THE STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE ESTABLISHED 1888

A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association and the Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Authorized as second-class mail, Postoffice Dept., Ottawa Printed and Issued every Thursday at Stouffville, Ont. In Canada \$2.50 Elsewhere \$3.50 C. H. Nolan, Publisher Jas. Thomas, Assoc. Editor

ditorials

Bunny Business

An oddity in the poultry world was exhibited at the Royal Winter Fair. It was a hen that consistently lays blue eggs. Now there's something to cackle about.

It would seem that the craze for color is even invading the poultry yard. During the breeding process over a period of six years, 'tis said the owner of this unique Biddy found some of his chickens laid eggs of different hues - red, khaki, olive, green, gray, chocolate and light green.

It would be quite a trick, but if the breeder of this type of hen could find some way so that the chickens lay the colored eggs hard-boiled he would provide keen competition for the Easter bunny.

Farmers Airing Their Grievances

While Canada is enjoying prosperous conditions again following the recession a year ago, there are nevertheless some soft spots.

Fewer complaints have been heard from the textile industry of late which has suffered from foreign competition of low-wage countries. But it still finds the going difficult.

Most complaints right now, however, are coming from the primary producers. These principally stem from the fact that markets are not available to dispose of surplus products such as wheat, apples and butter at prices that would give a fair return to the producers.

The situation would be much better for the growers if Canadians could consume more of their domestic products. The country's small population compared with the vast areas producing crops of various sorts by improved methods is one reason why our surpluses of farm products are accumulating. Another reason is that our domestic prices are considerably higher than those prevailing on world markets. Also some of our former customers abroad are aiming at self-sufficiency in commodities such as wheat.

It can be said without fear of contradiction that our farmers are riding on the caboose of the prosperity train. This fact has prompted the airing of grievances by spokesmen for those engaged in agriculture. Just the other day Dr. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, said the farmer is getting a steadily decreasing proportion of the amount spent on food. In 1951 the farmer got 63 cents of every dollar spent by Canadians on food. By 1954 this had fallen to 51 cents.

The spread between what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays has been widening to the detriment of the farmer and the benefit of the middle--man. However, the latter will be quick to point out that his handling costs have been going up in the in--terval. This spread is something the government might do well to investigate.

Christmas shopping has not really got into high gear yet. One of these days it will really happen. Men all of a sudden will remember that they have done nothing towards Christmas. The women folk who have been planning a long time ahead, and are methodically drawing up their list will really go to town. Then the problem will arise, what to do with the things that have been bought until the great day dawns. In any home there, of course, are little nooks and corners which can be pressed into service. If these prove too small there are always the neighbours.

The Scrooges among us will not be too happy about all this. They look on it as another method of prying money out of their pocket books. It is all too commercialized they will say; there is too much high pressure advertising and anyway people only give because others are giving.

Now, there may be some truth in this, but what would a mere man do about getting ready for Christmas were it not for the advertisements. A popular pastime these days is watch the mere man scanning the newspapers, and not always the funnies and the sporting page but the ladies' wear and toilet advertisements as well. It is alright. How is a man to know otherwise.

When the Scrooges in our midst tell us that the whole celebration of Christmas is an unhealthy custom, each person giving presents because others are doing it, they may have something. There is no doubt we are all moved to action by convention and custom. We have a sneaking suspicion though, that many of those who complain about having to bow to convention just want to get out from under the responsibility of doing the generous thing. So even if social pressures make them loosen up a bit it is good for their souls. After all there are those who would rarely spend a nickle on se good cause if custom or convention did not compel them to do so. If so-called commercialization helps to force a man to become unselfish, we are for it even though on general principles we are opposed to compulsion.

But we like to think that this giving and receiving of gifts, which may be overdone a bit, in certain quariers, has a much deeper purpose and origin than appears on the surface. It is based on the first Christmas when the greatest gift that man ever received was presented to him. In these days of wars, hot, cold or warm, days of tension, national and personal greed, it is good to know that during one season of the year at least, we can concentrate on the welfare of others to the exclusion of our own selfish interests. After all that is one of the deep meanings of Christmas.

East End, Stouffville

offers a bigger and wider display for the needs of your church, Sunday School, and young peoples' groups. Visit the Nook now while the assortment is best. Arrange by appointment, after hours if preferrable, for your teachers or committees to study the selection and make choice.

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C. A. GRASSICK IN THE TORONTO TELEGRAM



IT'S GOOD FOR THEM

WE CAN ALL THANK GOD We are living in an age when children are an object of care and affection. Yet I never see parents fussing over a child without remembering that some things must be learned by personal experience and all the advice in the world can't take its place. Here is a story of how a very wise man! made a serious mistake.

ONE OF THE GREATEST scientists of the last century was Alfred Russell Wallace. His close study of natural science, and the important books he wrote on the subject, won him an abiding

place among pioneers of scientific research. WALLACE WAS ONCE studying the evolution of the emperor moth from the chrysalis stage to its emergence to freedom and maturity. He came upon the creature as it was trying to break the narrow neck of its cocoon. It was beating its wings as if the struggle were too much for it, and frantically struggling as if in pain. It appeared to Wallace an exceptionally beautiful specimen, measuring eight inches from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

HE WAS DEEPLY and sympathetically interested. It seemed to him a cruel process, so he took his sharp lancet and split the cocoon, thus making it possible for the winged creature to emerge quickly and without further pain. But it was a mistake. The creature was spared some pain, but the unnatural release proved its undoing. What would have been a beautiful manycolored moth lived only a few minutes. Its wings never properly developed and the varied and indescribably colored wings, which cause the emperor moth to be so much admired, never appeared. Released from pain and further effort, the moth soon dropped into listlessness and died.

THE SCIENTIST MEANT WELL, but it was a tragic blunder. The furious struggle within the cocoon is nature's way of developing the wings of the moth, for by that exercise vital fluids pulsate through the body until it is made strong and beautiful. Wallace learned the lesson that the beauty of that creature — in fact its

very life — depends upon its effort and struggle. WE ARE ALL TEMPTED sometimes to think that life without struggle and difficulties would be vastly improved, but much would be lost if such a life were possible. Men owe their strength, purpose, and resolution - in short, their backbone - to the obstacles they have met and overcome. Seneca, a wise Roman Philosopher, said: "Difficulties strengthen the mind as labor strengthens the body."

A WELL-KNOWN BUSINESS EXECUTIVE once described his boyhood days on a backwood farm, far removed from a railway. He wore patched clothes, often went without shoes, and had practically no spending money. But he was wise enough to realize, as did his friends, that those experiences gave him strength of character, purpose, and determination, which have done much to make him an outstanding and respected leader. ALL PARENTS WISH to save their children pain and disappoint-

ment but that is hardly possible. What is possible is to provide a place where children can find advice and sound common sense: All the money in the world will not take the place of sound counsel and no gift we can bestow on youngsters is equal to the heritage of a good example.

OUR QUOTATION TODAY is an old Scotch saying: "Difficulties are like styles - to be got over."



For Parents Only Live Christmas

By Nancy Cleaver

Sets old and young rejoicing. the earth.

Christ has been told in song. In December it is good to think any other Christmas hynn. of children in many lands singing the hymns of the Christmas season. There is no loveller present which parents can give five of them.

O Come All Ye Faithful

(Adeste Fideles) countries, no one knew who tional tune. composed it. But in 1916 an century it was sung in the Eng- Hymn." The famous reformer home!

"Christmas brings joy to every lish Roman Catholic College in Chapel of the Portuguese Em-What angels sang once to all bassy in London. Thus it became known as "Portuguese Oh hear the children voicing." Hymn." Frederick Oakley in the centuries the birth of hundred languages and is like-The First Nowell

their children than a knowledge lenteenth century. Originally, it bey, adapted the music in 1840 and appreciation of music. had nine verses of which five for his choir. Singing carols in the family now are still used. "Nowell" is | Every household should know

Year's day. Europe, which for centuries had celebrated March 25 as the

of the Gregorian calendar. 10-day New Year season at the authorized by law or qualified time of the autumn equinox. to drive or operate the auto-The Moslem calendar, which mobile . . .' dates to 626 A.D. has 12 months

it performed a great job of uni- such a permit. fication, still doesn't satisfy everyone who uses it. Periodic- sued his insurance company ally someone comes forth with for damages to his car while what they consider a better way being driven by his son. The of marking time.

loved music and children and he did write many hymns. The thought and pictures in this carol are those a child can understand and see in his imagination. As a boy, Martin Luther. sang in the choir school in Eisenoch and it is thought that he the trial of the case the Court children. Each December mothers sing this song as a lullaby was not qualified to drive alone. for small boys and girls.

Good King Wenceslas

Over a thousand years ago n Bohemia a kindly and sympathetic king Wenceslas ruled. His people loved him because he not only paid others to carry out his aid to the unfortunate, but he himself went out in the stormy weather to bring practical assistance to those in need. For generations in many lands this carol has been sung reminding Christians that Christmas is a time of sharing with those who are hungry or cold or ill clothed.

Charles Wesley, brother of the held that the company had Lisbon, Portugal, and in the the Methodists. Charles wrote and "qualified to drive or oper-6,500 hymns and this one was ate Ce automobile." written in 1738. The last four stanzas containing theological! Public welfare would be proteaching are seldom sung and moted if working for the com-An old Danish carol begins 1811 translated it into English. some of the words have been mon good became more comwith these words. Throughout Today it is sung in over one altered. But the joyous picture mon. of the angels' visit continues to ly known by more people than be a great favorite. It is usually sung to part of Mendels- marries a woman because he sohn's "Festgesang" music writ- can't afford to take her out. This is one of the most popu- ten to celebrate the invention lar carols. Here is found a nar- of printing. Dr. W. H. Cumrative folk song from the sev- ming, organist of Waltham Ab-

circle is one of the delights of the English version of the the selection of Christmas Yuletide. Here is the story of French word for Birthday, re- hymns in their own church lated to "Noel," which is de-hymnary or book of praise. But rived from the Latin. The wri- it is a good investment to buy ter of this carol is unknown - a new book of carols each Depossibly several people helped cember. Any music store will For many, many years, al- to compose it. Both English and have quite a display from which though this Latin hymn was French claim it as their carol, to choose. The Oxford Book of sung in quite a number of and it is sung to an old tradi- Carols and Carols by Fenwick are fine books. Carols You! Away In A Manger Know and Children's Favorite Engilsh vicar discovered an | This is perhaps the best loved Christmas Carols (both Frederold manuscript, which named of all the Christmas hymns for lick Harris Music Co.) are not the writer of the hymn as John little children-and it never too advanced for a boy or girl Francis Wade, an Englishman loses its charm for grown up who has studied music to folwho lived in France, "Adeste children either! Some authori-low. Christmas Music (Wit-Fideles" was written in 1741 ues insist that its authorship is mark) and Noels by Oberndorand the music was called "an uncertain, but they have agreed fer are two other excellent English Air," although it show- that it is of German origin. books. - But whatever music led the influence of Handel. In But for many years it has been you select, take time to sing the middle of the eighteenth called "Martin Luther's Cradle the songs of Christmas in your



first day of the year, was the Can the owner of a car recover first to adopt the Gregorian collision damage under his incalendar. But it was not a com- surance policy when the car plete adoption until 1752 when was driven by a person with-Great Britain joined the other out a proper driver's license, European countries recogniz- Sometimes such damages ing January 1 as the first day can be recovered. One of the of the year and instituting use statutory conditions is that "the insured shall not permit . . . Of course, the date of Janu- the use of the automobile . . . ary 1 is not celebrated by by any person, unless such pereveryone. The Jews observe a son is for the time being either

Any driver with the usual that begin with the approxi- operator's permit comes within mate new moon without any in- the exception as a person authtercalculation to keep them orized by law to drive. But a geared to the seasonal equi- person may be "qualified to drive or operate the automo-And, the Gregorian, although bile" even though he hasn't

> In a recent case a father company refused to pay on the ground that the son had only a 60-day permit under which he was permitted to drive a car on the highway only when accompanied by a person who al ready had a motor vehicle driver's license.

At the time of the accident the son was driving alone. At wrote these lines for his own held that since the boy held only a temporary permit he The father's claim was dismissed. He appealed this decision to the Ontario Court of

The Court of Appeal overruled the trial judge and allowed the father to recover his claim for damages against the insurance company. It held that to succeed in its

defence under this statutory condition the company would have to prove that the driver was not qualified. The evidence was that the

son had driven the car over 500 miles in the past five weeks in city traffic as well as out on Hark: The Herald Angels Sing the highway without mishap. This carol was written by in the circumstances the Court great John Wesley, founder of failed to show that the boy was



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