

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., L.L.D., First Moderator of the United Church of Canada (Copyright)

Years ago a fellow passenger on a train told me this story. We had just passed an institution for the treatment of alcoholics, and he remarked: "I have taken to that place quite a number of drink addicts and have never had a failure. For myself I settled that question in fifteen minutes, but it took a great deal more than the Gold cure to do that."

I saw that he was seeking an opening for a testimony and encouraged him to go on. He said, "I was once in the liquor business and what I was dealing out to others was getting a strong hold on myself. For months I had never retired really sober. One night I awakened with a shock about one o'clock; I never was as wide awake in my life. I saw in a flash what I was and what I was becoming, and the sight was so frightening that perspiration broke out all over me. In fifteen minutes I reached my decision to have done with the whole thing."

My mother was keeping house for me and in the morning I told her of my decision. She welcomed it. I sold out at once and I have been helping men out of the slavery of drink ever since.

That man in one burning moment answered to himself the question: "What do you say about yourself?" Or to put it in its old form, "What sayest thou of thyself?"

This is a question which every man ought to ask himself. What is my interpretation of my own life? What is my life in itself and where it is going?

The world which despises humility and ridicules conceit nevertheless takes a man at his estimate of himself provided his conduct is behind it. Only a rational being can ask and answer that question. Only man has a sense of sense, only he can look at himself and pronounce on what he really is. What is your verdict on yourself?

Professor Josiah Royce once said: "Personality is life lived according to a plan." Too many people are content to drift along, yielding to every passing current. They take the line of least resistance with no chart and no destination, asking no ultimate questions.

Now we never drift uphill. We never grow morally without purpose and resolution. If we avoid the quiet in which the depths of our nature open up to the inspection of the mind we can never know what we are or where we are headed for.

If chosen souls could never be alone in deep mid-silence, open-doored to God, No great thing ever had been thought or done; The nurse of full grown souls is solitude.

This is a question that my intimate friends have a perfect right to ask me. Some time or other most of them do put the question implicitly or explicitly: "As a friend I open my life to your influence: what is it to be?"

We really see ourselves only in relationships. One can never think of himself as an isolated individual; if so, he would be of no significance to anybody. But if we think of worth, the question at once arises—Worth to whom? We belong somewhere, and as one who belongs, we have our contribution to make.

Does the average host or hostess ask this question as insistently as socially safe people do? They invite young people to their homes and introduce their young friends to them. What is to be the effect of these new associations? A society woman in the West cut off her list the names of three young men. Their friends protested; they pointed out the effect of such ostracism on youth. But she answered: "We are all wrong in tolerating such conduct. I warned these young men of the consequences of their actions. They listened respectfully; what else could they do? but they paid no attention to what I said." In a short time they were dropped from other lists as well.

Leaders in our social life are responsible for the influence to which they subject young people whom they entertain, and if they are to measure up to their obligations, they must find an answer to this question in all cases.

We must ask this question of every man who aspires to a position of trust in our city and province. The people whom we elect to our city council, to our school boards and to our provincial legislature have great influence for good or evil. The people who profit by commercialized vice are ready to spend anything and do anything required to bring into office men who will grant them the favors they want. The questions: What do you say about yourself? What are your aims and policy? are vital at this moment, and answers clear and definite should be secured by every voter before he casts his ballot. Unless men of goodwill are ready to do more for God and humanity than evil elements will do for their gains, the conditions with which we surround our people will go from bad to worse. The responsibility in a free nation rests on the people.

Above all others, the church must ask this question—of her own leaders, of every applicant for membership, and of her people in all their relationships. This is a time when social control is more widely exercised than ever before, and therefore, character, honesty and the qualification supremely necessary in all who serve.

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

CRASWELL for Xmas Photos. JIMMY'S TAXI—Phone 525. COOK'S for Christmas Photographs.

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ANY MUSIC TEACHER wishing instruction in Teaching Festival Music may receive same through the Musical Festival Association by making application to Mrs. V. M. Hudson, Convener, Refresher Course Committee, Parkdale.

LEAVES FOR OTTAWA—Brigadier W. W. Reid left yesterday for Ottawa where he will attend the Dominion-Provincial Tourist Conference. He expects to return home Tuesday night. Brig. Reid is President of the Tourist Association for Canada.

22 CAL. RIFLE SEIZED—Yesterday afternoon (Sunday) the game officer of the R. C. M. Police seized a .22 cal. rifle from a Souris resident found hunting at Souris Line Road. It is understood the offender will be charged under the section of the Game Act which prohibits hunting on Sunday.

CARD PARTY—St. Charles Auxiliary of the Charlottetown Hospital held another successful card party on Friday night. The prize winners were, lucky score card, Mrs. Warren; gentlemen's first, Mr. J. E. Smith, second, Mr. Leo Gallant, Ladies first, Mrs. Joseph Hennessey, second Miss Annie Joseph, Freezeout, Mrs. E. Farley and Mrs. Joseph MacVinn.

TRUCK AND TRACTOR COLLISION—That could have been a very serious accident occurred at Vernon at about 10:30 on Saturday morning when a gravel truck and a farm tractor were in collision immediately on the south side of Vernon River Bridge. The accident occurred when the truck attempted to pass the tractor, which at the same time began to turn sharply into a driveway on the left hand side of the road. The truck struck the rear wheel of the tractor and hurled it into the ditch, throwing the driver several feet away. However, no serious injury was sustained by the driver of the tractor, a native of Vernon. The comparatively new tractor, however, was badly damaged. No damage was done to the truck which was driven by a Charlottetown resident.

company is not liable for damages unless some violation of the regulations could be proven. He said the case should be dismissed. The pilot was not required to keep close watch for objects on the ground since he was within sight of an airport and flying between cloud layers. It could be considered negligence if the pilot were to divert his attention to the ground, he said. The case is continuing.

TRINITY Y. P. U.

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CITY POLICE COURT—At the Specially Magistrate's Court Saturday, a clear docket was presented and the Court adjourned until today.

STIR-UP DAY OBSERVED—Yesterday was Stir-Up Sunday in the Anglican Church in Canada. It was observed in St. Paul's Church by 8:30 corporate communion of the Laymen's Association followed by a breakfast in the A.Y.P.A. The eleven o'clock service was a memorial service for the late Archbishop of Nova Scotia and Primate of all Canada. The flowers in the sanctuary were in loving memory of His Grace and were presented by St. Paul's Church congregation.

PERSONALS Miss Ruth Munn, Mt. Stewart, has returned to her home last Sunday after spending the past two months in Toronto and vicinity.

Girl Guide News Trinity Have a Presentation The Guides of the 7th Company have increased their numbers considerably since my last visit. 21 recruits were enrolled by District Commissioner Mrs. J. Gordon MacDonald on Monday evening. Many parents were present and followed the proceedings with much interest. The Rev. Mr. Ashford who never misses a "look in" at all Guide meetings enlivened the meeting with his wit and encouragement. There were 52 Guides in Horseshoe formation with the Colors marched on by Maida Rogerson, Olive McAussey and Ernestine Mills. That pinnaque of Guiding the First Class Badge was presented to Fred McCullum and Helen Chapell who received much applause on their splendid achievement. Those receiving 2nd Class badges were Maida Rogerson, Ernestine Mills, Sandra Currie and Jean McPherson.

Jean actually completed something new, she had completed the 2nd Class work before being enrolled and the leaders reported that she worked desperately hard at top speed to get it. Many Proficiency badges far to numerous to mention were presented by Mrs. MacDonald who congratulated the girls on their splendid progress. Mr. Ashford gave the girls details of the Religion and Life Emblem. The work agreed upon was 23rd and 121st Psalm. The Beatitudes, Ten Commandments and the Book of the New Testament. This is a new badge award and none have yet been presented. After consultation with your own Minister the above may be used for your own Catholic Guides other instruction should be obtained from your Priest. There are no set rules in the P.O.R. for this badge. It is left to the Guide Leader to arrange with her own Minister or Priest, or suit requirements. Mr. Ashford stressed Leadership and Congratulated Lieut. Margaret Wheatley and Company Leaders Maureen Bohaker and Dorothy Green who are doing such splendid work.

Mrs. Cudmore thanked Mr. Ashford and Mrs. MacDonald and said how much the encouragement received from Mr. Ashford was appreciated. He is a source of inspiration to the Guides and Leaders, wherever I have had the privilege of attending the 7th meetings I always come away feeling how fortunate the girls are to have such a keen and active interest shown in their work. Marjorie Pickard conducted Camp Fire and a variety of Guide songs and Taps with all the parents joining in concluded another splendid evening of presentation and a giant step forward in Guiding.

HEALTH CENTRES MANILA—(OP)—In a small Philadelphia village a model rural health centre with emphasis on maternal and child care is being established for instruction of health workers. The Philippine government, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the world health organization are co-operating in the project.

IN MEMORIAM Capt. Wellington Alexander Johnstone In cherished and everlasting memory of a beloved husband and father who passed away November 27th, 1948. Wife, Daughlar and Sons

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

WINIFRED E. WILSON

When we look out of a window and say that all the birds we see are "Just Sparrows", what do we actually mean? "Real" Sparrows are Canadians by heredity, and there are many different species: Song, White-throated, White-crowned, Chipping, Savannah, and so on. But these little brown birds which swarm through our cities, and have even invaded our small, northern towns and villages, are Europeans—Canadians only by adoption—belong simply to one species, and are, believe it or not, classified in bird books under the heading "Weaver Finches."

It is not to be wondered at that these birds are called House Sparrows. Preferring human company (unusual for feathered folk), they shun the country-side, and take up lodging in any crack or crevice that is available about our houses; and, to the casual observer, they look just like all the "real" Sparrows. With bills of seed-eaters, they eat almost anything: grain, insects, or garbage, though probably their taste turns mostly towards weed seeds. Fortunately, they are seldom destructive. What we have principally against them are their untidy habits and their bossy ways, driving off our native song birds. It is sad to lose Martins, Tree Swallows, Bluebirds and House Wrens because these noisy, pushing little birds are grabbing their homes.

The reason for the name "English" Sparrow, which is in common use, goes back to the date 1851, when eight pairs were brought from England to Boston by the Brooklyn Institute, to help check a plague of worms which were spoiling park trees. Oddly enough, they did not survive. However, the next year \$200 was collected, and one hundred more were imported. There was no doubt about this lot; they not only survived, but multiplied so fast that by 1889 the United States government realized that a mistake had been made. Man spoils the balance of nature when he meddles in these matters.

By 1870, the House Sparrows had reached south eastern Canada; by 1889 "the outlying municipalities" (of Montreal) were offering a reward of ten cents a dozen. Before long they had sent scouts north, and west. Even Vancouver has its supply. Perhaps statistics do not tell everything, but a report of the Christmas bird census for 1948, which appeared in the "Canadian Field-Naturalist", gives us a good idea of the House Sparrows' spread. On December 19, Torontonians bird watchers counted 68 species, and 12,130 individuals. Of these, 2,876 were House Sparrows.

Can birds endure cold? MONTREAL, Nov. 25—Reaction to the proposed Alberta legislation to take away the licensing rights of professional associations in that province was immediate and unfavorable in Montreal. Spokesmen for the medical and legal professions said that such a plan would "never be acceptable in this province."

The Alberta plan was announced Saturday by Provincial Secretary C. E. Gerhart, whose department handles the issuing of other licenses. The legislation is to be introduced at the next session of the provincial Legislature, probably next February. It would be the first such legislation in Canada, and is expected to take effect early in next year.

At present law and medical associations admit and reject members and license them to practice. The Alberta Government's view is that it had delegated the licensing power, and was now intending to take that power back again.

Professionals who would be covered by the plan include doctors, lawyers, dentists, druggists, chartered accountants, nurses, chiropractors, naturopaths, chiropodists, engineers and veterinarians. "I am 100 per cent against such a plan," Dr. Jean Paquin, registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec, said here last night. "Professionals in other countries where similar measures exist are very much against them. If such a plan came into effect in Quebec, it would be ridiculous because it would be against the principles of liberty, would influence the free exercise of medicine, and would help to slow down the general progress of medicine."

Dr. Paquin said for these reasons and a host of others, Quebec would never adopt such a plan. "In any case, I sincerely hope it won't," he added. The Balmontier of the Quebec Bar and the Montreal Bar, Hon. Edouard Asselin, though somewhat less outspoken, said the plan "would work against all conceptions of professional organizations in the province." "Such a plan would not be easily adaptable in Quebec," said Mr. Asselin, "owing to the particular conditions existing in our province."

In Toronto, the chairman of the executive committee of the Canadian Medical Association, Dr. Harris McPherson, said he knew that the medical profession would be opposed to "politicians assuming the power of issuing licences."

S.D.U. Glee Club Entertains Patients At San On Friday evening, November 24th, the Glee Club of St. Dunstan's University held a splendid entertainment in the auditorium of the Provincial Sanatorium. Lawrence Landrigan directed the singing, and Mr. "Sport" MacDonald in his capable and charming manner acted as master of ceremonies.

The artists in their rich, young and beautiful voices, rendered such selections as: "Red Sails In The Sun", "Asleep In The Deep", "Caroline", "Stouthearted Men", "Remember", and "Over The Rainbow." Miss Mary Gillis, accompanied at the piano by Miss Bethany MacDonald, sang "An Eskimo Love Lull" and "The Bluebird of Happiness." Mr. Guy Germaine, with Mr. Rene Tremblay as accompanist, sang "The Girl That I Marry" and "My Task."

One of the highlights of the program was an amusing skit acted by four members of the Glee Club representing renowned radio broadcasters. Other, favorite features were piano solos by Miss Maureen Murphy and Miss Bethany MacDonald, and popular trumpet selections by Mr. Jacques Gilbert, accompanied at the piano by Mr. Roy Grant. The closing number of the program was "Dear Old Donegal" by the entire chorus.

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Airline Co. Appeals Mink Ranch Case

HALIFAX, Nov. 25—(CP)—Is an airline to blame when one of its aircraft scares female mink and they kill 200 young? That is the case the Nova Scotia supreme court is considering today in an appeal action by Trans-Canada Air Lines against the Nova Mink Company of nearby Musquodoboit Harbor.

T.C.A. is appealing an award of \$10,000 by a lower court to the mink company. An aircraft flew low over the ranch some months ago, terrifying females and causing them to commit wholesale carnage among their numerous progeny. J.E. Rutledge, airline counsel, said at the first hearing the company takes an extremely serious view of the case as it could affect operations throughout Canada. He said yesterday the pilot was flying within the limits set down by Federal regulations and the



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