

# Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.  
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada  
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## RESPONSIBILITY IS PERSONAL

Civic elections are approaching. Candidates are in the field. Mayors, Reeves and members of councils and boards all over the country are giving account of their stewardship. Local authorities for the coming year are being chosen by free electors in a free land.

It is the time for Christian men and women to consider their responsibility as Christians and to take stock of their interests in the issues before the public. It is to our discredit that in these local elections so low a percentage of our citizens turn out to vote.

In a free country like Canada, citizens are the source of political authority and power. Their convictions and ideals must find expression in our laws and policies. There are always selfish interests trying to influence government in favor of their schemes and selfish gains, and if the right is to be established in the nation and if the welfare of our people on the highest levels is to be guarded and promoted, those men must act who will do more for God and humanity than the selfish will do for their gains.

The true citizen should consider his public responsibility as personal. Edmund Burke once wrote: "A perfect democracy is the most shameless thing in the world." That is, responsibility for social conditions in a self-governing community is spread over so many people that no individual feels his guilt for the wrongs tolerated and committed.

Now citizens are accountable to God for what they tolerate as well as for what they do. It is only by the efforts of free people in a free land that evil can be put down and good upheld. Montreal has just set an example for all Canada in this matter.

This subject Christians in the struggle for a responsible society was given close attention at the Evanston meeting of the World Council of Churches. A speaker from France told of the great desire for social justice that had arisen in his country as a result of the German occupation during World War II, and that the Protestant Churches were taking a deep interest in this development.

A speaker from South India said that his fellow-Christians were convinced that they must take their place by the side of their non-Christian brethren in the new India and must make a Christian witness, not through a Christian political party or parties, but in and through secular parties in which they are free to bring their Christian faith to bear on the problems of society.

An American lawyer described the progress made in America during the last 50 years in eliminating exploitation and monopoly as one result of their strong reform instinct rooted in their religious and missionary background.

In the declaration made by the Council itself it is affirmed that "man and all the powers of this world are under the sovereignty of their Maker. Who calls men in families, societies, nations, and all human groups to responsibility under Him."

The "responsible society" is a society "where freedom is the freedom of men who acknowledge responsibility to justice and public order, and where those who hold political authority or economic power are responsible for its exercise to God and to the people whose welfare is affected by it. . . . They are dealing mainly with large-scale institutions, but the art of social living has to be learned in small groups. The most fundamental of these is the family."

Among other groups they mention are the village community or tribal group, and the Christian congregation all of which provide opportunities for Christian action.

**DUTY TO SOCIETY**  
This shows that the Churches of the world "have come to realize that they have a duty to society as part of their mission to the world."

Now Lord Roseberry once said that the municipality is the sphere in which the most effective social service can be given. Christian men are needed to give leadership here. The government of a city like ours gives exceptional opportunity

for the application of Christian principles to social issues. It would be presumption to tell a fellow citizen what is his duty to his community, but the call to public service in a city like this may be the call of God.

Moral character is the first qualification for public service. The second is real devotion to the welfare of the people. The third is wisdom—the wisdom of the world as well as the higher wisdom which is the leading of the Spirit of God. When such men are chosen their first responsibility is to God who chooses them to work out His purposes for mankind.

Some people give this as an excuse for their indifference: "It is only a question of the 'ins' and 'outs'; we cannot see any difference between them." It is our business to find out the difference between the men or the parties in any election, and to act on what we discover. Only when our voters demand action in accordance with their convictions can the standards of public life be raised. There can be no such thing as a "responsible society" until Christian men and women accept personal responsibility for what is done in their name.

When a man I helped to place in office supports conditions which my conscience condemns, he should feel my anger when next he appears as a candidate. When a public man stands for the right regardless of consequence he is entitled to support as vigorous as he has shown in action. The Christian conscience cannot be satisfied with less.

## STURGEON W. I.

**November Report:**  
Grade IV—1. Stanley Collings; 2. Alfred Condon; 3. Cecilia Lanning.  
Grade III Senior—1. Laird King; 2. Brantie Stewart.  
Grade III—(a) 1. Arnie King; 2. Ruby Jenkins.  
Grade III (b)—1. Marguerite Landigan and C. Creed (equal); 2. Audrey Jamieson; 3. Keith Conard.  
Grade II Senior—1. Diane Stewart; 2. David Jenkins.  
Grade II—Junior 1. Inez McGee; 2. Sheila McCarron; 3. Hal Jamieson and Anna Kemp.  
Grade II (b)—1. Jackie McKinnon, Gerard Landigan.  
Grade II (c)—1. Blair Senebough; 2. Carl Jackson.  
Grade I (a)—1. Bennie McGee; 2. Judy Smith; 3. Trudy Jamieson.  
Grade I (b)—1. Sandra King; 2. Sadie Johnson; 3. Connie Landigan.  
Perfect attendance, Alfred Condon, Arnie King, David Jenkins.  
Teacher: Carmeleta M. Daley.

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## CITY TAX APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals from Supplementary Assessments and Valuations has set Tuesday, December 14, 1954, at 10.00 a.m. in the Court Room in the City Building, as the time and place for hearing such supplementary tax appeals.

J. A. FULLERTON,  
City Clerk.

## CITY AND CENTRAL

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**COUPLE CONGRATULATED.**—On Wednesday evening, Nov. 3rd, the immediate relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Norris Scott, City, assembled at their new home on School St., to congratulate them on their seventh wedding anniversary, also on the construction of their new home. After all had gathered, Mr. Hammond Rodd called on Mrs. Henry Jones to read an address. Arthur Stone, on behalf of their friends, presented them with a purse also Mrs. Hammond Rodd, mother of Mrs. Scott, with a beautiful decorated cake. Norris, on behalf of his wife, who was completely taken by surprise, thanked all for their kindness. After the singing of "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows," Myra and Norris were heartily bourred. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies and the remainder of the evening was spent in music and dancing.

## Personals

Rev. Basil Croken, P.P. St. Teresa leaves this morning for Cap de la Madeline, Quebec, to attend the closing ceremonies of the Marian year.

## Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Stepping stones and stumbling blocks are made of the same material; it all depends on how you use them.

Most bathing beaches are over-gilded and undermanned.

Its hard to explain it, but the fellow who does most of the work gets the least reward.

Only male crickets sing.

A blue whale consumes a ton of food a day.

Michigan, with a Great Lake shore line of 2,389 miles, has the longest shore line of any state.

Ever hear of the Five-Nation Railroad in the Dominican Republic?

It was built with Dutch money and Belgian workmen. Its cars and engines came from the United States; its bridges were made in England. The Dominicans own it, but Americans operate it.

Belva Lockwood tried for the office of president of Uncle Sam's country twice and lost both times.

Her first try was on the Equal Rights ticket in 1884; her second in 1888.

A thief entered the home of Adam Fulton in Edmonton, Alberta, cooked a nice meal, stacked the dirty dishes on the table, slept in the best bed, smooched a necktie, and left a note which read:

"I thank you for the use of your nice home."

Rainfall is measured in a very simple way. A can is placed outside and when the rain stops the amount of water in the can is measured with a ruler.

It's interesting to note that nearly all long-distance runners had hearts that beat 50 or under a minute, instead of the average persons, 72.

By dropping oyster shells on the Charleston Naval Auxiliary Air Station runways, Maintenance crews are kept busy sweeping up after sea gulls.

The "black snow" that fell over Switzerland during the conference

## The Guardian Monday, December 6, 1954

at Korea turned out to be ashes from confidential documents put to the flames by the various delegations in attendance.

Believe it or not, but they are adding a prayer room to the capitol in Washington so that congressmen can retire for meditation and pray.

Fish caught for sport in 1953 cost \$4.00 per pound; rabbits \$1.35 and moose meat cost the average hunter \$300 per pound. An expensive way to eat out the familyarder.

The heart of the average grown-up person weighs 10 1-2 ounces.

There's 5000 miles of tropical jungle on the northern coast of Australia, where it is still dangerous to travel because of savages.

Quite a few women joined the Klondike gold rush and staked their own claims.

One of these made a tidy fortune. She always hired a musher to carry her piggy-back across streams because she was afraid of the water.

It is said the right to swing one's arm stops where the other chap's nose begins, but this isn't true if the other fellow has his beak in your pie.

In his four years of play in the National Football League, Lou Graza, of the Cleveland Browns, has kicked 65 field goals!

Success is only relative. The more success the more relatives.

Sitting on a park bench for years never made any man a judge.

## PARLIAMENTARY VETERAN

OTTAWA (CP)—Parliament opens Jan. 7 and a check of records shows Hon. C. G. Power (L—Quebec South) is the sole parliamentary survivor of the men who sat in the Commons with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Liberal prime minister who died in 1919. Mr. Power, 66, later was pensions and health minister in the Mackenzie King government.

MONCTON, N.B. (CP)—A \$170,000 barracks block to house 100 persons has been completed at the big RCAF supply depot here. The depot with detachments at three nearby centres has an annual payroll of more than \$2,000,000 and is rated as Moncton's third largest business.

## BROWN'S BISCUITS

are pleased to announce  
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Mrs. Harry Ferguson, 23 Park Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I. (Tricycle)

Mrs. Harold Strugnell, 12 Waterloo St., Moncton, N. B. (Tricycle)

Mdm. Gilles A. Bouchard, St. Francois, Madawaska County, N.B. (Walking Doll)

Mme. Lucien V. Vigneau, Ewing du Nord, Ile de la Madeleine, P.Q. (12 Pair Nylon Hose)

Mlle. Denyse Tremblay, 35 Rue Smith, Quebec City, P.Q. (12 Pair Nylon Hose)

Mrs. Arthur Tiller, Park Ave., Mount Pearl, St. John's, Nfld. (Electric Kettle)

**BROWN'S BISCUITS**  
MONCTON, N.B.

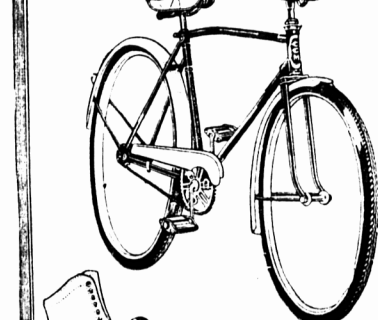
GOING STRONG — commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first church built of logs in 1804. It was replaced by a big church in 1828. The present church has been going strong for 90 years.

# "Seems Like They All Want"

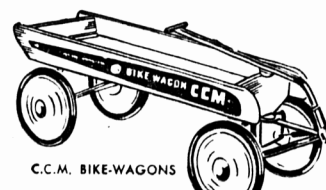
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Young Canada's

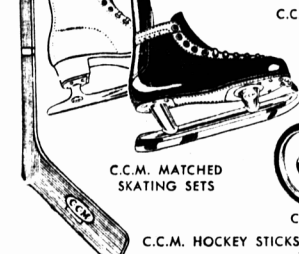
## Choice for CHRISTMAS



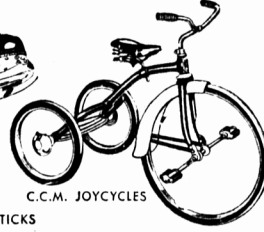
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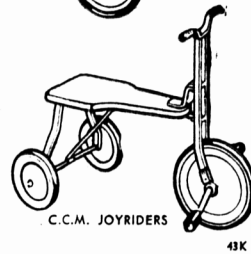
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