

# THE ACADIAN

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## Editorial

Our pulpits are our work clothes. Each of us live some kind of a sermon every day.

### THEY TOO HAVE RIGHTS

From a recent issue of the Providence (R. I.) Journal we slip the following:

"A pedestrian upholder of the law swung a handbag at the windshield when imperilled by the familiar approach of an automobile. His aim was good. He got safely across the street, but was arrested for 'assault and battery and wanton injury to personal property'." A wise judge found him not guilty of the charge or any of the specifications and intimated that he was guilty of no offence that the statutes provide. After complainant had stated his grievance the judge did not care to have defendant speak for himself. And the latter's counsel rested after asking complainant if he did not know that a pedestrian was not obliged to get out of the way of an automobile. The judge, remarking that a pedestrian has the right of way over an automobile, dismissed the case. Is it not sound law that one is justified in an offensive defence of a threatened right?"

A few evenings ago at a rather dark crossing in a residential part of Wolfville the driver of an automobile stopped his car and dimmed his lights in order that a pedestrian might pass in safety. The motorist must have been a stranger as no such courtesy to those who walk is shown by local drivers. Perhaps he was from a section where those who administer the law recognize the principal that "a pedestrian has the right of way over an automobile". At any rate the act was fully appreciated and remarked upon by the recipients of the courtesy. The novelty of the situation was refreshing.

### KEEP TOWN ATTRACTIVE

How much better the new sidewalks look when they are kept neatly washed or swept as they are in some sections! How much better Main street appears on a Saturday morning after its regular weekly clean-up! It should be the constant ambition of citizens that our town should always present its best appearance, so far as is possible.

The suggestion has been made that a town ordinance should be provided which should require every person whose property faces the sidewalk to keep that part of it swept in summer and kept clear of snow in winter, and the idea seems to us a perfectly reasonable one. In order to secure the best results this work should be done in the early morning before the traffic of the day begins. Added advantages always entail corresponding responsibilities.

Given a fair chance Wolfville Main street of today is a most attractive thoroughfare, and it would be a pity if the necessary care to keep it always at its best is denied.

### THE ROUND-THE-WORLD FLYERS

The United States flyers have now practically completed their undertaking of circling the earth and at the end of last week were back on their native soil. The event was acclaimed by the press of that country as a great victory for America, which is certainly generous on the part of "our cousins to the south" toward those of us who reside north of the international boundary. Their representatives have also honored us by making Nova Scotia a place of call in their itinerary. While the achievement has unquestionably been a notable one, the "flight" cannot be pronounced a record-breaker so far as speed is concerned. Something like four months have been consumed, with the starting-point as yet a considerable distance away. The incident fully indicates that the conquest of the air has not as yet been accomplished and much is still required to be done before the air ship is made a practical method of travel.

### CHEAPER SCHOOL BOOKS

The reduction in the price of school-books this year is very gratifying to those who in the past have found the outfitting of their children at the opening of each successive term burdensome. In many cases the cost is not more than half what it was in former years. The change in conditions not only provides a very much appreciated financial relief to the head of the home but also indicates strongly that in the past these books have cost entirely too much, and that somebody connected with the supply has been for a long time taking too much from the pockets of the people for this commodity. It is said that the price still demanded is considerably in excess of what books may be obtained for in some of the other provinces. One of the good results of the standardizing of the text books in use in the public schools throughout Canada would evidently be to very considerably reduce their cost over even present prices.

### FIRE ENGINE TO BE KEPT HOME

At the last meeting of the Council it was decided that in future the operations of the new fire engine should not be available outside the town limits. This matter has been under consideration for some time and the decision was reached only after careful deliberation. While assistance would be gladly rendered if possible at any time to any one in need it was thought that in order to duly protect the property of citizens it was not wise to run the risk of the engine being away when its services were required at home. The engine cost a large sum of money and naturally ratepayers expect it to be available when occasion for its use exists. Further than this the insurance policy only protects the machine while in town and the underwriters have declined to pay anything towards the services of the engine on occasions where it has done effective work in protecting property on which they were holding risks.

### CHRISTIANITY

While waiting for a train at the railway station one day recently we could not help overhearing a conversation between a number of delegates to one of the many conventions held here during the present season. That often highly commended organization known as the Y.M.C.A. was under discussion and one of the party suggested that it would be better under present conditions that the third word should be dropped from the title. He expressed the opinion that the organization had become merely a social one and that in many cases the meetings were devoted merely to good, wholesome recreation.

Some simple people today prefer to believe that to be Christian presupposes conformity in all things to the teachings of Christ, and if judged by such standards the claims of many institutions in this regard may be open to serious questioning.

### HAVE WE A TOWN WEIGHER?

THE ACADIAN has been asked to explain why Wolfville is not provided with a public weigher as is the case in Halifax and many of the other towns of Nova Scotia. It is claimed the existence of such an institution would be of benefit to dealers in heavy commodities who are obliged to undergo the expense of maintaining high-priced equipment for doing their weighing and at the same time a source of satisfaction to the purchaser. We are unable to furnish any further information concerning the matter other than that several years ago when the needs of the town appeared to require such an official money was appropriated by the Council for the purchase of a set of scales and a weigher was appointed. Those in charge of public affairs of the town will be in a position to give the information required and space will be gladly provided by THE ACADIAN for such an explanation.

### UNMUFFLED MOTORS

Practically everywhere properly muffled exhausts are insisted upon on motor vehicles, the motorcycle being the only exception. Recently the chief of police of Vancouver has proclaimed war on the motor cycle pest, in ordering a cessation of the cyclists' cutout racket. The Vancouver exchange says this seems too good to be true.

Frequently THE ACADIAN is asked if there is no measure of relief from the annoyance of the unmuffled motor. It would seem to be about time to take action against this nuisance.

### STABLE OR FLOATING

The ownership of homes in Canada is declining. It is an ominous sign. A nation of home owners has a stability which a nation of tenants has not. The load of taxation put upon the homemaker and businessman in the average Nova Scotia town is so heavy that it discourages the owning of property. When men feel that it is more to one's advantage to be property-free than a property owner, then look out for breakers ahead.

### CANADA'S DOLLAR

There was general satisfaction throughout the country when the announcement was made from New York that the Canadian dollar had reached a parity in that financial centre. In addition to the satisfaction that that news conveyed, the evidence of substantial development and steady recovery from the depression occasioned by our heavy war expenditure, which the return to par value of our dollar reveals, speaks well for the immediate future.

### PENITENTIARIES AND YOUNG OR MILD OFFENDERS

(Dr. J. G. Shearer, Social Service Council of Canada.)

The writer recently found himself a fellow passenger with two youngsters fifteen and seventeen years of age, who were in handcuffs on their way to a penitentiary under sentences of three years for house-breaking and stealing. Unless paroled meantime these boys must associate more or less closely with a large number of experienced, expert and hardened criminals for three years. Whatever they were on entering the penitentiary there is little room for doubt as to what they will be when they leave, in spite of the influence of excellent guards, Chaplain, Salvation Army and the like.

Is it right, is it socially wise, to expose young fellows (for whom surely there is good hope of restoration to virtue and good citizenship) to such seriously demoralizing influences for so long a period? There can hardly be two answers to this question. Besides, society has a large measure of responsibility for their being law breakers at all. Born of parents weak or worse, allowed to play truant from school, educational curriculum and methods ill adapted to their special needs, no supervised recreational facilities, open pool rooms and consequent companionship with older boys already criminal, make the beginning of crime for lads easy. Is not society under the greater moral obligation to make it possible, as easy as possible, for them to get back to a life of self-respect and social decency? Instead, society compels them to herd for years with worse criminals, where they get a thorough schooling in real crime before they get a second chance to go straight.

There is a better way. For delinquents within the age of juvenility (17 and 18 in some provinces, 16 in most) the Juvenile Delinquents Act should be in force and Juvenile Courts set up. Then the goal is forbidden and if probation fails, the Industrial School with others of their own years and experience opens. For those above the juvenile age and say under twenty-one, Reformatories should be provided where restoration rather than punishment is the ideal and object, and where work, training, recreation, amusement and religious influence

all combine to build up character, make life interesting and put these youngsters beyond the likelihood, if not the possibility, of resorting to crime in the coming days of freedom.

Ontario alone has established such reformatories, though Quebec has decided to do so.

In England, what is called the Borstal System has been in operation for many years. To these reform schools all prisoners from sixteen to twenty-one are sent. They are as little like prisons and as much like schools as they can be made. The result is that only a very small proportion of these young people return to the reformatory or go on to the penitentiary.

It is a social crime of the first magnitude for Canada or any of her Provinces, for lack of reformatory schools whether for false economy or for sheer indifference, to banish young people of either sex to a penitentiary where they can hardly escape demoralization of character and a schooling in crime and vice. And our Government will make provision as soon as they know the serious people make the demand. This constitutes at once a challenge to, and an opportunity of, ministering in His Name, to these little ones whose plight is indeed sorry and whose need is very great.

### ONE ON FATHER

A schoolgirl said to her parent not very long ago:

"I've got a sentence I want you to punctuate. You know something about punctuation, don't you, father?"

"Yes, a little," said her parent, as he took the slip of paper she handed him.

This is what he read: A ten dollar bill was blown around the corner.

He studied it carefully, and finally said: "Well, I'd put a full stop at the end."

"I wouldn't," said the girl. "I'd make a dash after it!"

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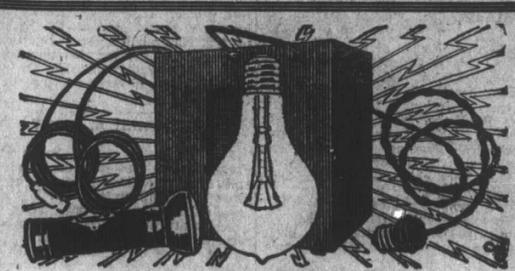
(The Daily Express (London) claims John Bull is playing a long drawn out game of international politics and trade with foreign countries.)

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