

SID SOLOMON

Tells Crawl, Slack What He Thinks of False Prophets

Sid Solomon is one of those tired, or rather retired farmers. Sid is one of the very few who in spite of war profiteers, price setting pirates and political pinchers, who by strict economy and hard toil, was in a position to live on the easy side of life's street, or in other words, when the rainy day penny became the base stone for an existence.

Sid flew into our loft the other day in a sour-drop mood. He had just returned from "Old Sly Skinum's," where there had been a difference of opinion and price regarding a deal. It seems that early last fall, Sid had bought, as he supposed, a farrow cow from Skinum, who prophesied with all kinds of faith, that there would be no chance for an increase in the bovine family as far as Sid's purchase was concerned for a twelve month at least.

This proved to be quite the reverse. The cow went dry. Sid had to sell her and buy his milk. So, as I said, he flew into our loft in a very hostile frame of mind, and opened fire on us with the following: "Say, Mister, did you ever read the Bible?" I said yes Sid, away back in the dusky past I was taught to read the sacred volume by a good old Scotch Mother, and I am proud of it.

"Well then," said Sid, "you remember where it warns us against false prophets," and without allowing me any time for reply he started in with "Say, Mister, I believe that 'Old Mother Shipton' is about the only one of all the prophets past and present that has come anywhere near making good, an' she fell down on the job, for she prophesied that the world would come to an end in eighty-one, an' there wasn't a jar that I felt, an' I was here at that period. In my small-town opinion the brand of fanatical prophets who have marred the peace and happiness of this old world of ours, have been nothing but false. They are no better at predicting than my Balinda. I'll give you a sample of her predictin'. Last fall I was a-goin' over to a huskin' bee at Seth Wescomb's and she prophesied that I wouldn't be home until after midnight, an' then want to go to bed with my boots on. Well, I went over an' helped Seth out; was home a long time before she was that night, left my boots out on the stoop, undressed and went to bed as usual, just as if there hadn't been any cider at the bee. So there you are, there is a whole lot of bunk to the prophesy business.

When would-be prophets take to trying you may sure bet there is something in the game for them. You remember how the high-brows on the lecture platform, and in the pulpit, prophesied that at the close of the war we were goin' to be so blessed, contented and happy, how this war was goin' to be a "Paradise regained." Poverty and sin was goin' to be a thing of the past, crime would disappear—why, we were goin' to be the white flag of purity just out of the wash, accordin' to their prophesy. The franchise was extended to women, the jails were to be emptied, the red lights were to be snuffed out, and the city slum was to be no more. Many movements were formed, the Laymen's Movement, the Big Brother Movement, the Forward Movement. Say, I can't tell whether we have gone forward, backward or sideways, but I'd like to have you, or some other feller tell me just where all these movements have gone to! What has become of all these movements?

My Balinda wore out the best pair of shoes she had runnin' around collectin' dimes, an' nigh depleted our scanty larder cookin' for the banquets of these movements. Those prophets have been well fed, and I'll bet some of them have swiped the swag. Were it possible for a man to become any more crooked than Sid Solomon himself, an' wanted to go on record as such, he would follow along these lines.

First become a prophet by not bobbin' his hair or whiskers, put on a white collar, button it behind, wear a black or white gown, surround himself by a few dozen simple-minded sobbing women, a few fake male purifiers, the more money the men have and the more jewels the women have the better off will be the prophet eventually. I might refer him to some of the past masters of the art—the great Dowie, who establish-

ed Zion City; Isaiah II of Indiana, who ameliorated and debased the love of the women, stole what the men had, and departed for parts unknown, an' they haven't found him yet. Last, but not the least, the much married individual, Brigham Young. He would require some new cult, this is easy, it matters not how ridiculous or immoral. It would be required of him to preach holiness, and take a poor hired girl's last fifty cents as an offering for his prophesy, her soul; and finally prophesy the end of the world at some date in the future which will allow him ample time to get well away, and in my opinion for pure crookedness he had Sid Solomon skinned to the bone. This is the meanest kind of a prophet. Say, you can't pick up a paper to-day but what you'll bang up against some kind of prophet. About the slickest kind is the produce shortage prophet. You will find them around wheat pits, and the cold storage plants. They are like rats, an' live on the product of others, after they have flim-flamed the farmer out of his sweat products by settin' their own price, an' have the season's crops pretty well cornered and on ice. These price-settin' pirates will prophesy a shortage of this or that, or the whole, for matter, and up goes the price in a balloon, an' there will be no parachute drop until their stocks have been cleared, then down goes the price, the shortage cry is called off, for they want to cry up again.

But, Mister, getting back to the prophets who consoled us with their prophesies that the war was to end all war and turmoil. Let me ask you where is that deluge of divine blessing which was to shower down upon us for our great sacrifice? That great reformation promised us by religious enthusiasts? Has it got mixed up with the narrow laws resorted to by those prophetic purifiers. Thousands are now living who are dead and don't know it. They are shackled and handcuffed by restrictive laws brought about by false prophets, for personal gain or to hold their positions. Here Sid paused for a moment, and then said, "Say, because I took a handful of red currants from Old Aunt Fanny when I would be hanged before I was 21, an' I'm here yet you see, without a scar on my neck. No, I aint got no use for prophets. Have you?"

CHARLESTON

Charleston, Jan. 5.—Mrs. S. W. Kelsey has been very ill. Her daughter, Mrs. W. Bradley, of Tilley, is with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford Moulton, Jongs Falls, spent Christmas at the latter's old home here.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McLean, Brockville, were recent visitors with the latter's sister, Mrs. W. P. Beale.

On Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Beale gave a very enjoyable card party to a number of friends. Mrs. M. Hudson and Miss E. Beale won the ladies' prizes, while E. Foster captured both gentlemen's prizes.

On Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. Del. Covey gave a very enjoyable party to a number of the young people.

Mrs. Spence and family Union Valley, spent New Year's at Leonard Halliday's.

Some of the young people attended the dance at Sheldon's school house on Friday night.

W. Crozier and son, Herchel, made a couple of trips from their home near the Outlet last week and found the ice in some places about 12 inches thick.

IVY LEA

Presentation Made to Teacher of the Public School at Ivy Lea.

Ivy Lea, Dec. 29.—The annual Christmas entertainment was held at the Ivy Lea school house on Thursday afternoon, December 18. The teacher, Miss Webster, and her pupils gave a fine programme which showed splendid training on the part of the teacher and excellent work by the pupils. The programme consisted of choruses by the school, dialogues and recitations. Rev. G. W. Dustin in his happy manner very ably acted as chairman. At the close of the programme Santa Claus came and distributed presents from a well laden tree. Coffee, sandwiches and cake were served by the ladies. The school section presented Miss Webster with a beautiful picnic.

COUNCIL RE-ELECTED.

The council of 1924 were all honored by re-election. Mr. A. M. Eaton headed the poll with a vote of 219. Second was Mr. P. Y. Hollingsworth, with a poll of 210; third, Mr. W. H. Jacobs, 187; and fourth, Mr. D. L. Johnston, 184.

The defeated candidates were: For Reeve, John H. Mulvenna, who received a vote of 164, and for councillor, S. A. Coon, who polled 174 votes.

The election was very closely contested throughout, the biggest vote in years being polled, and the 1924 municipal executive are to be congratulated on their success at the polls.

MR. M. B. HOLMES RETURNED TO FILL CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S CHAIR FOR 21ST YEAR.



On Monday, January 5th, Mr. M. B. Holmes was returned by a majority of 32 votes over his opponent, Mr. J. H. Mulvenna. This is the 21st consecutive year the citizens of Athens decided that they could do no better than give Mr. Holmes the highest honor possible to give one who has served his town so well and always anxious to do his best for those who have returned him so often by re-election.

Mr. Holmes is an ex-warden of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and also an ex-president of the Ontario Beekkeepers Association, and a member of the Board of Directors of the same organization. He also fills the office of dean of the Counties Council.

Athens Election Results

FOR MAYOR			
	No. 1	No. 2	Total
Holmes	95	108	203
Mulvenna	90	74	164
FOR COUNCILLORS			
Eaton	123	96	219
Hollingsworth	93	117	210
Jacobs	107	80	187
Johnston	91	93	184
Coon	105	69	174

New H. S. Building Awaiting Inspection

Although it was expected that the new High School building would be occupied, it was found impossible to move for about two weeks.

The building itself is practically completed and the only thing preventing the occupation at the present time is the awaiting of the inspection of the architect. He is at present in Windsor, Ont., and is expected here in a few days to inspect the building. As soon as his favorable report is received, the school will be moved to the new building.

Kilborn Springs

Kilborn Springs, Dec. 30.—Walter Grant, Detroit, Mich., is spending the holidays at his home here.

Miss Gertrude Johnston, Kingston, spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Johnston.

Vernon Howard has returned to Watertown after having spent some time at his home here. Mr. and Mrs. George Beach, Athens, and Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Crandall, Patterson, N.J., were Christmas guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burton Billings.

Mr. and Mrs. Ekanah Billings returned home after having spent Christmas at the home of George Taylor, Morristown.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gardiner, spent Christmas Day at the homes of their parents, S. Gardiner's and E. Beach's, Seeley's.

Miss Cora Morrison, Brockville, and Wilbert Burnham, of York Mills, spent Sunday at W. L. Howard's.

J. Whitmarsh and family, Addison, spent Christmas at H. D. Dixie's.

Others who spent Christmas elsewhere, were Mr. and Mrs. Horton Row, some at Athens; Taylor Billings at Morristown; H. Graham at Smiths Falls, and Mr. and Mrs. William Morrison and family at J. Simpson's, Brockville.

Miss Beatrice Howard, of the Brockville General Hospital, is spending the holidays at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Whiting, Carthage, N.Y., and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Billings, "Front Road," joined in the happy house party at B. A. Billings on Christmas night.

Correspondence

Editor Athens Reporter:

Dear Sir,—Kindly allow me space in your paper to call attention to a matter with which my mind is much impressed, owing to a recent occurrence. Even away back in early Bible times, when the Lord by His servant Moses delivered the ten commandments to the Israelites, a just and careful provision was made therein for the stranger within their gates, and also in their moral and ceremonial laws it was written "thou shalt not vex a stranger nor oppress him for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Though we delight to acclaim wonderful advancement in these our modern times, but alas! for the spectacle presented by our classic village in the treatment of the stranger within their gates, as noted in the recent occurrence referred to. When a young man from an adjoining locality takes to himself a wife in the bonds of holy matrimony and settles in a home which he has prepared for themselves there, they are promptly harassed by a charging throng of juvenile invaders under cover of darkness, and all this without the least apparent restraint on the part of those on whose shoulders rests the government of that usually tranquil burg. A poor, self-respecting citizen to our town, and though in no wise a relative, yet the writer of these lines knows right well that in the rural locality of his former home and household no want could exist that was in their power to relieve. There with suchlike new arrivals within the gates of our classic village to encounter such conditions within their new surroundings, instead of confirming their minds to our much acclaimed advancement must rather have turned their thoughts backward to conditions prevailing in pre-historic times before those divine precepts were delivered to the Israelites. Surely the time has long since come and gone when so detestable a practice should have been wiped as a blot from the history of our times. "As the twig is bent, the tree inclines."

E. ROBESON.

Sweets Corners

Jan. 7.—Mrs. Howard Sea with her son Ormond and wee daughter Helen of Pine Grove, are spending a few days at her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Galloway's.

School has started after the Christmas holidays, Miss Lillian Sheffield of Lyndhurst returning to her duties as teacher.

Jack Leadbeater of Cereal, Alta. is visiting and attending school in this vicinity.

The Sweets Corners rink run by Osborne, Earl and Boyce Green held a carnival Fri., Jan. 2nd at which a large crowd were present.

Quite a number from this vicinity attended the hockey match, Lyndhurst and Athens, at Lyndhurst, Sat.

Everyone grieves for Mr. Lang who received such serious injuries at hockey match Saturday and rejoices that the last reports stated him conscious and some little improvements.

The many friends of Mrs. Hannah Galloway are sorry to learn that she is not well.

Mr. Stewart Mainse, of the west, is spending the winter with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Mainse. He arrived shortly before Christmas.

The election for the Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne results as follows:—

Reeve—Samuel Gardiner.
Councillors—Joseph Moorehead,
George Godkin,
Thomas Pritchard,
Joseph Bevans.

Miss Vera Moorehead has returned home after a recent visit at Mr. Arthur Slack's.

The farmers of the neighbourhood are busily engaged in the woods.

The last reports from Mr. J. Hollingsworth who was removed to Kingston hospital with a broken leg was very encouraging.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Leadbeater and son Omar spent New Years at his mother's, Mrs. L. J. Leadbeater of Athens.

Everyone is very glad that the extreme cold of the past week has moderated considerably.

A hockey match is to be held here on Sat. Jan. 10th.

A carnival is to be held on Saturday evening, several from the neighbourhood expect to attend.

HARD ISLAND.

Mrs. Chancy Hollingsworth, of Smiths Falls, spent a couple of days with her mother and aunts at "The Lilacs."

Mrs. Analiza Livingstone is nursing at Addison.

Mrs. Burton Alquire made a business trip to Brockville Saturday.

58th Anniversary of Athens Methodist Church

Special Services Held on Sunday, Followed by Supper and Entertainment Monday Evening

Rev. H. E. Warren, M.A., B.D., was fortunate in securing Rev. Dr. R. H. Bell, pastor of Sydenham street Methodist church, Kingston, for the anniversary services on Sunday, 4th inst. He is a man of scholarly attainments, is a profound Bible student, and his elucidations of the passages selected were marked with a depth of thought and clearness of expression that carried conviction to the hearts of his hearers.

The morning theme was taken from Colossians (the Epistle of the Divinity of Christ), chapter 1:24—"filling up what is lacking of the sufferings of Christ. It is an arresting thought! Of His sacrifice, Christ said: "It is finished," but the lives of His followers, in our sphere, and in our degree, must be Christ repeated. True service costs, and only what costs counts. If we do not feel, we cannot heal; if we do not bleed, we cannot bless. Oh, the possibilities and responsibilities of Christ's followers! Discipleship costs; it means exhaustion of energy and activity in the conflict against evil, but in all these things Christ is a partaker with us.

The evening theme was chosen from Ephesians (the epistle of church unity), chapter 2:22—"built together." As churches, let us not emphasize differences of system and polity, but let us stress what the churches hold in common. When all have a vivid consciousness of the presence of Christ, differences pale into insignificance. The supreme business of the church is evangelism—to build up men, to link them first with Christ, then with the church. Mere bricks and sticks do not constitute a house, they must be "built together," so isolated Christians must be "built together"—a marvelous fusion, high and low, rich and poor—all bound together in one great structure, the church of God.

Monday evening following, the ladies of the congregation, under the supervision of Mrs. Curzon Lamb, president of the Ladies Aid, provided one of those beautiful suppers which they know so well how to prepare. The church dining hall was made most attractive with colored candles and brilliant flowers, while the cuisine left nothing to be desired.

Our village orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. C. C. Slack, was in attendance and at intervals between 6 and 8 p.m. discoursed splendid music, much to the delight of all present. Athenians have a justifiable pride in this organization of men, who by their musical talents are adding their quota to the world's happiness.

Shortly after eight, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Warren, took the chair and, after a few remarks, introduced a literary and musical programme which included addresses by Rev. V. O. Boyle, M.A., Athens, and Rev. T. F. Townsend, B.A., B.D., Frankville. Both gentlemen extended felicitations on the anniversary occasion, coupled with the wish that the beneficent influences of this church might continue throughout the years. Mrs. William Towriss contributed two monologues appropriate to the season, one dealing with Christmas, the other with the New Year.

Thomas Horsefield, Frankville, a former choir member, contributed a vocal solo in fine form, and was later heard in a duet with Mrs. T. F. Townsend, Frankville, who also rendered a pleasing solo. Two well executed piano duets by the Misses H. Burns and G. Wiltse added a pleasing variety. In happy mood, Reeve-elect M. B. Holmes moved a vote of thanks to all who had assisted in any way toward making the anniversary occasion a success, the motion being ably seconded by Mr. Joseph Thompson.

It may be of interest to note that the history of this church dates back some fifty-nine years and is closely identified with the life-story of noble men and women whose devotion and achievements made possible the splendid pastorates of the late Rev. W. E. Reynolds the old structure was practically torn down, and a new edifice—as we have it to-day—was erected. At 10.30 a.m. January 1st, 1903, dedicatory services were conducted by the late Rev. Dr. Carman, general superintendent of the Methodist church of Canada. In the afternoon the late Rev. F. Chisholm delivered a helpful sermon, and in the evening Dr. Carman delivered one of his splendid lectures. A mammoth crowd was in attendance, and the ladies of the congregation served both dinner and tea, using both the basement and vestry to accommodate the people.

On the following Sunday, January 4th, 1903, Dr. Carman again occupied the pulpit, reading as a scripture lesson the fifth chapter of Ephesians, and using as text 1 Timothy 3:14-16. There was a baptismal service and reception of members on this occasion. In the afternoon Rev. F. Chisholm preached from Romans 8:8. In the evening Dr. Carman again occu-

piated the pulpit, using as scripture lesson 2 Cor. 8, his text being 2 Cor. 9:8.

At the conclusion of the service the Trust Board of the church formally presented to the members the completed edifice, and Psalm 122 was read responsively.

THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICES OF THE ATHENS METHODIST CHURCH.

Sunday and Monday, January 4th and 5th, were observed as the 58th anniversary of the Old Methodist Church and the 23rd of the present Church much enlarged from the former edifice in a fine piece of Gothic stone masonry. This work was carried to successful completion under the pastorate of Rev. William Reynolds, since deceased, in the winter of 1902. The Church was dedicated by the venerable Dr. Albert Carman, the General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in both her spacious stone Church and brick parsonage, Athens has one of the desirable Church plants in the Montreal Conference. Since the new Church was built the pastors have been, succeeding Rev. Mr. Reynolds, Rev. Dr. Silas J. Hughes, now retired in California, U.S.; Rev. F. A. Read, deceased; Rev. Geo. Edwards, of North Bay; T. J. Vickery; Rev. F. S. Newton, and the present pastor, Rev. H. E. Warren.

The anniversary preacher for this year was the Rev. Dr. R. H. Bell, of Sydenham Street Church, Kingston, who delighted the large audiences on Sunday with sermons of rare interest and power. He was ably assisted by the choir, under the leadership of Miss Robinson. Mrs. Curzon Lamb sang with her usual acceptance a solo.

HOCKEY

On Monday, Jan. 6th at Lyndhurst a hockey game was played, Athens and Lyndhurst competing.

The first period was rough and a very poor brand of hockey, no scores by either team.

The second frame furnished a little better and ended a tie, one goal each.

The third period proved rather disastrous for both teams as early in the period R. Layng was knocked out in a meeting with a Lyndhurst player and Athens was without his services for the rest of the game. The second disaster was when Athens scored what proved to be the winning goal near the close of the period.

The general opinion seems to be that the best plan of managing the league games is under neutral officials as the rules lay down.

We might make special mention of the goals tending of Yates.

The line-up is as follows:—
Goal, Yates; defence, L. Taylor and J. Scott; forward, R. & C. Layng and C. Foxton; subs, A. Hagen and G. A. Purcell.

Just before going to press, "The Reporter learned that Bob. Layng is improving nicely at the Hospital in Brockville. The injuries are not as serious as were at first feared, and the operation that was at one time thought imminent, is unnecessary.

Hockey Schedule

The schedule of games in "group 2" are as follows:—
Lyndhurst at Delta—Jan. 10th.
Athens at Delta—Jan. 17th.
Lyndhurst at Athens—Jan. 24th.
Delta at Lyndhurst—Jan. 31st.

A \$10,000.00 Contest

The capital prize in a big contest now being conducted by the Family Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal is five thousand dollars cash and there are also scores of other cash prizes to a total value of ten thousand dollars. It is announced that each subscriber to the Family Herald whose subscription is received before the contest closes, will receive a free entry, as well as a beautiful art calendar and picture. This generous offer has resulted in a record-breaking rush of subscriptions to this popular weekly and the publishers are warning their old subscribers to renew early and avoid disappointments. The Family Herald grows better and better. It is a marvel of value.