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Editorials

This Wintry Spring

This has been one of the wintriest springtimes in a good many years. One can't help wondering what it means. Is it just a perverse downward squiggle on the long-range temperature chart ? It would have to be that if those scientists are right who say we are in a slow warming period that will eventually give this continent a much milder climate.

In support of this, of course, they always cite the receding of Greenland's great glacial cap which has at last exposed farmlands covered by ice for many centuries.

Naturally, some scientists think the thing is the other way around — that the mild weather of recent years was the irregular stuff and this winter and spring what we should normally expect.

You can take whichever set of experts you wish to believe. We like to go along with the mild-trending boys. But if next spring isn't better than this one, we're going to ask our experts to run up to Greenland to see if those ancient farms are still exposed.

Five-Year Census Deemed Necessary

On June 1st, 16,000 Canadian men and women across Canada will begin taking the first nation-wide quinquennial census. Previously the counting of heads was done every 10 years, although Manitoba has been conducting a midway census since 1886 and Saskatchewan and Alberta have been doing it since 1906.

This year's census won't be as comprehensive as the decennial census and, therefore, less expensive. The cost is estimated to be $3,000,000 under the $8,000,000 figure of five years ago. It figures out to approximately 35 cents for each man, woman and child.

Taking of the census is almost as old as the hills, but the facts obtained weren't always as confidential as is the case in Canada. Marco Polo tells us that in one place he visited every householder was compelled to write over his door the names of all in his household and the number of horses he had.

In the 1790 census in the United States, 600 officials knocked on doors, asked five questions of whoever answered, then tacked their lists on the walls of local taverns. People who had been skipped could read all about their neighbors and, if they were so minded, add their own names and comment.

In Canada, the answers given by individuals to census questions are absolutely confidential. Every employee of the census is bound by a special oath and penalty against divulging any fact whatsoever that may have been learned through the census. The bureau of statistics is forbidden to issue any statement that would directly or indirectly reveal information about a particular person or concern.

But that is not all. Census information obtained from or about you may not be used for taxation or military purposes. It is expressly forbidden by law to use data to tax a person or to call him for military service.

The midway census is deemed necessary to keep certain essential statistics more up-to-date. For example, some provinces are now making per capita grants to municipalities to help them solve financial problems. Head counting is necessary at least every five years if these funds are to be distributed in a fair and equitable manner.

For Parents Only -

A Love of Flowers

By Nancy Cleaver

"I owe my love of flowers to a teacher who was a garden enthusiast," a woman told a friend she met at the Flower Show. "I attended a rural school and each of us had a wonderful time with our tiny plots in the school garden. Our teacher certainly had "a green thumb"! We learned how to prepare the soil, sow the seed and care for the plants. In the autumn many of us won prizes for our bouquets at the Fall Fair."

"I never had a school garden but my parents both enjoyed gardening. So I learned to love growing flowers too," the friend answered.

A gardening hobby is one which may be begun in very early years and can be enjoyed for a whole lifetime. The seed catalogue's arrival is a real event in many homes. The lovely colored pictures of vegetables and flowers are most attractive, even if they are almost too optimistic! A little child can learn the names of many favorite flowers and also the different colors by playing a little game of finding flowers or colors with an older member of the family.

When mother and dad are making plans on paper for the garden, if there is a small boy or girl in the family, do include the child in the discussion! If at all possible promise the child a small piece of land for his very own garden. Let him draw his own outline of what he wants to plant, making a few suggestions of vegetables and flowers that are easy to grow. If seeds are started early indoors, let the youngster help in caring for them, turning the boxes toward the light and watering the plants.

Flowers make a very special appeal to girls, but boys, too, may be quite proud of the flowers they have grown themselves. Lessons of finishing up on a task which is begun, carefulness and patience are all learned by a gardener, whether he is young or old. It is good, too, for a child to feel that he has his own share in a family enterprise, of any kind. The sense of "belonging" and pride in doing a good piece of work are fostered in gardening or any project which members of one home carry out together.

Arranging flowers in an artistic way is a real art. Many people make the mistake of crowding too many flowers into one vase. A mother who has a knowledge of flower arrangements can teach her daughter how to make a pretty table centre. From time to time magazine articles, pamphlets and books are printed dealing with this subject. One who wants to learn more about flower decorations may find further information at a public library. Pretty vases and bowls of different shapes and sizes may be gradually purchased so that just the right vase may be quickly found for a special bouquet.

On birthdays and other special occasions, a bouquet of flowers, a rosebud, or a plant will find its way to many homes with a little note from a sweetheart, a friend or a member of the family. The gift of flowers gives pleasure to everyone in the house.

In the months when flowers are blooming in the garden, a child will enjoy helping to pick a bouquet and arrange it for a sick or shut-in friend, or for someone who has shown special kindness. A small boy or girl should have the opportunity to discover the joy which comes from giving others pleasure. A mother, who had sent her little girl to an invalid with a bouquet of sweet peas from the garden, said to her daughter when she returned home:

"Smell you fingers." The small girl immediately noticed the faint, but lovely perfume of the sweet peas. The mother said to her:

"A kind act done to another person, whether it is giving flowers or anything else, always leaves some fragrance on the fingers of the giver."

(Copyright)

LAFF OF THE WEEK

"I'm glad I have a father who loves me so much he wants to correct my small transgressions before they become major crimes!"

civil defence notebook

Community Resources for Civil Defence

(12th in a series of 24 articles)

What can a small town, with its small population and limited resources do to defend itself and help defend the rest of the country against disaster, nuclear or natural? The answer is "quite a bit".

Federal civil defence planners, whose job it is to work out and guide into the operational stage a disaster plan for the whole country, say that a small town or community needs an executive committee composed of the reeve and two or three responsible officials to lay down policy, a director and a small planning committee.

These committees are made up of the people who head the various services such as welfare, health, police, fire, communications and others whose knowledge makes them valuable to civil defence planning.

Since the whole of most small towns and villages would be as reception areas for evacuees from cities, their plans should be worked out with this role in mind. The women's organizations in the churches, for example, should be trained and ready to provide food for large numbers of refugees from a city hit by an H-bomb. This same preparedness, of course, could be applied to feeding large numbers of persons made homeless suddenly by a flood or a tornado or a landslide such as the one last fall that carried parts of Nicolet, Quebec, into the river.

The welfare of people includes providing them with a place to sleep. A small town plan should include a survey of the sleeping space available, remembering that in an emergency people can sleep in barns, lofts and garages as well as the guest room.

A small town's civil defence plan, therefore, might require stockpiling at a central point such welfare essentials as blankets, and foods, particularly dry-powdered milk and canned goods.

While few small towns would have to worry about actually being hit by an H-bomb if war came, many would be affected by the dangerous radio-active fall-out from the bomb's blast. So the welfare planning could prove a boon to the small town's own inhabitants. For fall-out can contaminate fresh vegetables, milk, eggs and so on. Food in cans, however, is safe.

Ordinary buildings provide a degree of protection from fall-out. Basements are better and root cellars even safer. So a CD plan for a small town should include a survey of the fall-out shelter available, for its own residents as well as possible visitors from less fortunate areas.

Because of the danger from fall-out, a small town's CD plan should also include a trained monitoring service; that is, persons with the necessary equipment for detecting the degree of danger from fall-out. This requires training and civil defence can provide that training.

The small town CD plan should also include a communications system. It must provide a means of warning the farmers around the town.

Since to achieve maximum results the country's civil defence organization must extend to every community, no matter how small, it is being set up, in provinces like Ontario, on an area basis, each area embracing a number of towns and communities that can help each other.

But each town must still have its local director to co-ordinate its efforts with those of the rest of the area.

What's The Law ?

Last winter I found a cigar butt in a bottle of pop which I had half-finished. It made me violently ill and I was so nauseated I couldn't eat Christmas dinner two days later. It was a month before I could drink pop again. Can I claim damages from the storekeeper?

Possibly not. Since the cigar butt wasn't visible to you in the bottle it isn't likely that the merchant could have spotted it even if he had examined each bottle with reasonable care.

Obviously someone at the bottling works was negligent. Cigar butts have no part in the manufacture of soft drinks. Its presence in the bottle is self-evident carelessness for which the owner of the factory is legally responsible.

As all pop nowadays is sold by brand names, we assume, of course, that when you ordered the drink in the store you said: "Give me a bottle of Brand Name please." Probably the merchant took the capped bottle out of the case it had been delivered in, uncapped it while you watched him and put it down in front of you. No cigar butt falling in here.

It would be a different matter if you had said: "What do you recommend for a thirst?" and he had selected a drink for you. In that case you clearly rely on his judgment and recommendation. He is more than a mechanical dispenses in this relationship. He has entered into a contract with you to satisfy your expressed need.

However, to be on the safe side no doubt your lawyer would name as defendants not only the merchant and the manufacturer but possibly the distributor as well.

INOCULATE LEGUME SEED FOR BETTER ROOTS

For improved crops of Alfalfa, Clover and all Legumes.—Agricultural Representative, W. M. Cockburn, Newmarket, strongly urges farmers to be sure to treat legume seeds with the nitro culture inoculant. The Ont. Agricultural College for many years has been preparing these cultures which are now made in dry form and very easy to use. For the convenience of farmers, these can be obtained at the offices of the Agricultural Representatives. Commercially prepared cultures are also available at all seed dealers and other outlets. Cultures should also be used for peas, soybeans and birdsfoot trefoil. These inoculants increase the number of nodules on the roots of legumes so that the plant can take up more nitrogen from the air and thus produce a better root development. It is a cheap way to insure a better crop of hay or pasture for next year.

The steel industry used a record-breaking 86,000,000 tons of coal in the first nine months of 1955 when the production of steel reached an all-time high.

Most of us are smarter than we think, says an educator. And, thank goodness, not so dumb as some of our friends seem to think.

BETWEEN OURSELVES

BY Archer Wallace

Effort and Success

It will come as an amusing surprise to many when they learn that the first big departmental stores had elevators which carried customers up but left them to walk down. And it was several years before store-owners reversed the ruling. It must have been hard on fat people; although good for them.

A famous British editor, Mr. Sidney Dark, has this to say about effort and success: "There is no success without effort. There is no attainment without preparation. Nothing of any real value can be easily picked up. Before the craftsman can use his hands efficiently he must submit to the discipline of a long apprenticement. However splendid his dreams, no musician can write a symphony until he learns the laws of harmony. The untrained may be ambitious, brave and eager, but they cannot win battles.

There is a Chinese proverb: "It is easy to open a shop but it is hard to keep it open." At the present time standards of living are high; there are probably more opportunities for advancement than at any time in our history. Perhaps things come too easily and we become soft. There are so many elevators that the idea of being carried along prevails everywhere. We heard of a business executive who applied for a secretary. He asked one applicant what kind of a job he wanted. The youth said: "I want a job where the hours are not long and the pay is good." The boss said: "There is only one job like that around here and I don't intend to resign." All the same he probably was a hard-working man who gave all he had.

When the Pilgrim Fathers were asked to account for their success they said: "It was not with us as with some other men whom small things discourage." In an article entitled: "Books Written Under Difficulties," the author said: "the plain truth is that the greatest literature of the world has been written not in luxurious surroundings but in squalid garrets, in prisons; frequently in beds of sickness and pain and under other circumstances which would have discouraged less determined people."

It is easy to be deceived by appearances. One listens to a great musician and it seems so natural we say, he is a born musician. The truth is that behind that apparent ease there lies hundreds of hours of concentration and stern discipline. For the greater part of his life Paderewski practised eight hours a day and he said if he allowed himself to cut this playing in half he immediately noticed it and soon after the musical critics sensed it.

On his own confession Winston Churchill writes his speeches as many as six times and he would agree with an instructor who said to young ministers. "The secret of self-possession in the pulpit is thorough preparation."

When Professor John Buckley said all the rich men's sons he knew had been failures he may not have been one hundred per cent. correct but there was enough truth in his statement to make it a warning to all who get things the easy way. Wasn't it Carlyle who said: "Genius is the capacity for taking infinite pains." No doubt the children of poor parents have their troubles but it is well-nigh certain that making stepping-stones out of difficulties has been the making of a great many. To be constantly looking for elevators is to invite failure.

Our quotation today was said by Socrates as he passed through the market at Athens: "How many things are here I can do without."

Planning Markham Twp.

(Article 1)

By F. H. Brennan

The need for the conservation of natural resources is generally recognized, and the average individual willingly conforms with restrictions imposed on tree cutting, fishing and hunting. Regulations governing the uses to which he may put his land are seldom greeted with enthusiasm, however.

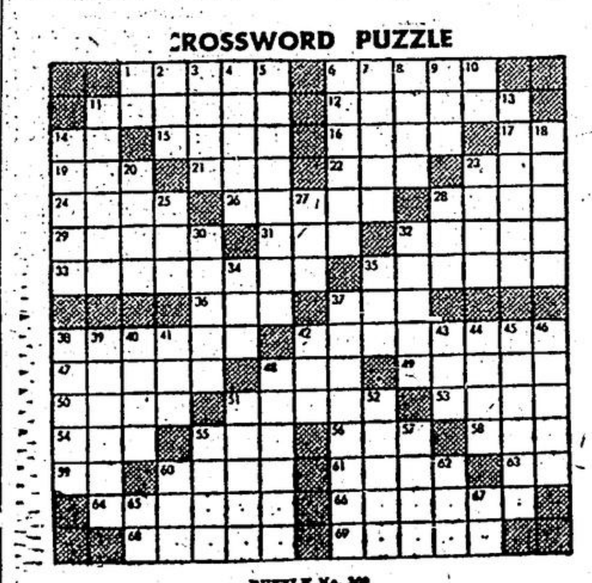
Planning Boards in this Township and others are set up in an attempt to bring geographic and economic facts in harmony with human purposes. To this, they zone land areas for permanent uses that will accord best with the future needs and interest of the community. They consider that land is an economic and social resource, and endeavour to guide the utilization of that resource for the benefit of the area as a whole.

The first visible step towards the realization of these ideals was the presentation last Fall to the Taxpayers of Markham of the "Official Plan". However, before this was drawn up many hours were spent in visual exploration and systematic fact gathering. With this information before it, Planning Board evaluated the future needs of the Township as best they could. As stated in the text of the Official Plan, it attempts to reconcile "the conflictions arising from the spread of urban uses into a rural municipality."

The Official Plan envisages the major part of the Township remaining agricultural for some years to come, with a gradual filling in of those areas already partially committed to urban uses. High density development is not contemplated in the immediate future. However, dwellings of high assessment value on large lots will be permitted.

The Official Plan forms the first stepping stone towards the realization of the intent and purpose of the Plan. It constitutes the legal foundation for future political and economic decisions. The Planning Board does not claim to have foreseen all contingencies, nor that the Plan is complete yet. Continuing studies are being carried out to make and keep the plan as realistic as possible in the face of rapidly changing circumstances. Through the Press it is intended to raise contentious points of view — not necessarily those of the Planning Board as a whole—with the express intention of stimulating public interest and soliciting constructive suggestions.

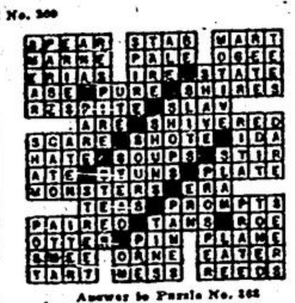
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



PUZZLE No. 300

ACROSS
1 Disturbed
6 Look at fixedly
11 Word of promise
12 Part of flower (pl.)
14 Child for "father"
15 Seed coating
16 Emmets
17 Paid notice
19 Land measure (pl.)
21 French for summer
22 Goddess (L.)
23 River (Sp.)
24 Felines
26 Bird
28 Fodder storage pit
29 Skilled
31 Romance bronze
32 Guide
33 Disconnect
35 Lodges
36 Compass point
37 Prohibit
38 Hurled rocks at
42 Choral compositions
47 Washed
48 Pouch
49 Viscous mud
50 In bed
51 Weight of Spain
53 To cut, after stack
54 Rocky pinnacle
55 Stack
56 Avenues (abbr.)
58 Spread for drying
59 Teutonic deity
60 Tardy
61 Predatory incursion
62 Railroad (abbr.)
64 Less fresh
66 Oil of roses (pl.)
68 Nips
69 Abounds

DOWN
1 Sun god
2 Man's name
3 Knowledge
4 Choice part
5 Representative
6 Digging implements
7 Article of faith
8 Unsorted wheaten flour of India
9 Ethiopian title
10 North Syrian deity
11 Formal procedure
13 Cooped
14 South American rodents
18 Entrance ways to house
20 To walk
22 Whale oil soap
25 Mineral spring
27 Female ruff
28 As it stands (mus.)
30 Trapped
32 Classifies
34 A connective
35 Prohibit
37 French game of cards
38 Child's broomboard
39 Small drums
40 Above
41 Man's nickname
43 Vehicle
63 Mulberry (col.)
44 To color
45 Mohammedan nobles
46 Shabby
48 Lumbermill workers
51 Measure of length
52 Egg-shaped
54 English writer
57 Location
60 New Guinea city
62 Obstruction in stream
65 Size of shot
67 Rupees (abbr.)



Answer to Puzzle No. 298

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE CHURCH IN ASIA MINOR
(Lesson for May 27)
Acts 12:25 to 15:35

Golden Text—Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. —2 Cor. 5:20

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson

It is time to get out a map showing the journeys of Paul. Some Bibles are equipped with a series of maps at the back, including one of the eastern Mediterranean region with the journeys of the Apostle Paul marked. These, however, are frequently quite small, and it would be better to have a large Bible atlas.

Look for Tarsus in Silicia on the southern shore of Asia Minor, and near the east end of the coast. This was the birthplace of the Apostle Paul and this is where he spent some time after escaping from Jerusalem, as described for us in Acts 9:29, 30.

Then look for Antioch in Syria, just inland, near the northern extremity of the coast. This is where the first Gentile church was established, and it was to this church that Barnabas brought his friend Saul (Paul) from Tarsus. Here these two men received their call to an itinerant ministry.

Now mark Seleucia, on the coast just fourteen miles west of Antioch. This was their point of embarkation. Follow them southwest to Salamis on the east coast of the island of Cyprus, then across Cyprus to Paphos, where they took ship in a northerly direction, but with some tendency westward, to Perga on the southern coast of Asia Minor. It was here that John Mark left them.

Now look straight north, almost half way across Asia Minor and you will see Antioch of Pisidia. It is here that we find the apostles in our lesson today.

Verse by Verse

Acts 13:1—". . . in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas . . . Saul." There was quite a ministering staff at Antioch by this time, keeping pace with the growth of the church. Notice that Barnabas heads the list, and Saul seems to have been the junior member.

Verse 2—"As they ministered and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul . . ." They were praying men, who, in order to "pray through" without distraction, were willing to forego the routine refreshments of food and sleep. In such a situation, hearts are made ready for the breaking in of the Holy Spirit. The word "ministering" is a priestly word, from which we derive our word "liturgy."

Verse 3—"And when they had laid their hands on them, they sent them away." Here was a memorable ordination service. The phrase "sent them away" has the thought of loosing them from their local obligations that they might go away to their new task.

Verse 4—"So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed." Seleucia was the coastal region nearest Antioch. Cyprus was the home of Barnabas, so he must have taken special delight in this opportunity.

Verses 5-43 tell us of the apostolic progress through the island of Cyprus, their coming to Antioch in Pisidia, an inland city in what we know as Asia Minor, and the sermon preached there in the synagogue.

Verse 44—"And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city . . ." The sermon of the first Sabbath had been so widely reported that the second Sabbth witnessed a mass gathering of the city—probably in the town square.

Verse 45—"The Jews were filled with envy . . . contradicting and blaspheming." Here is a diagnosis of the disease. It was a case of envy. The popularity of the preachers determined the course of the Jews. How differed the Bereans! (17:10, 11.)

Verse 46—"It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you . . . we turn to the Gentiles." The apostolic procedure was, "to the Jew first" but again and again the Jewish rejection opened the way of witness to the Gentiles. Opposition only increased the boldness of the apostles.

Verse 47—"I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles . . . unto the ends of the earth." See Isaiah 49:6. The words are a prophecy concerning "the servant of Jehovah," our Lord Jesus. The apostles apply them to themselves in a secondary sense, as the ministers of Christ.

Verse 48—". . . were glad . . . and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." The joy of the Gentiles was not in the rejection of the Jews, but in the fact that the door of salvation was open to them. This verse indicates the divine prerogative and activity back of every act of believing.

Verse 49—"And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region." So Antioch became a center for the propagation of the Gospel. That is the normal order. Every believing group should be a center of radiation.

The Heart of the Lesson

When ministers come together for earnest, definite, prolonged and undisturbed prayer, something happens. We do not know what the special burden was which called the ministerial staff of the church in Antioch to prayer. The results of their prayer meeting would suggest that they were burdened about the regions beyond, and I should not be surprised if that eager, former persecutor, Saul of Tarsus, had something to do with arousing them to the needs of the great world to the west. At any rate, the Holy Spirit broke in upon that prayer meeting and with the call of Barnabas and Saul the agelong missionary movement was inaugurated. Here we see a church and the Holy Spirit working in co-operation. On the part of the Holy Spirit a sending forth; on the part of the church a loosing. The church did not murmur at having to part with the two men who were probably their ablest and most beloved ministers.

By the time the apostolic party had fulfilled their ministry in the island of Cyprus, Saul, the junior member, had become the leader. Our lesson reveals several things about his missionary principles and practices. It is a notable fact that although he knew himself commissioned from the beginning as a missionary to the Gentiles, he consistently operated on the basis of "to the Jew first." The synagogue then, provided there was one, was always his starting point, and not infrequently it was the opposition of the Jews that drove him to the Gentiles. This he believed to be God's order: "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you," and no matter how often he was rebuffed by those of his own nation he continued to give them the first opportunity.

A second feature of his policy is the fact that he went to cities, the great centers of population, with the expectation that with the establishing of the testimony in these centers it would inevitably spread to the outlying districts. This actually is what transpired in Antioch of Pisidia: "And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region." We find the same development elsewhere. It was so in Ephesus, where Paul continued for more than two years "so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks". I believe it is still the responsibility of Christians in centers of population to see that the country around them is sown with the Gospel.

A third item of interest is Paul's method of preaching to the Jews. His sermon at Antioch given in verses 16-41, can certainly be taken as typical. Note the strong historical background—the use of the Old Testament Scriptures, particularly the prophecies concerning Christ. Note how he focuses those Scriptures on Jesus of Nazareth. Then comes the preaching of the Resurrection as the great sign. We see how the preaching of the Resurrection becomes the basis for his appeal. The sermon itself is worth careful study.

The purposes of God, however, reach beyond the Jew and embrace the whole Gentile world, and we see Paul making the Gentiles glad with the free offer of salvation to them, with the result that God's chosen ones are brought to faith and eternal life.

"The first thing you should do every morning when you arise is to tell yourself that you're a very superior person," says a psychologist. But wouldn't daily lying to oneself eventually prove demoralizing?

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