shoemaking processes came to the fore.

The Canadian shoe in 1950 is a vastly different product than it was at the beginning of the century.

Unhonored and Unsung

The pig appears to have been getting the worst of it for a long time.

In prose and verse it has been the emblem of gluttony and the synonym of grossness. Caricaturists have for years employed its heavy jowls and rolling corpulency as malignant symbols for all manner of human greed, boated plutocracy and political corruption. By word of mouth its other detractors have made it the vehicle of sovereign contempt by likening their worst enemies to "a swine." About all the poor lowly pig has been given credit for is a grunt—whether of gratitude or satiety is something that still seems to remain in the realm of doubt.

Wherefore it may come as a surprise to learn that the pig is a valiant creature and can play the hero when the crisis is such as to summon the best within it. At least, a mother pig on an Illinois farm demonstrated that she had nothing to learn from human beings when it came to maternal love and the incalculable levies this sublime attribute is capable of bearing when the demands are made upon it.

The Hamilton Spectator tells of a barn which took fire on a suburban farm not far from Chicago. When firemen reached the scene they saw a sow emerge from the flaming structure carrying in her mouth a tiny pig just a few days old. For a second and a third time she went back into that raging fire and came out with a second and a third pig from her litter. Then she entered for a fourth rescue, but the flames were evidently too fierce for her. She never came out again.

Not a bad display of that "greater love" was it? Little wonder that firemen and spectators choked a bit with emotion as they told about it. Little wonder, either, that they felt they had witnessed an incident of splendor that somehow tended to dwarf them.

Bare Heads at Funerals

The practice of tipping the hat as a mark of respect is said by an encyclopaedia to have originated in the days when men wore helmets. On entering a house a warrior took off his helmet to indicate that he trusted the people within not to attack him, and held out his hand to show he was not carrying weapon. It is an interesting if somewhat doubtful explanation.

But who originated the custom of baring the head at funerals? And why? And was it in a climate such as Canada's. Funerals are known to be the cause of addition funerals. People go to them in a depressed state of mind, fair targets for the colds which so many of them contract as a result of standing bareheaded at the graveside. It is done as a mark of respect for the deceased, but sometimes at a price which the deceased would not have liked a friend to pay.

There is no necessity for it. People respect the memory of the dead just as much with their hats on as with their hats off. Some ministers, especially at winter services, ask those waiting outside the church or standing by the grave to keep their hats on their heads. It is a course which should be followed oftener.

That 'Still, Small Voice'

Conscience is said to make cowards of us all, and an unknown man sent 25 cents to a retired farmer in Napanee because, some 13 years ago, he stole a few apples from the man's orchard.

If all of us were to be tormented with a conscience like that, the post office would be swamped with demands for money orders for small amounts between 10 cents and a dollar; perhaps less, perhaps more.

There can be few adults—including many fine preachers of the Gospel—who could put their hands over their hearts, and know that they never filched apples, or other fruits, from a farmer or a market gardener, or from a neighbor's garden in their boyhood days. They were quite "good" boys, who would not have dreamed of committing a theft, but picking a few apples or a handful of berries was looked upon as a boyish prank, and nothing else.

Conscience has been described as the minister of justice within the soul. It is a potent factor in keeping men and women from doing wrong and choosing the right.

The man who reimbursed the Napanee farmer must have suffered terribly since he took those apples. We'd hate to have that peccadillo gnawing at our vitals all that time.

Drat the man! Ever since we read about his noble act of retribution, we can think of half a dozen people we ought to send 25 cent postal order to—and the only thing that keeps us from rushing down to the post office is the knowledge that the persons to whom the orders should be payable have been dead for decades.

It consoles us to reflect, however, that they, in their young day, probably did the same to somebody else—and never suffered a qualm of conscience.

Government Does Not Want Pension Property

A person can own a home or other property and still be eligible for the Old Age Pension, Hon. Wm. A. Goodfellow, Minister of Public Welfare, pointed out when commenting on a recent court case in Toronto.

The case was that in which an elderly couple sued their daughter to recover their home. It was brought out in the evidence that the parents had assigned the house to their daughter under the misapprehension that ownership would prevent them from obtaining a pension.

Mr. Goodfellow said the government does not take the property of pensioners. On the contrary, it does all within its power to protect their interests in a home or land they may own. This protection takes the form of the government reserving the right to approve of the sale or disposition otherwise. Approval is always given when the sale price is fair and equitable.

A typical case in point was that of a pensioner who owned three acres in an area adjacent to a large centre, for which he tentatively agreed to accept \$800. Investigation showed the property if subdivided, was valued between \$7,000 and \$8,500. When the sale was ultimately made, the pensioner received not \$800 but \$6,000, without having to subdivide.

Another case, but without the happy result, was that of a man who owned a farm which he gave to his son in the belief that he would always have a place to stay without having the responsibility of managing the place. Within a short period, the son sold the farm, its equipment and livestock for \$20,000 and left the country.

The father, now penniless, is in a Home for the Aged and cannot qualify for a pension because of the transfer of property within five years of date of application. Had he been a pensioner, the government would have guarded his property.

Under the Federal Old Age Pension Act, which is administered by the provinces, there is a provision which requires the governments to recover from the estate of a person the amount of pension paid during his or her lifetime after funeral expenses, reasonable debts and testamentary expenses have been allowed.

However, in most instances, no claim is made for a refund of pension against the first \$2,000 of any estate. Favourable consideration is also given for the amount of regular contribution made by any person towards the support of a pensioner provided the assistance continued during the last three years in which the pension was paid.

The Old Age Pensions Commission is deeply concerned over the increasing number of applications it is receiving in which the applicant has transferred property just prior to applying for pension. Under these conditions it is impossible to deal with the application, and explanation only leads to misunderstanding on behalf of the applicant who believes that the Commission will take his property, if he retains it in his name. For this reason the Commission requests all pensioners to make a will ensuring that the property will pass to whomever they desire.

In families where the children assume their responsibility toward their parents in their declining years they may be assured that this care will be favourably considered when the parent's estate is being probated.

Too few people, Mr. Goodfellow added, are aware that this arrangement can exist without affecting eligibility of the pensioner to receive the pension.

LOOKING AHEAD!

If you're planning to live until the year two-thousand, here are a few items you can look forward to.

Cars will have their motors in the rear, and the works will have become so compact the motor will take up only the space now needed for a portable typewriter.

Plans travel will be as cheap as bus travel is now and there'll be rocket ships available to fly those who want to see Mars and Venus close up.

Dr. Gerald Wendt, former science director for the New York world's fair, makes the predictions, which also include these additions:

A 24-hour work week, a life span of 85 to 90 years and average incomes of 12-thousand dollars per year. Dr. Wendt says a factory in England already turns out complete radio sets in a plant devoid of human workers.

The new world will use more time for sports, religion, recreation and culture—provided of course, that the scientists don't cancel the new world before the year two-thousand.

Tickled Pink?

The aces among Scotland's salmon poaching fraternity have been known to tickle salmon to death. They catch one laying close to shore, tickle it back of the gills and start a nervous condition which makes the salmon rigid. Then they scoop it out of the water.

Voice of Prophecy

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Column No. 30

Question—I can't see how the whole life of Christ can be given in books as short as Matthew or John. How can it be?

Answer—It isn't. "How many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." John 20: 30, 31.

Q.—Don't you think we will all be so frightened when Christ returns that we will just run and hide?

A.—Not everybody. Those who are looking for Him will be glad. Isaiah 25:9 says: "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us, this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Those who try to hide will be the unprepared. (See Revelation 6:14-17.)

Q.—Does "fulfill" in Matthew 5:17, 18 mean "to do away with"?

A.—The apostle Paul's idea of FULFILL is "fully to preach." (Colossians 1:25, margin.) Christ fulfilled the law in this respect, for He taught the law of God as no one had ever taught it before. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 5:17, 18.

Q.—Aren't all of us children of God whether we are good or bad?

A.—In the sense that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, yes. In the spiritual sense, no. Spiritually, only those are the sons of God who are described in such Scriptures as Roman 8:14, 15. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." And Galatians 3:26, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

EDITOR'S MAIL

Sincerely we congratulate Mrs. Pegg for her wonderful love story recorded in your last issue. To many of us in middle life the facts

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



were very hazy, and we never really knew the inside as Mrs. Pegg related it.

Perhaps it might be in order to say that the writer was well known to the Newton Hill who carried his father's mail, and we can say that he died 17 years ago, after having been employed in Toronto for a long time. He had often been

mixed with your Newton Hill still in Stouffville.

The world is better for such wonderful enlightened people as Mrs. Pegg, and again we congratulate her on having gotten into print a bit of township history that could not be supplied by any other person.

Subscriber.



EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

by Don Graham

The old advice to "keep your fences mended" should be applied to your relationships with others.

Suppose, for instance, that someone opposes you in some matter. Probably you will resent his attitude. You may even ridicule his views or "fly off the handle"—even though you realize that in doing so you are only making matters worse.

Whenever this happens, don't just let matters rest. Try to make amends. Admit that perhaps you were a little hasty in what you said. Admit, too, that the other fellow may have had a case.

If you win a dispute or an attempt to get your own way with someone, don't rub it in. Try to regain his goodwill and do what you can to help him "save face".

But if you should be the loser, don't hold a grudge.

Similarly "fence-mending" is equally necessary when we wrong others or they wrong us. In such cases we should try, by expressing our regrets—or "letting bygones be bygones"—to keep all contacts friendly.

Actually, few matters are important enough to warrant letting them impair your relationships with others in any way.

Your life insurance plans, too, may need mending from time to time. Additions to the family, the needs of growing children, increased living costs—these and other changes suggest bringing your life insurance plans up-to-date with today's needs.

The call that wakes a nation's heart to action



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never-ending work you count on the Red Cross to do. This year, the need is urgent for \$5,000,000. Only you can give your share. Give from your heart . . . and give all you can!

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