

The Stouffville Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1828

A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and the Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Authorized as second-class mail, Postoffice Dept., Ottawa.

Issued every Thursday at Stouffville, Ont.

In Canada \$3.50

Elsewhere \$4.50

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OUR EDITORIAL COMMENT

Another Christmas

We are once more on the threshold of that magical time "Christmas". To the older ones among us, it comes like a milestone along life's journey from where they look backward quite a way, and forward just a little.

To most parents, Christmas is their colourful opportunity to forget the financial struggles along the months and indulge in a generosity of giving.

To the children it is a time of unbounded anticipation. Their appetite for surprise is never better and the care-free ring of their laughter never more musical.

Then there are the sick and the shut-ins. They cannot give, and often their pain refuses to let them laugh, but beyond the material blessings which Christmas may bring to millions, there are abiding spiritual benefits which can be conferred.

Few would wish to take away from Christmas even one small de-

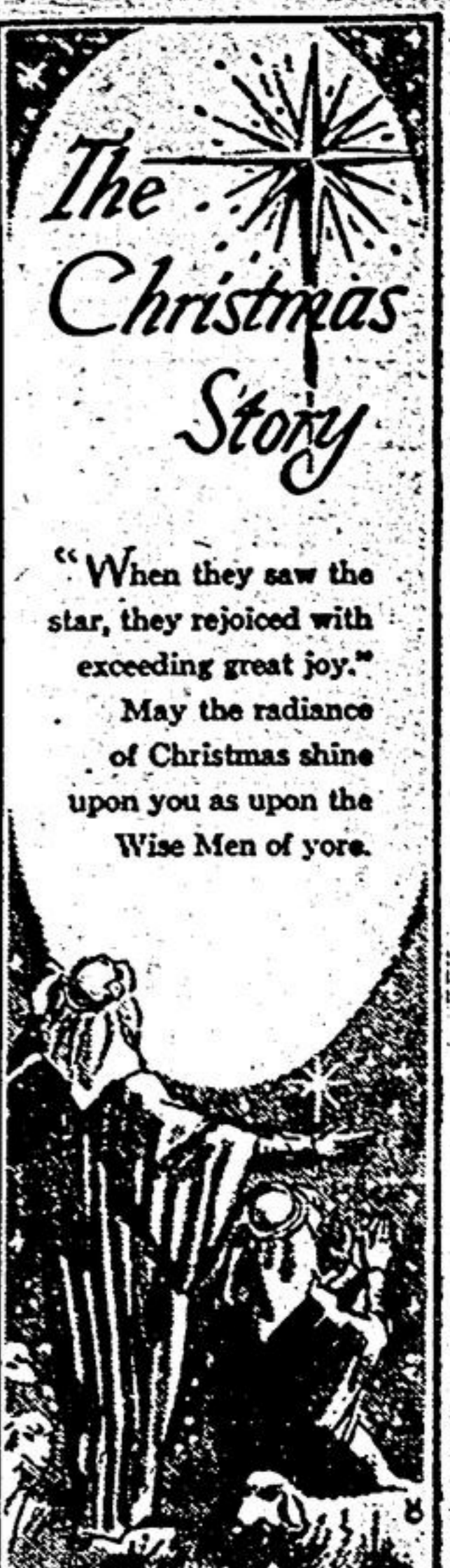
gree of the sum total of happiness which is usually associated with it. The world is poor enough in its goodwill and unselfishness without our making it the poorer. Even at this moment, in many countries there is far too much talk of war, hate and plans for the destruction of nations by the inventions of man's hand. Surely Christmas is a new vibrant call to an old weary world to seek an eternally satisfying peace.

Christmas is a time for remembering the miracle of our Saviour's birth — a time for rejoicing in His glorious message of "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All Men."

Believing and remembering all this, we can give our presents, then make them more worthy; pass on our greetings, then make them more genuine; tell of our affection, then make it more sincere, and in so doing we can add significantly to the sum of our greatest need — goodwill toward men.



"IT'S BEEN QUITE A YEAR a merry CHRISTMAS, ANYHOW!"



The Christmas Story

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." May the radiance of Christmas shine upon you as upon the Wise Men of yore.

Fred Alsop Insurance Agency
STOUFFVILLE—ONTARIO

It is reputed that the first Christmas card, as we now know it, was dispatched in 1845 by W. C. Dobson. One of Queen Victoria's favorite painters.

BETWEEN OURSELVES

BY Archer Wallace

Looking Forward

It seems to me that many of us dwell too much on the past without anticipating the future; our eyes are turned inward. Thomas Carlyle ridiculed people who indulged in self-examination and were constantly making resolutions. He referred to them as people who had their eyes turned inward and thus became egotists. And there are those who maintain that our divisions of time are purely arbitrary and that we do not turn corners, or open new chapters of life's book.

We ought to be grateful for anything which compels us to look over the road we have so far travelled and fortify ourselves, as well as we can, for days to come.

When Jonathan Edwards came to the last day of the year, he made the following resolutions, "I resolved, to live with all my might while I do live, never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I can. I resolve never to do anything which I should despise, or think meanly of in another person. I resolve, never to do anything I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life." These were pretty good resolutions; Thomas Carlyle notwithstanding.

Another man who was given to mark the passage of time seriously was Sir Walter Scott. When he took his bride to Lasswade Cottage early in 1798, he showed her the garden and lawn. He had decided to make it the sweetest spot on earth and it evidently was very beautiful and in this house he spent many of the happiest hours of his life. And so, he was a proud bridegroom as he showed his wife the beauty of that place. In the centre of the garden, was a sun-dial and, according to the custom of that time, he had engraven on it a favourite motto from the Bible. It consisted of three words: "The Night Cometh." His bride was somewhat taken aback at what looked like a morbid thought. But Scott was not morbid, as his wife found out, but he realized that it could not always be noonday; life could not be lived without serious thought and a keen sense of responsibility.

It is interesting to remember that the great essayist, Dr. Samuel Johnson, had the same favourite motto as Scott. His biographer, Boswell, says that he once caught sight of the doctor's watchcase and on it were engraven the three words: "The Night Cometh." Johnson was given to making resolutions, many of which, he admitted, were broken time and again, but he still believed that the practice was a good one and he kept it up until the end.

Every New Year is a fresh opportunity and some self-examination is a wholesome and sensible thing. Not that we are to sit down in nostalgic grief about what we might have done but rather we may understand how we can do better. That is the most delightful thing about human beings; that we all can extract victory out of defeat. Every single stroke of adversity can be changed into positive good living.

The lion is called the monarch of the jungle, but a lion with a broken leg, or some other misfortune, has lost his monarchy and is defeated. But a broken man may retrieve himself and even his misfortunes be turned into spiritual enrichment. Human beings grow in stature and strength by turning defeats into victories.

This is the opportunity of the New Year. We may profit, even from the mistakes of the past. Frequently we meet people who tell us, how much better they could be if they could start all over again. We doubt it. There is nothing to be ashamed of in having broken resolutions. Yesterday is gone forever and there is nothing we can do about it. When a storm blows a bird's nest from a tree it immediately starts to build another one. That thought has been a help to me.

We have today for resolutions, plus action. Emerson said: "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year; no man has learned anything until he knows that every day is doomsday." Yesterday is gone and tomorrow is veiled from us, but today is real and may be made a stepping stone for better living.

It seems to me that too many people dwell too much on the past instead of anticipating the future.

LIVESTOCK BEDDING FROM FOREST

Bedding for livestock may place shavings as poultry litter, soon be a by-product of the Ontario woodlands. As a result of research by the Dept. of Lands and Forests, a machine has been developed which produces wood chips, similar to planer shavings. They could be used for bedding for animals, mulch, paving for playgrounds and in other ways with less expense, it is claimed. Department officials say one farmer is considering setting up a plant to make chips and make

GREENWOOD

Thursday, Dec. 19th

The Farm Forum meeting was held at the McLean home last Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Minaker were visitors in the city last Sunday afternoon with her sister.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Parks of Oshawa visited with her parents, P. and Mrs. Clarke last Sunday.

A number from here attended the Ontario County Federation of Agriculture meeting last Friday night at the Halfway House at Myrtle.

The Evening Auxiliary of the W.M.S. met on Friday night in the basement of the church.

The Evening W.A. met at the home of Mrs. Wm. Pegg on Wednesday, Dec. 11th, with Mrs. R. Jackman in charge of the worship service. Roll call was responded to with gifts for the shut-ins in our community.

The president, Mrs. Pegg, conducted the business period and Rev. Mr. H. Moore presided for the election of officers, most of whom consented to act for another year. A demonstration on the making of Christmas flowers and corsages was given by Mrs. M. Pegg, which created much interest. Lunch was served by the hostess and co-hostesses.

The Afternoon W.A. met at the home of Mrs. M. Pegg last Thursday with thirteen present. The worship service was given by Group 1, opening with the Theme Song, Hymn 312. Scripture reading by Mrs. McLean, Lesson thoughts by Mrs. Brown and prayer, closing with hymn 308. The Roll call was "Serve". After the finishing up of the end of year business, by the president, the Rev. Mr. Moore conducted the election of officers. All were returned to office except the Literature Secretary who is to be Mrs. John Kingstone. The Flower Committee—Mrs. Wm. Brown and Mrs. P. Wilson. Mrs. M. Pegg was added to the Press Secretaries, and Mrs. John Brooks is to be Quilt Convener. The January meeting is to be at Mrs. I. McLean's.

Miss Carol Webb entered the Oshawa Hospital on Thursday to have the pin removed from her hip. She expects to be home by Christmas.

The Christmas concert and tree, put on by the school and Sunday School on Wednesday night, was a decided success, each and everyone doing their part well. Santa arrived at the end of the program and made all the children happy with their presents, candy and oranges. Mr. Ross Jackman, Supt. of the S.S., acted as chairman.

Mr. Joe Pegg is expected home from Flint, Mich., for another two months, to continue his work and studies here.

The family of Mr. Walter Wilson are installing a TV set in his house as a Christmas present.

Mr. Wm. Middleton and Herb had dinner one day last week with John and Mrs. Middleton.

Master Wayne Elson who was in a car accident last week, is improving slowly.

and sell them at 40 to 80 cents per 50 and 70 pound bale. The machine, so far, is fairly costly but it is believed that one doing custom work might find ready use in an area.

Where Conservation Began—Canada's first step in conservation took place shortly after the British conquest. By a special enactment, the choicest of pine and spruce trees were reserved for use for naval construction.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

Christmas Paradox

by Nancy Cleaver

"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine; Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign."

Of all the poems about the Nativity, "Incarnate Love" which begins with these lines by Christine Rosetti, is one of our favorites. When as a homemaker, we feel rushed and uneasy about all the duties which are still undone which should be attended to, we pause and say these words over to ourselves. They have a quieting effect. We catch again a glimpse of the real meaning of Christmas.

What might Christmas mean to us this year if with our whole selves we would try to walk the Road of the Loving Heart with Jesus? There are very few adults who do not know some individuals whom they find difficult to like, much less love, in the sense of wishing the best for these persons. There are few parents, especially mothers, (because women are apt to be more personal than men), who have no bitter memories of being treated in a mean or shabby fashion.

But at Christmas we are challenged to make a new beginning in our relationships which have become tangled. We can try, by the grace of God, to love our enemies, to return good for evil, to pray for those who have wronged us.

Christmas has been called the Children's Day, and it must be hard to catch the Christmas Spirit in a home where there are no little folk! Husbands and wives who have seen their love for each other flowering in the birth of a son or a daughter, know the deep joy of this season. But what of the little boys and girls who are hungry, or cold, or destitute in less fortunate areas or countries than ours? Will we not remember

them in our giving through our churches, of the Red Cross or the United Nations or any other Group which serves those in need?

But need can be spiritual as well as physical. What of our fellow new Canadians who must sometimes be longing for their homeland, their own people and the place where they grew up? Christmas can be a very homesick time! Surely of all months of the year, this is the one when we should throw open the doors of our homes and share our hospitality with these newcomers. If we don't know any new Canadians, likely our children at school do and we might entertain a family some evening during the holidays.

We would remember, too, those who are ill or handicapped or growing old and those who have known sorrow during the past twelve months. Walt Whitman once said, "Behold, I do not give lectures or a little charity, when I give; I give myself." No one wants free advice or cold "charity" but what heart is not touched by knowing at Christmas that some one else cares?

The greatest gift we can give to our children is to make the Christ Child's birthday vivid by reading aloud the stories of the shepherds and the Wise Men and the Holy Family in our Bibles, by singing the lovely Christmas carols, by worshipping as a family in the church of our choice. Then we may catch some of His spirit of love.

"It is in loving—not in being loved; the heart is blest. It is in giving—not in seeking gifts, we find our quest."

May we, not only at Christmas but throughout the year, show to our sons and daughters in our daily lives that we believe

Christmas Day Message Marks 25th Broadcast

The Christmas Day broadcast by the Sovereign to all parts of the British Commonwealth marks its 25th anniversary this year.

The late King George V broadcast the first one in 1932. There was no Royal message in 1936, the year of the abdication.

This year Queen Elizabeth is giving her message by television as well as radio, to be carried by both British TV networks. The Queen's first live television broadcast was made from Ottawa last Oct. 13, the day before she opened the new Canadian Parliament.

On radio, it is also the 25th anniversary of the BBC's round-the-world Christmas Day programs, an hour-long presentation that precedes the Queen's message, the latter starting at 10 a.m. EST. Canada's contribution includes Lester B. Pearson speaking from Ottawa.

On Canadian television, the CBC has a half-hour prelude to the Queen's message—a feature narrated by Sir Laurence Olivier with music specially composed and played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The 15 minutes taken by the Queen's television presentation in Britain will be filled in on Canadian TV by the direct radio broadcast illustrated by still photographs.

Canada's own cross-country radio Christmas roundup—Christmas Almanac—will run from 12:15 p.m. to 6 p.m., on the trans-Canada network. The program will use more than a dozen commentators from Newfoundland, Vancouver and Ellesmere Island in the Arctic.

Highlights of the Canadian Christmas feature include choirs in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto,

Winnipeg and Vancouver singing together on the air with an orchestra in Montreal, and at the close the bells of 12 churches across Canada, first individually and then as one voice.

Canada's Richest Property—

Over 90 per cent of Canada's forests are owned by the public. By far the greater part of the timberlands used by forest industry is administered by the Provincial governments on behalf of the people of Canada.



Greetings and Thank You

It is on a note of sincere appreciation that we thank you for your patronage and wish much holiday joy and good cheer to you and your family!

Evelyn and Harold Spofford and Staff

Spofford and Co.

STOUFFVILLE — ONTARIO

BEST WELCOME

ONE of Canada's continuing needs is more people. There is still room for many millions more than we now have.

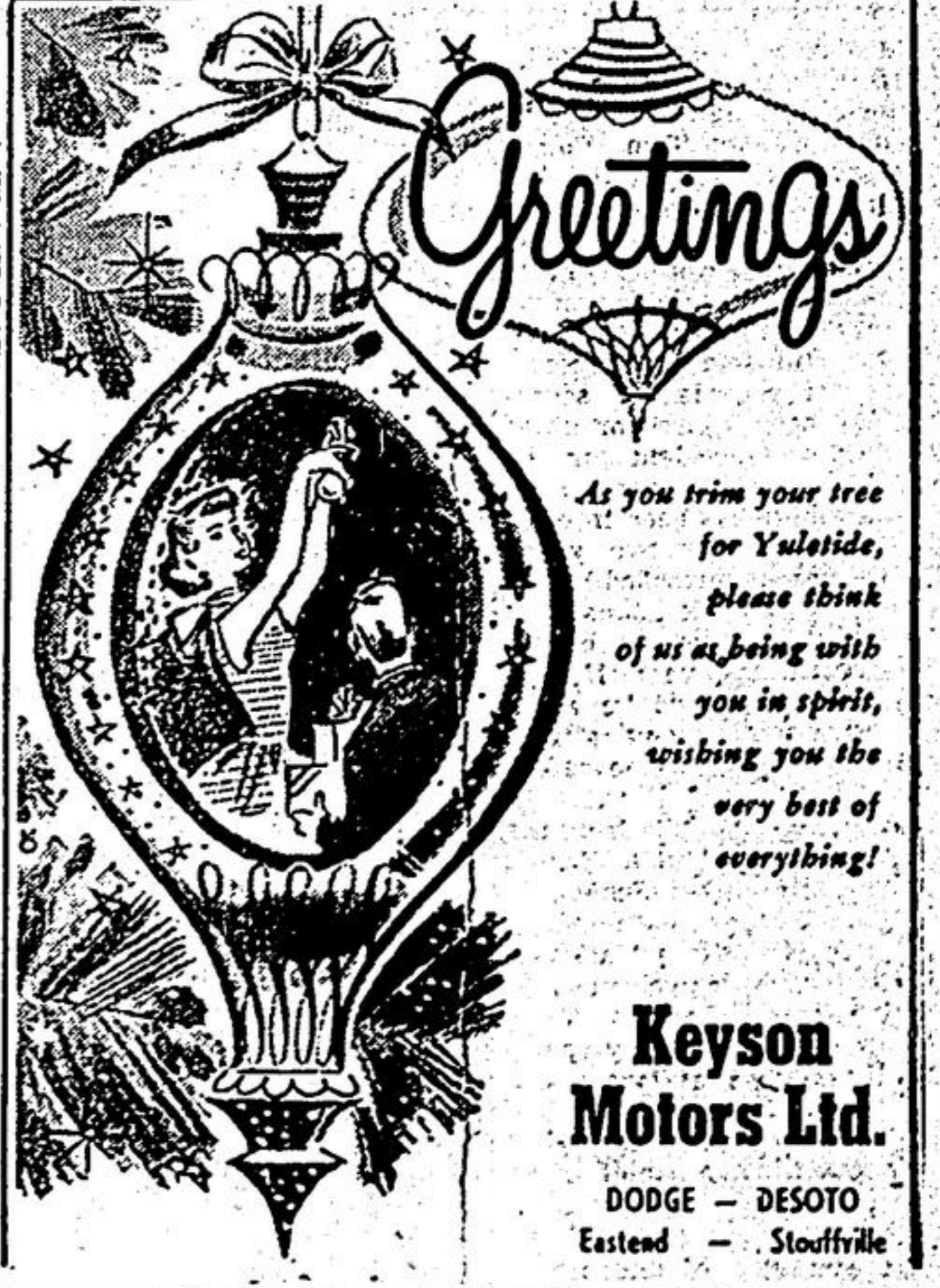
The best welcome we can give to those who come to Canada from other countries is to have here a country where there are:

1. Political freedom
2. Economic freedom
3. Incentive for the ambitious
4. A legitimate reward for all willing and able to work.

We must be able to show newcomers that Canada is a better as well as a bigger country than the one they came from.

THE STEEL COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED

MONTREAL GANANOQUE HAMILTON BRANTFORD TORONTO



Greetings

As you trim your tree for Yuletide, please think of us as being with you in spirit, wishing you the very best of everything!

Keyson Motors Ltd.

DODGE — DESOTO
Eastend — Stouffville